

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

January 19, 2022
10:00 am

Present: Ms. Karen Terwilliger, **Chair;** Mr. Leon Boyd; **Absent:** Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Rovel Brown. **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, Ms. Catherine Claiborne; Ms. Tammy Grimes; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, 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.

Approval of the October 27, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the October 27, 2021 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 committee meeting. Ms. Terwilliger seconded the motion.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Public Comment - Non Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items. Hearing none the Chair continued on with the meeting.

Annual Proposed Waterfowl Regulations: The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for a presentation.

Dr. Costanzo gave a presentation on the Annual Proposed Waterfowl Regulations.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Madame Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee approve the 2022-2023 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag limit recommendations as presented by staff, for consideration by the full Board at the January 20, 2022 meeting. These recommendations will be advertised for public comment and reconsidered by the Board at the March 2022 meeting.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Regulation Amendment for Waterfowl Retriever Field Trial Dates: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for a presentation.

Dr. Anderson presented the Regulation Amendment for Waterfowl Retriever Field Trial Dates.

Comments from the Public:

- Phyllis Giroux spoke regarding the Retriever Amendment

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources the amendment to the “Field Trials: Authorized Dates” regulation as presented by staff to go out for public comment. It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Proposed Lands Identification and Naming: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for a presentation.

Dr. Anderson presented the Proposed Lands Identification and Naming.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources the proposed property name and designation changes as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Understanding Climate Change and its Impacts to Wildlife-Related Recreation in Virginia:

The Chair called on Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Clay Ferguson.

Deputy Director Becky Gwynn introduced Mr. Clay Ferguson as a Fellow working with DWR, he was selected from the Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow. Ms. Gwynn gave his background. Clay has been working with DWR since October 2021. Clay has been a DWR Complementary Work Force volunteer since 2019.

Mr. Ferguson gave a presentation on Climate change and its Impact to Wildlife-Related Recreation in Virginia.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Gwynn and Mr. Ferguson for their introduction and presentation.

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

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Preliminary Harvest numbers for this past season.
Bears, 3,005 – Deer – 190,582 -Youth/apprentice weekend - 3,147
Wild Turkey – 1,530 (does not include mid-January season)
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) was recently detected in three hunter harvested waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway (i.e., two in South Carolina and one in North Carolina). Highly pathogenic AI is an ongoing concern and these three detections were discovered in annual monitoring efforts for HPAI. Monitoring will continue within the flyway under the direction of the USDA Wildlife Services. At this time no actions are requested from non-detect states but poultry producers across the flyway are encouraged to enhance farm biosecurity measures and report any unusual mortality events.

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

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Gave an update on the Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife 2023 where we are and going forward
- 200,00 Trout have been stocked - 500,000 left for spring stocking
- Working with Latino group up in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fredericksburg.

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

Director's Report: The Chair called on Deputy Director Becky Gwynn for a report.

The Deputy Director reported:

- Thanked the Board for funding the Doe Creek WMA last year. A partial dedication of Doe Creek was held on January 11, 2022 and Governor Northam and Secretary of Natural Resources Ann Jennings dedicated the first 100 acres, it was attended by 50 + people, DWR staff, funding partners, local and state officials. Our DWR Law Enforcement Honor Guard participated.
- Introduced new employee John Kirk as the new Capital Program Manager
- Chandler's Mill Dam had another breach and gave way recently.
- Winter Wildlife Festival will be held in VA Beach on January 28-30, 2022 (Field trips, exhibits, virtual presentations will be available)

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting. The employees at DWR are such stewards of Fish and Wildlife and the dedication from the staff is wonderful. All of the updates were helpful and informative and the Climate changes presentation was excellent information.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, she announced that the next meeting will be March 23, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/