

Final Board Meeting Minutes

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

January 18, 2024
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Tom Sadler, **Chair**, Mr. Jon Cooper, **Vice Chair**; **Board Members:** Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Leon Boyd, (virtual), Mr. George Terwilliger, (virtual) Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Michael Formica (virtual) and Mr. Brian Vincent; **Absent:** Dr. Mamie Parker; **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. Mike Bednarski, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. Rob Lewis, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Ms. Rebecca Lane(virtual), Colonel John Cobb

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. Ross Phillips, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler to read the Mission Statement.

The Board Secretary had a Roll Call Vote for attendance: **Present:** Tom Sadler, Jon Cooper, John Daniel, Woody Woodall, Michael Formica (virtual), George Terwilliger, (virtual), Will Wampler, Brian Vincent, Leon Boyd (virtual), James Edmunds, **Absent: Mamie Parker**

Recognitions of Employees and Others: The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for Recognitions of Employees.

The Director recognized 2 new board members in attendance, Mr. James Edmunds of Halifax, VA, and Mr. Will Wampler of Abingdon, VA and welcomed them to the Board. He welcomed former board member Ms. Catherine Claiborne attending today.

The Director recognized Mrs. Catherine Claiborne with her outgoing Board Member Plaque and thanked her for her service to the Board and to the agency.

The Director recognized Ms. Tammy Franklin (virtual) with her outgoing Board Member Plaque and thanked her for her service to the Board and to the agency.

The Director called on Mr. Gray Anderson who recognized Mr. Joe Collins and presented him with the Lands & Access Specialist of the year award.

The Director called on Colonel John Cobb who recognized Major Frank Spuchesi as the new Major in Law Enforcement.

Approval of the October 25, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 25, 2023, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the October 25, 2023, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Tom Sadler, Jon Cooper, John Daniel, Woody Woodall, Michael Formica (virtual), George Terwilliger (virtual), Will Wampler, Brian Vincent, Leon Boyd (virtual), James Edmunds.

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: The Chair hearing none, moved on with the meeting.

Establishing the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to Facilitate Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters and Private Landowner Stakeholders:

The Director gave an update and overview of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee meeting on January 12, 2024, including all the time and money that the Department has spent to work with the Ad Hoc Committee. He commented that these 2 groups had come to table in 2008, 2016 and now in 2024 and have been unable to come together with solutions.

The Chair called on Ms. Kelly Altizer and Mr. Mike Foreman, who provided a report and update on the Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters and Private Landowners from the January 12, 2024, meeting.

The Chair, Mr. Sadler addressed the Ad Hoc Committee group attending and virtual from the Landowners and the Dog Hunters concerning the Ad Hoc Committee and what was expected to come from the Ad Hoc Committee and his disappointment that there were no solutions to come forward from either group and recommended that the Board would make those decisions that they have the legal authority to do.

Board Member George Terwilliger addressed Ad Hoc Committee as the Board member who made the motion a year ago to create this group and has supported the Ad Hoc Committee and was disappointed that no solutions had come forth from either side and would join with his fellow Board members to find reasonable solutions by this Board.

Board Member Brian Vincent commented that he was disappointed there were no solutions by either of the groups after a year of meeting on the Ad Hoc Committee and was highly motivated to have the Board come forth with reasonable decisions.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Jon Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chair, I moved for the Board of Wildlife Resources to hold a special called meeting to consider the report from the Hound-Hunter & Private Landowners Stakeholder Advisory Committee and to consider and act on recommendations for a solution of the conflicts between hound-hunters and private landowners. Such a meeting should take place as soon as practical following the receipt of the report from the Hound-Hunters & Private Landowners Stakeholder Advisory Committee and such meeting should take place before the regular board meeting on March 21, 2024.

It was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

The Board Secretary took a Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Daniel, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Edmunds, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica Nay: Woodall

Speakers (in person)

- Mr. John Morse spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Matthew Meares spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Ms. Sink Wydner spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Ms. Cheryl waltz spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Michael McGrady spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Raymond Carter spoke regarding the dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Robert Shackelford spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Jim Medeiros spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Lonnie Peterson spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Keith Johnson spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Mike Hicks spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Alan Caldwell spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Clay Dingedine spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Jennifer Hensley spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Michael Hayes, Jr. spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)

- Mr. Todd Grubbs spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Ms. Kathleen Gutmann spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Matthew Gutmann spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. David Hart spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. James Hackett spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Thomas Preston spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Granville Maitland spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Mike Abell spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. John Lynch spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Todd Watson spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Richard Tetterton spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Robert Bishop spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Bill Youmans spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)
- Mr. Carlos Davis spoke regarding dog hunting (in person)

The Chair thanked all the “in person” speakers for taking their time and coming to the meeting to speak.

The Chair called for break at 11:50 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at 12:00 noon.

The meeting continued with the Virtual Speakers.

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Don Wright spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. James Hudson spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Donald Hutson spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Eric Spade spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Jeff Butts spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Copeland Casati spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)
- Ms. Kendall Griffin spoke regarding dog hunting (virtual)

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Kelly Altizer and Mr. Mike Foreman for their update on the January 12, 2024 Ad Hoc meeting and all the speakers who took their time to come speak in person and to call in virtually.

- Mr. Daniel departed at 11:40 am

The Chair called for a Close Session at 12:30 pm

The Chair called on Mr. Edmunds to read the Close Session Motion. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Woodall, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd (virtual), Edmunds, Sadler, Terwilliger,(virtual) Formica (virtual)

Closed Meeting Motion, January 18, 2024

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 in Accomack and Bath 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 1:50 pm.

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

Certification of Closed Meeting

January 18, 2024

***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 called the roll. Ayes: Woodall, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd,(virtual), Edmunds, Sadler

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper for a report of the January 17, 2024, Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting.

Mr. Cooper gave an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting on January 17, 2024, reporting that Mr. Ben Lewis presented on the Migratory Game Bird seasons & bag limits and Dr. Tracey gave a Wildlife Disease Update Dr. Mike Bednarski gave a 2024-2025 Regulations Process update, Ms. Becky Gwynn gave a Wildlife Division and Nongame Program Update, Dr. Bednarski gave a Fish Division Update and Ms. Stacey Brown gave a Boating Division Report.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Cooper made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that Board of Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag

Limit recommendations as presented by staff, to be advertised for public comments. It was seconded by Mr. Woodall. The Board secretary called a roll call vote:
Ayes: Woodall, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Edmunds, Sadler

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper for an update on the January 17, 2024, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper who chaired for Mr. Terwilliger gave an update on the January 17, 2024, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee, Mr. Rob Lewis gave the FY-24 Semi-annual Finance Report and Mr. Lewis and Mr. Trollinger gave the Update on Planning and Finance Division Policy and Review, Mr. Lewis gave an Update on the State Budget and how it will affect our agency and he also introduced Ms. Stephanie Adams as the new Procurement Manager. Mr. John Kirk gave an update on the FY24 Capital Projects including New Constructions and Major Renovation and Capital Programs and Dam Safety.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for filling in for Mr. Terwilliger and for his update.

The Chair called on Mr. Woodall for motions from Closed Session.

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase +395 acres in fee-simple in Accomack County, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. The secretary called a roll call vote. Ayes: Woodall, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd (virtual) Edmunds, Sadler, Terwilliger(virtual)

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase 2.7 acres in Bath County, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. The secretary called a roll call vote: Ayes: Woodall, Wampler, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd (virtual) Edmunds, Sadler, Terwilliger(virtual)

Law Enforcement Committee: Mr. Sadler gave January 17, 2024, Law Enforcement Committee's report for Mr. Daniel.

Mr. Sadler reported on the January 17, 2024, Law Enforcement Committee meeting reporting that Colonel Cobb gave an overview of the CPO Recruitment and Major Ryan Shuler gave an update on the Illicit Reptile Trade in Virginia and Colonel Cobb gave a presentation on CPO Retention Challenges and Proactive Viable Solutions.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report: The Chair called on Mr. Bob Smet for the January 17, 2024, Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report, Mr. Smet reported that the EPO Committee reported on How to Become a VA Hunter by Mr. David Hennamann and on the Hunter Education Report for 2023 by Mr. Jimmy Mootz reporting on all the Volunteers that work with Hunter Education. He reported that Mr. George Braxton reported on Developing Firearm Ownership and Sport Shooting R3 Communications for Black Americans. Mr. Bob Smet in his Director's report introduced new employees, talked about Creative Services and Education will be the focused on providing more workshops for the public and increased presence on You-Tube.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Smet for his report.

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

- Thanked all the staff who put today's meeting together, there is a lot of work behind the scenes for a meeting like today.
- Shared a video, Leading the Way for Wildlife Conservation – A Year in Review

Chair's Report:

The Chair thanked everyone and remarked it was a long and tough day.

Mr. Wampler and Mr. Edmunds commented they appreciated the welcome they received at their first meeting, and they were excited to be on the DWR Board.

Additional Business: The Chair asked if there was any other business, hearing none, he continued with the agenda.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced the next meeting date is Thursday, March 21, 2024.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions or comments and announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2024. He adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/