

Final Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, VA 23228

March 20, 2025
9:00 am

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present.

Mr. Brian Vincent read the Mission Statement
Ms. Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting.

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

Recognition of Employees and Others: There were no recognitions.

Approval of the January 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the January 23, 2025, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Terwilliger made a motion to approve the January 23, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Vincent. Ayes: Cooper, Woodall, Daniel, Vincent, Walters, Edmunds, Wampler, Broaddus, Terwilliger, Parker, Formica (virtual).

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: The Chair called for speakers on Non-Agenda Items. Hearing none, he continued with the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. James Edmunds for an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Mr. Edmunds gave a report on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from March 19, 2025.

Mr. Edmunds called on Mr. Ben Lewis to present the Proposals regarding Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits Aquatic Regulations.

After questions and comments, Mr. Edmunds thanked Mr. Lewis.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Edmunds made a motion. I move that the Board adopt the 2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff, it was seconded by Dr. Parker.

The Board Secretary took a Roll Call vote: Ayes: Edmunds, Wampler, Vincent, Woodall, Walters, Broaddus, Terwilliger, Formica, (virtual), Parker, Terwilliger, Daniel

Mr. Wampler made a motion asking for Director Ryan Brown to work with the Atlantic Flyway Council to evaluate amending the framework in the Resident Population goose zone to allow for the harvest of Canada geese in the Resident Population zone during the early duck season. It was seconded by several board members. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger

Mr. Edmunds called on Mr. Cale Godfrey to present the Wildlife Regulation Amendments

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

Bear Regulations:

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

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

Furbearer, Waterfowl Blinds and Firearms Regulations

4VAC15-160-31, 4VAC15-210-51, 4VAC15-170-30, 4VAC15-260-50
4VAC15-40-60, 4VAC15-40-61, (NEW), 4VAC15-40-62, (NEW), 4VAC15-40-70,
4VAC15-210-10, 4VAC15-70-60, 4VAC15-240-60

Speakers:

- Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Wildlife Changes
- Greg Austin spoke regarding Proposed changes to bear season
- Eric Legmann spoke regarding Preliminary Bear Regulations
- Taylor Cuevas spoke regarding Proposed regulatory changes for Bear.
- Raymond Carter spoke regarding Regulation Amendments
- Brad See spoke regarding Bear Hound Training Season and December Bear Season
- Todd Grubbs spoke regarding Hound Trespass
- Jake Tabor spoke regarding Staff recommendations on scoping comments.
- Steve Nicely spoke regarding Bear Mange
- Kirby Burch spoke regarding support of Bear Regulations
- Steve McBride spoke regarding Training Season
- David Maddox spoke regarding Bear season
- John Balasa spoke regarding Hound hunting
- Jim Hackett spoke regarding Deer Hound Training season
- Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding VA Black Bear
- Judge Charlton spoke regarding Fox Hound Field Trials - Virtual

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Edmunds made a motion. I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources propose for public comment the regulation amendments (including those amendments approved during yesterday's Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting) as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. The secretary took Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

The Chair 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 Board approve the staff recommendations for regulations related to Boating and Administration to be released for public comment. It was second by Dr. Parker. The Board Secretary called the vote: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

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.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler presented a motion, I move that the Board 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: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger

Mr. Edmunds called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a presentation.

Ms. Gwynn gave an update on the largest sea bird colony at Hampton Roads, including up to 35,000 birds. As the new access bridges began to be built, the birds lost their home. Short term, the Department put the birds on Ft. Wool, and rented barges and the birds collected there as well. Long term would be to build/create an island and staff have found the land to do this and hope to have this completed by 2027.

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. George Terwilliger for an update on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting from March 19, 2025.

Mr. Terwilliger gave an update on the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of March 19, 2025

Mr. Terwilliger reported on:

- FY25 Year End Projections
- FY26 Budget Update

After questions and comments, The Chair thanked Mr. Terwilliger for his report.

Law Enforcement Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper (filling in for Michael Formica) for an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of March 19, 2025.

Mr. Cooper gave an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of March 19, 2025.

Mr. Cooper reported on:

- 14th Basic Academy Recruit Introduction
- DWR Communication Center Overview

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler for an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of March 19, 2025.

Mr. Wampler gave an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of March 19, 2025.

Mr. Wampler reported on:

- Study and Communications Toolkit Promoting Shooting Sports to Black Americans
- Retore The Wild Art Contest

Mr. Wampler asked permission of the Board to approve the 3 sets of Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meetings minutes that had not been approved due to lack of quorum at the Committee meetings.

Dr. Parker made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024, October 23, 2024, and January 22, 2025, Education, Planning and Outreach Committee meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broadus, Parker, Terwilliger

Director's Report: The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for his report.

- Thanked the public for attending and being a part of the process
- Thanked the Board for being here
- Regional Meetings will start the week of March 24, 2025
- Traveling to DC for Fish and Wildlife Service meetings
- Attended the 90th North American Wildlife Conference in Louisville, KY
- Law Enforcement Awards were excellent on Wednesday night

Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked all Divisions, the Wildlife and Boat Division, Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Outreach and Finance Division for all their work to keep DWR moving ahead. He remarked his enjoyment being of help as a Board member.

- Mr. Cooper will be appointing the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair

Additional Business/Comments: The Chair asked if any additional business or comments.

Mr. Vincent spoke regarding that he is coming to the end of his tenure on this Board, appreciates everyone help and work since he has been on the Board, Wishes Ms. Gwynn much success in Ft. Wool and building her island for the sea birds. Commended the Board on how they have handled the handling of the Hound situation, which is a difficult situation.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 11:30 am.

Dr. Parker read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broadus, Parker, Terwilliger

Closed Meeting Motion, March 20, 2025

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting:

First, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia, for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically regarding real estate located Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.

And secondly, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Department of Wildlife Resources, specifically regarding the performance of the Director.

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(F), the Board requests the Department Director and the Deputy Director to also attend this meeting, as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 12:00 pm

The Chair called on Mr. Woodall to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

Certification of Closed Meeting

March 20, 2025

WHEREAS, the Board of Wildlife Resources conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Wildlife Resources hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and

only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

The Board Secretary took a Roll call vote: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger

The Chair called on Mr. Wampler to read a Motion from the Closed Session.

Mr. Wampler read a motion, in that the Division of Forestry donated land to Department of Wildlife Resources, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to acquire +2.71 acre in Scott County, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was second by Mr. Terwilliger. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell