

Final Meeting Minutes
Wildlife and Boat Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

March 19, 2025
9:00 am

Present: Mr. James Edmunds, **Chair**, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Will Wampler (alternate), **Absent:** Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Brian Vincent; **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. Jon Cooper, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, and Mr. Michael Formica, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. George Terwilliger, Dr. Mamie Parker; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Dr. Mike Bednarski, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Michael Lipford, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Bob Smet, Mr. Paul Kugelman

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and welcomed everyone. The Chair noted for the record that a Quorum was present for today's meeting.

Approval of the January 22, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 22, 2025, Wildlife and Boating minutes. Ms. Walters made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Wampler seconded the motion. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Public Comment - Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items.

- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding the Hound Hunting Committee and Deer and Bear season

Proposals regarding Migratory Game Birds Seasons and Bag Limits: The Chair called on Mr. Ben Lewis for a presentation.

Mr. Ben Lewis gave a presentation on the Proposals regarding Migratory Game Birds Seasons and Bag Limits.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Edmunds made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee of Wildlife Resources advance the 2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations to the Board as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Wildlife Regulations Amendments – Staff Recommendations: Mr. Edmunds called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for a presentation.

Mr. Godfrey gave a presentation on the 2025-26 Wildlife Regulation Amendments – Staff Recommendations.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation.

Speakers:

Deer and Elk Regulations:

4VAC15-90-10, 4VAC15-90-70, 4VAC15-90-80, 4VAC15-90-89. 4VAC15-90-91

4VAC15-90-530, 4VAC15-90-540, 4VAC15-90-550

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Deer

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing for public comment the amendments to the deer and elk regulations as presented by staff but modified to include Mr. Edmunds' amendment to 4VAC15-90-91 that Halifax County provide full season either-sex hunting opportunities during the firearms deer season. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

Bear Regulations:

4VAC15-50-11, 4VAC15-50-70, 4VAC15-50-71, 4VAC15-50-120

- Greg Austin spoke regarding Bear
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Bear
- Mr. Steve Nicely spoke regarding Bear
- Mr. Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding Bear
- Mr. Eric Lehmann spoke regarding Bear

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing for public comment the amendments to the bear regulations as presented by staff but modified to include 1) Mr. Edmunds' amendment to 4VAC15-50-11 adding an additional week to the beginning of the firearms bear hunting season in Charlotte, Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward counties; 2) Mr. Terwilliger's amendment to 4VAC15-50-120 that bear hound chase season not be expanded into new areas or new dates beyond what is currently provided during the bear hound training and firearms bear seasons; and 3) Mr. Wampler's amendment to 4VAC15-50-11 to add the 3-day early firearms season and additional week to the beginning of the firearms bear hunting season in Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe counties. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

General Regulations:

4VAC15-20-50, 4VAC15-20-65, 4VAC15-20-130, 4VAC15-20-155, 4VAC15-30.40, 4VAC15-40-282, 4VAC15-403-10, 4VAC15-320-25

➤ NO SPEAKERS

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing for public comment the amendments to the general regulations as present by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Furbearer & Waterfowl Blinds:

4VAC15-160-31, 4VAC15-210-51, 4VAC15-170-30, 4VAC15-260-50

➤ NO SPEAKERS

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Edmunds made a motion, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing for public comment the amendments to the furbearer and waterfowl blind regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters and Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Firearms Regulations:

4VAC15-40-60, 4VAC15-40-61 (NEW), 4VAC15-40-62 (NEW), 4VAC15-40-70, 4VAC15-210-10, 4VAC15-70-60, 4VAC15-240-60

- Gary Kimberlin spoke regrading Firearm Regulations

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing for public comment the amendments to the firearms regulations as presented by staff but to include Mr. Terwilliger's amendment to 4VAC15-40-62 that staff modify the recommended language to more fully address the discharge of firearms on department-owned and managed lands beyond the established boundaries of the shooting ranges. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Boating and Administrative Regulation Amendments – Staff Recommendations: Mr. Edmunds called on Ms. Stacey Brown for a presentation.

Ms. Brown presented the Boating and Administrative Regulation Amendments – Staff Recommendations.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation.

The Chair called for a motion, Ms. Walters made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee approve the staff recommendations for Regulations related to Boating and Administration be released for public comment. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Biennial Review of Approved Sanctioning Organizations for Foxhound Field Trials:

Mr. Edmunds called on Mr. Paul Kugelman for a presentation.

Mr. Kugelman presented the Biennial Review of Approved Sanctioning Organization for Foxhound Field Trails.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kugelman for his presentation.

Speakers:

1. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding who is VOFTA
2. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding who governs VOFTA

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler presented a motion, I move that the committee recommend to the board to accept the biennial review of sanctioning organizations for Foxhound Field Trial Permits (Outside of Foxhound Training Preserves) as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters, Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

In the essence of time and other Committee meetings scheduled, the Chair of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Adjourned the remainder of the agenda at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Boswell

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