

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

May 21, 2025
9:00 am

Present: Mr. James Edmunds, **Chair**, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Will Wampler (alternate), **Absent:** Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Brian Vincent (alternate); **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 March 19, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the March 19, 2025, Wildlife and Boating minutes. Ms. Walters made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 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. Hearing none, he continued with the meeting.

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 for the Block Format.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the Block Format Regulations.

Regulations: Block Format

Elk Regulations

4VAC15-90-530 (elk hunt lottery)
4VAC15-90-540 (landowner program)
4VAC15-90-550 (Conservation License)

General Regulations

4VAC15-20-50 (pet fox renewal)
4VAC15-20-65 (license fees)
4VAC15-20-130 (T&E species list)
4VAC15-20-155 (camping)
4VAC15-30-40 (snakeheads)prairie dogs
4VAC15-40-282 (bear feedings)

Furbearer & Waterfowl Blind Regulations

4VAC15-160-31 (opossum, trapping)
4VAC15-210-51 (raccoon trapping)
4VAC15-170-30 (otter tagging)
4VAC15-260-50 (Black Bay blinds)

Firearms Regulations

4VAC15-40-60 (cased gun law)
4VAC15-40-61 (hunting on public land)
4VAC15-40-62 (DWR shooting ranges)
4VAC15-40-70 (dog training season)
4VAC15-210-10 (raccoon chase season)
4VAC15-70-60 (bobcat archery season)
4VAC15-240-60 (turkey archery season)

Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the regulation amendments contained within the block format as presented by staff. It was second by Mr. Edmunds, Ayes: Edmunds, Wampler, Walters.

Mr. Godfrey gave a presentation on the Wildlife Regulations Amendments for Deer Regulations. After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the Deer Regulations.

Deer Regulations:

4VAC15-90-10 (Open Season; generally)
4VAC15-90-70 (Archery Hunting)
4VAC15-90-80 (Muzzleloading gun hunting)
4VAC15-90-89 (Earn a buck)
4VAC15-90-91 (General firearms season either -sex deer hunting days)

Speakers:

Montana Madison spoke regarding the Deer Regulations
Jake Tabor spoke regarding the Deer Regulations

Mr. Wampler made a motion. I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the proposed deer regulation amendments as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Wampler, Walters, Edmunds

Mr. Godfrey gave a presentation on the 2025-26 Wildlife Regulations Amendments for Bear Regulations.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the Bear Regulations.

Bear Regulations

4VAC15-50-11 (Open Season; generally)
4VAC15-50-70 (Archery hunting)
4VAC15-50-71 (Muzzleloading gun hunting)
4VAC15-50-120 (Bear hound training season)

Speakers:

Greg Austin spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Steven Nicely spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Taylor Cueavs spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Judge Charlton spoke regarding the Bear Regulaitons
Kirby Burch spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Paige Graves spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Austin Montgomery spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Jim Carroll spoke regarding the Bear Regulations
Montana Madison spoke regarding the Bear Regulations

Mr. Edmunds made a motion; I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the proposed amendments to the bear regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Mr. Godfrey gave a presentation on the 2025-26 Wildlife Regulation Amendmenrts – General Regulations.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation on the General Regulations.

General Regulations:

4VAC15-40-310 (NEW) Dispatch of game and furbearers by authorized.

Mr. Wampler made a motion. I move that the Wildlife and Boats Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the proposed amendments to the dispatch of game and furbearer regulation as presented by staff. It was second 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 recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the proposed regulation amendments related to Boating and Administration as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

The Chair called on Mr. Mike Dye for a presentation.

Mr. Mike Dye presented the 2025-2034 Virginia Wild Turkey Management Plan.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Dye for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend that the Board of Wildlife Resources endorse the 2025-2034 Virginia Wild Turkey Management Plan as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Edmunds, Walters, Wampler

Wildlife Health Update: The Chair called on Dr. John Tracey for an update.

Dr. Tracey gave the committee an update on Bear Mange and CWD in Deer.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Tracey for his comments.

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

Director Brown reported: He thanked Dr. Tracey on the complex work he must handle and work with and what a nice job he does.

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked staff for their work and presentations and thanked the public for attending.

The Chair asked if there were any additional business or comments, hearing none, he announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, August 20, 2025, and adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Boswell

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