

Final Board Meeting Minutes

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

May 22, 2025
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Jon Cooper, **Chair:** **Vice Chair:** Mr. George Terwilliger; **Board Members:** Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. James Edmunds, 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. George Terwilliger read the Mission Statement.

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

Ms. Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting. (Virtual)

The Board Secretary called the Roll for Attendance: Ayes: Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Jon Cooper, Mr. Brian Vincent, Mr. Laura Walters, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. Michael Formica (Virtual)

Recognition of Employees and Others: The Chair called on Mr. Ryan Brown for recognitions.

Director Brown called on Colonel John Cobb to present Senior Officer Dan Smith the CPO of the Year award.

Director Brown called on Mr. Michael Lipford to present Mr. David Norris the William T. Hesselton award.

Approval of the March 20, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the March 20, 2025, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Cooper, Woodall, Daniel, Vincent, Walters, Edmunds, Wampler, Broadus, Terwilliger, Parker, Formica (virtual).

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: The Chair called for speakers on Non-Agenda Items.

- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding the re-implementation of a hunter-landowner committee in King George County as well as impending implementation of such committees in additional counties.

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 May 21, 2025.

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

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 feeding)

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)

The Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the block format regulations.

NO SPEAKERS

Mr. Edmunds made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the regulation amendments contained within the block format as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

The Board Secretary called the roll: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

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:

Jake Tabor spoke regarding regulatory seasons changes
Todd Grubbs spoke regarding hound trespass
Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding hound trespass

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the deer regulations.

The Chair called for a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed deer regulation amendments as presented by staff. It was second by Mr. Wampler.

During discussion of the motion, Mr. Broaddus requested an amendment to the motion to adopt the Board's original regulation amendment proposal that the general firearms season in Rockbridge County provide full season, either-sex deer hunting on private lands rather than the modified regulation amendments presented by staff. The modified regulation amendments presented by staff provided only 8 either-sex deer hunting days on private lands in Rockbridge County during the general firearms season and expanded the either-sex days on private lands in the county during the early and late muzzleloader season to full season, either-sex hunting as well as maintaining the existing late archery deer season. Mr. Broaddus' amended motion was second by Mr. Wampler.

The board secretary called the roll- on Mr. Broaddus' amended motion. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Following the vote on Mr. Broaddus' amended motion, the board secretary called the roll on the original motion from the Chair (Edmunds). Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

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 Bear Regulations
Hunter Thrasher spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Michael Lindsey spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Gary Kimberling spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Amanda Savignano spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Steve Nicely spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Derek Brinkley spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Wes Shifflett spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Ryan Miller spoke regarding Bear Regulations
David Blessing spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Onnie Roach spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Scott McGlothlin spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Connor Martin spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Steve McBride spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Montana Madison spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Austin Montgomery spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Ryan Flynn spoke regarding Bear Regulations

Austin McGam spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Eric Lehmann spoke regarding Bear Regulations
Kirby Burch spoke regarding Bear Regulations

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentation of the bear regulations.

Mr. Edmunds made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed amendments to the bear regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

During discussion of the motion, Mr. Wampler requested an amendment to the motion to exempt the counties of Montgomery, Pulaski, Smith, Washington, and Wythe from the sunset clause included as a modification to the Board's original regulations proposal to ensure these counties would continue to have a consistent, county-wide bear firearms season in the future. Mr. Wampler's amended motion was second by Mr. Edmunds.

The board secretary called the roll for the amended motion by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Mr. Woodall, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Broaddus. Dr. Parker, Mr. Terwilliger, Mr. Formica(virtual) Abstention: Mr. Daniel

Following the vote on Mr. Wampler's amended motion, the board secretary called the roll for the original motion made by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus. Parker Terwilliger, Nays: Woodall, Daniel (Formica was not on virtual to vote)

The Chair called for a Break at 11:48 am

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 12:06 pm

General Regulations:

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

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

NO SPEAKERS

Mr. Edmunds made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed amendments to the dispatch of game and furbearer regulations as present by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

The board secretary called the roll. 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 Final Recommendations.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation of the Boating and Administrative Regulation Amendments.

NO SPEAKERS

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Board adopt the proposed Boating and Administration regulation amendments as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds.

The Board Secretary called the vote: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Mr. Edmunds called on Mr. Mike Dye for a presentation.

Mr. Dye gave a presentation on the VA Wild Turkey Management Plan 2025-2034. Yesterday the Wildlife and Boat Committee voted to move the plan to the full board for endorsement to include a few suggestions to enhance the plan's wording per Dr. Parker's request.

Speakers:

- Mr. Peter Sutphin spoke regarding the Turkey Plan

Mr. Edmonds made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the DWR Board adopt the 2025-2034 Virginia Wild Turkey Management Plan as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual) Nay: Woodall

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. George Terwilliger for an update on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting from May 21, 2025.

Mr. Terwilliger gave an update on the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of May 21, 2025

Mr. Terwilliger called on Mr. Robert Lewis for a presentation.

Mr. Lewis presented the FY 26 Budget.

Mr. John Kirk presented the FY 26 Capital Budget

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Terwilliger made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget and the FY 2026 Capital Budget as presented. It was seconded by Dr. Parker.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Law Enforcement Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Michael Formica (virtual) for an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of May 21, 2025.

Mr. Formica gave an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of May 21, 2025.

Mr. Formica reported on:

- New Wildlife Crime Watch Partnership
- Outreach Podcast, Boat Work and Recruits

The Chair thanked Mr. Formica for his update.

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 May 21, 2025.

Mr. Wampler gave an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of May 21, 2025.

Mr. Wampler reported on:

- One Shot Turkey Hunt
- Volunteer Program

The Chair thanked Mr. Wampler for his update.

Election of 2025-2026 Chair and Vice Chair: The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent for a report from the Nominations Committee.

Mr. Vincent reported that the Nominations Committee had met and asked for a motion, Ms. Walters made a motion to nominate Mr. George Terwilliger as Chair and Mr. Michael Formica for Vice Chair for 2025-2026. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker

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

- The Director congratulated Mr. Terwilliger as the new Chairman and Mr. Formica as the new Vice Chair of this board for 2025-2026.
- The Director thanked Mr. Jon Cooper for being our Chairman for the past year and how very fortunate we were to have his guidance.
- The Director thanked Dr. Mamie Parker and Mr. Brian Vincent, and Mr. John Daniel for their service on this board and thanked them for all their work and help to this agency.
- The Director reminded everyone that monitoring of wildlife populations is a challenging effort, and at some point in the future, a presentation on those challenges and the techniques used by staffs to monitor wildlife populations would be very appropriate topic for the Board to receive.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. Jon Cooper thanked the staff and the Board for the privilege to serve on this board and work with a great group of board members and to work as team to make this agency a better place at the end of the day. I very much appreciate the staff and all their hard work and dedication to this agency.

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

Mr. Edmunds presented a discussion on tracking collars for dog hunting. Mr. Edmunds made a motion to move forward with the process and information at the August 2025 Board meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual) Nay: Woodall and Broaddus

Board Members Comments:

Dr. Mamie Parker thanked the Department for her 8 years on this board and thanked the staff for their work they do for this agency, here in Virginia and countrywide and how much she had

enjoyed being on this board and working with the leadership of Director Brown who has led this agency and made the Department what it is today.

Mr. Vincent remarked how much he has appreciated this time on this Board, always enjoyed the Law ceremonies and Law graduations, all the board events I attended, I enjoyed working with the other members and meeting the new members as they came on board. During my tenure, this board has made a lot of tough decisions to make DWR a better place at the end of the day. My life has been made better by being on this board, and I want to thank you all for that.

Mr. George Terwilliger thanked the Board for electing him the Chairman for 2025-2026 and how much he looks forward to serving as the Chair of this board.

Mr. Formica thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Vice Chair of the Board, and felt it was an honor and looks forward to the coming year.

Mr. Daniel enjoyed his tenure on this board and commented on the professionalism of the staff of this agency, it was not always easy to say no when the public would come ask for something and we as a board felt it wasn't in the best interest for the agency. You listen to everyone and do the best you can. I enjoyed working together with the staff and the other board members.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, August 21, 2025.

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 1:55 pm.

Ms. Walters read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Closed Meeting Motion, May 22, 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 Augusta and Wythe 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, the Deputy Director, and the Real Property Manager 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 3:00 pm

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

Certification of Closed Meeting

May 22, 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

The Chair called on Mr. Wampler to read 2 Motions from the Closed Session.

Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to acquire +2.71 acres in permanent easement in Augusta County, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker

Mr. Wampler made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to acquire +9.11 acres in fee-simple in Wythe County, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broadus, Parker

Mr. Edmunds, made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director, with the concurrence of the Board Chair, to borrow and utilize funds from the Lifetime License Endowment Fund to temporarily mitigate any revenue shortfalls caused or contributed to by delays or eliminations of Federal grant Award and /or reimbursement. The amount to be utilized shall be defined upfront for each instance and shall include a repayment plan. This authorization shall only be exercised when it is not practical to bring the request to the full Board at a regular schedule meeting, and the Board shall be notified of any such action at or before its next regular meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker

Mr. Daniel made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move to that the Executive Director return the check received at today's meeting, and further, that the Executive Director and staff develop a Board policy on receipt of donations is presented by staff and adopted by the Board. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walter, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell