

Final Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

February 21, 2017
10:00 am

Present: Mr. Watkins Abbitt, **Chairman**, Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Nicole Butterworth, Mr. Douglas Dear:
Absent: Mr. H. S. Caudill; **Board member:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Executive Director:** Mr. Robert W. “Bob” Duncan; **Senior Leadership Team:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Tom Guess, Mr. David Whitehurst, Major Scott Naff, Major Bryan Young, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Dr. Gray Anderson; **Attorney General Office:** Mr. Matt Hull

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted for the record that a quorum was present. The Chairman welcomed staff and public in attendance to the meeting.

Approval of the January 10, 2017 Committee Meeting Minutes: The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Wildlife, Boat & Law Enforcement Committee. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the January 10, 2017 Committee Meeting Minutes and Ms. Butterworth seconded the motion. Ayes: Abbitt, Boyd, Butterworth, Dear

Public Comments: The following spoke:

- Mr. Jim Credlin from East Stone Gap, VA spoke regarding Annual Field Trial Permits

Staff Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Terrestrial Wildlife Regulations: Dr. Gray Anderson introduced staff to give the staff recommendations for the 2017-2018 Terrestrial Wildlife Regulations.

Mr. Mike Fies presented Staff Recommendations for the Fur Bearers and Trapping Regulations:

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. Fies for his presentation.

Dr. Megan Kirchgessner presented Staff Recommendations for the Importation, Possession, Sale, Etc., of Animals Regulations.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Dr. Kirchgessner for her presentation.

Mr. Kevin Rose presented Staff Recommendations for the Humane Dispatch Regulations.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. Rose and Dr. Kirchgessner for his presentation.

Major Scott Naff was asked to give a better understanding on European Rabbits, both domesticated and wild.

Ms. Butterworth made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017 -2018 Furbearers and Trapping Regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Dear Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4 VAC 150-40-30 & 4 VAC 15-40-275 & 4 VAC 15-20-50 & 4 VAC 15-30-50 & 4 VAC 15-40-225)

Mr. Marc Puckett presented staff recommendations for the Small Game Regulations.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. Puckett for his presentation.

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 the Small Game Regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Butterworth. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4 VAC 15-190-10)

Ms. Jaime Sajecki presented staff recommendations for the Bear Regulations.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Ms. Sajecki for her presentation.

- Mr. Wilmer Stoneman from Richmond, VA spoke regarding Bears and expanded seasons
- Mr. Steve Nicely from Clifton Forge, VA spoke regarding Bears
- Mr. Richard Sprinkle of Buchanan, VA spoke regarding Bears

Ms. Butterworth made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 the regulation on Unauthorized feeding of bear, 4VAC15-40-282. There was no second so the motion died, the regulation will not change.

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 the Bear Regulations as presented by staff and as **amended by the Committee**. It was seconded by Mr. Dear Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-50-11, 4VAC15-50-71, 4VAC15-50-120)

Mr. Gary Norman presented staff recommendations for the Turkey Regulations.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 the regulation on Continuous closed season in certain counties, cities, and areas. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-240-40)

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 the regulation on Open Seasons; spring season for bearded turkeys (4VAC15-240-50) Ms. Butterworth seconded the motion. Ayes: None, Nays: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear - The motion failed.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Turkey regulation on Archery Hunting. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-240-60)

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee recommend to the Full Board and send out for comment that you may take 2 turkeys in 1

day during spring gobbler season. It was seconded by Ms. Butterworth. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear.

The Chairman called for a 5 – minute break.

After the break, the Chairman called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Ben Lewis presented staff recommendations for the Migratory Game Birds.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Migratory Game Bird regulations. It was seconded by Ms. Butterworth. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-290-140 & 4VAC15-80-10 & 4VAC15-260-160)

Dr. Gary Costanzo presented staff recommendations for the Waterfowl and Waterfowl Blinds.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Dr. Costanzo for his presentation.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Waterfowl and Waterfowl Blinds regulations. It was seconded by Ms. Butterworth. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-260-15 & 4VAC15-260-35, & 4VAC15-260-45 & 4VAC15-260-115 (NEW) & 4VAC15-260-116.)

Mr. Matt Knox presented staff recommendations for the Deer Regulations.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Deer Regulation 4 VAC 15-90-70 – Archery Hunting. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear.

Ms. Butterworth made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Deer Regulations as presented by staff and amended by the WBL Committee (**4VAC15-90-280 this regulation will include ELK**). It was seconded by Mr. Boyd.

Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear (4VAC15-90-80 & 4VAC15-90-89 & 4VAC15-90-91 & **4VAC15-90-280 - this regulation will include ELK** & 4VAC15-90-291 & 4VAC15-90-294 & 4VAC15-270 & 4VAC15-40-287.)

Motion by The Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee –

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that The Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee recommends to the Full Board to go out for Public Comment that west of the Blue Ridge on Private Land only you can kill 2 deer and one can be Antlerless. Ms. Butterworth seconded the motion. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear

The Chairman took a break for lunch.

The Chairman resumed the committee meeting at 1:50 pm.

Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Migratory Waterfowl Regulations: Dr. Gary Costanzo gave a presentation on the Public Comments regarding the Staff Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Migratory Waterfowl Regulations.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman thanked Dr. Costanzo for his presentation.

- Mr. Todd Cocker of Henrico, VA spoke regarding the Waterfowl Season

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat and Law Enforcement Committee approve to the Full Board the 2017-2018 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations, and the Falconry season and bag limit recommendations as presented by staff, and further authorize staff to modify seasons and bag limits, if necessary, to comply with the Final Federal Frameworks. Mr. Dear seconded the motion. Ayes: Abbitt, Butterworth, Boyd, Dear

Bureau Update: Mr. David Whitehurst reported on the following:

- Capital Program Update
- Grouse updates
- Bureau continue on filling positions

Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked staff for their presentations and updates and asked if anyone had any questions. He announced the next Wildlife, Boat, & Law Enforcement Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 10:00. Hearing no further comments the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

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