

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

October 27, 2021
10:00 am

Present: Ms. Karen Terwilliger, **Chair**; Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Rovel Brown; **Absent:** Mr. John Daniel, and Dr. Mamie Parker; **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Brian Vincent/Virtual; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Director’s Working Group:** Ms. Becky Gwynn, Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Dr. Gray Anderson, Ms. Paige Pearson.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted for the record that a Quorum was present for today’s meeting.

The Chair called on the Board Secretary for a Roll Call Vote - Terwilliger, Boyd, Brown, Washington, Vincent/Virtual.

Approval of the August 18, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the August 18, 2021 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 Committee meeting. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

The Board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Terwilliger, Boyd, and Brown

Public Comment - Non Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items, hearing none, she continued with the meeting.

Fisheries Regulation Cycle – 2022-2023: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for an update.

Dr. Bednarski gave an update on the schedule for the Fish Regulations for 2022-2023.

Fish Management Plans: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for a presentation.

Dr. Bednarski gave a presentation on four (4) Fish Management Plans – Walleye, Muskellunge, Striped Bass, and Catfish.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Leon Boyd made a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee approve to the Board the four new fishery management plans put forth by the Aquatic Wildlife Resources Division. It was seconded by Mr. Rovellev Brown.

The Board Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger, Boyd, Brown.

RAWA Readiness Assessment: The Chair called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a presentation.

Ms. Gwynn gave a presentation on RAWA Readiness Assessment.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee approve to the Board the RAWA Readiness Assessment Resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Rovellev Brown.

The Board Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger, Boyd, Brown

Bear Mangle Update: The Chair called on Ms. Katie Martin for an Update.

Ms. Katie Martin gave an update on Bear Mangle across the state.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Martin for her update.

Outreach and Education on the HRBT Seabird Colony: The Chair called on Ms. Meagan Thomas for a report and update.

Ms. Thomas gave a report and update on the Outreach and Education on the HRBT Seabird Colony.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Thomas for her report and update.

Wildlife Division Update: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an update.

Dr. Anderson reported:

Thanked the committee for allowing the staff to present the difference types of programs that shows what Wildlife Division does on a day-to-day basis.

Harvest figures for early seasons:

Youth /Apprentice Deer Hunting Weekend Harvest -	3,147
3-Day Early Bear Firearms Season -	306
Statewide Archery Season -	2,805

- Acorn production in Virginia for 2021 can be categorized overall as poor for both white and red oak species-
- Production for both white and red oaks fell well below the long term median Mid to high elevation sites generally had a higher productivity this year, particularly for red oak
- In areas where acorns were produced, acorn drop wasn't initiated until late September or early - October which is later than typical
- Reports of "bumper" mast crops were received from various areas across the state – emphasizes the variability of quality and production even within a single survey route.

Mandatory Sampling for CWD will occur on November 13 – 1st day of firearms deer season

Shenandoah County
Madison and Orange Counties
Montgomery, Floyd and Pulaski Counties

Sampling stations will be open from 7:30 am – 7:30 pm

We will be operating CWD samples stations in Shenandoah (DMA1), Madison (DMA2), Orange (DMA2), Montgomery (DMA3), Floyd (DMA3), and Pulaski (DMA3) counties
Goal is to test more than 3,000 deer from the DMAs as well as an additional 2,000+ from our statewide taxidermist surveillance project

Fish Division Update: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for an update.

Dr. Bednarski reported:

On October 12, 2021, DWR staff met with First Lady Pamela Northam to release endangered mussels into the South River, Nine species were released, and this work was funded by the DuPont settlement.

Trout stocking is underway, and Dr. Bednarski extended an invitation to the Committee to come out on a stocking run.

Catfish stocking occurred this week – big component of the FishLocalVA program. Stocked 80K fish into 129 water bodies

Director’s Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for a report.

The Director reported:

- Elk Habitat Project has raised \$54,850
- DWR has been awarded 3 Wildlife Grants

Chair’s Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting and talked about what an incredible meeting with all the staff work on projects and programs.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, she announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday, January 19, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/