

Final Board Minutes

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

January 19, 2023

9:00 am

Present: Mr. G. K. Washington, **Chair,** Mr. Tom Sadler, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Tammy Jo Franklin (virtual), Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Dr. Mamie Parker and Mr. Michael Formica; Mr. George Terwilliger; Mr. Jon Cooper; **Absent:** Mr. Brian Vincent and Mr. John Daniel, **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director's Working Group:** Dr. Gray Anderson, Mr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Darin Moore, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Bob Smet, Mr. George Braxton (virtual), Mr. Stock Watson, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Tom Guess

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.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper to read the Mission Statement.

The Board Secretary had a Roll Call Vote for attendance: Present: Leon Boyd, Catherine Claiborne, G. K. Washington, Tom Sadler, Jon Cooper, George Terwilliger, Mamie Parker, Michael Formica, Tammy Franklin (virtual)
Absent: John Daniel and Brian Vincent

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

The Director called on Dr. Gray Anderson who introduced Mr. Mike Fies as the recipient of the Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award and Ms. Caity Homan as the recipient of the Lands/Access Specialist of the Year Award.

Dr. Gray Anderson introduced a new staff member, Dr. John Tracey, the new Veterinary for the Department.

Approval of the October 19, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 19, 2022 Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sadler made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022 Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Dr. Parker. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Washington, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica, Claiborne, Cooper

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

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

- Chris Neff spoke regarding Deer season in Lee County (in person)
- Jeanne Trabulsi spoke regarding Solar panels (virtual)
- Phillip Ashberry spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Amanda Savignano spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Chris Patton spoke regarding Virginia Property Rights Alliance (in person)
- Lonnie Peterson spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Deborah Oliver spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Todd & Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- John Keppeler spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Nicholas Eisner spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Michael Faust spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Scott Stachhelek spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Mike Hayes spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Ron Litwinski spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Dylan Madison spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Michael Lindsey spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (in person)
- Jeffrey Sili spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- James Hackett spoke regarding Sporting Dog Coalition of Virginia (in person)
- David Carpenter spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (in person)
- Robert Bishop spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (in person)
- Josh Tanner spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Todd Watson spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Gary Wright spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Will Frank spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)
- Judge Charlton spoke regarding hunting with hounds (in person)

- Chelsea Tover spoke regarding hunting with hounds (virtual)

- Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Property Rights Alliance (virtual)
- Philippa DeRamus spoke regarding Property Rights Alliance (virtual)
- Suji Helmer spoke regarding foxhunters (virtual)
- Todd Miller spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (virtual)
- Copeland Casati spoke regarding Property Rights Alliance (virtual)
- Evan Nuzzo spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (virtual)
- Kaitlyn Abercrombie spoke regarding Hunting Dog Alliance (virtual)

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their comments.

The Chair called for break at 11:05 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at 11:35 am

The Chair called on Board member Mr. George Terwilliger for comments and a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Director, at his discretion, appoint an ad hoc advisory committee to consider the rights of landowners and hunters and advise the Board on possible changes to regulations that might address some of the current issues. It was seconded by several Board members.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin (virtual) Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. Leon Boyd for a report of the January 18, 2023 Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting.

Mr. Boyd gave an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting on January 18, 2023.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Boyd for his update.

The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for his presentation on the Migratory Bird Regulations Proposals.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board approve the 2023-2024 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff, to be advertised for public comments. It was second by Mr. Sadler.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica

The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for a presentation on the Proposed Property Naming.

Dr. Anderson gave a presentation on the Proposed Property Naming.

The Chair asked the Board and public for any comments or questions.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed property name and designation as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Washington, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker, Cooper, Terwilliger, Formica, Claiborne

The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an update on Wildlife Regulation cycle schedule and public scoping.

Dr. Anderson gave his update on the Wildlife Regulation cycle schedule and public scoping.

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

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Tom Sadler to give an update on the January 18, 2023 Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler gave an update on the January 18, 2023 Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Sadler for his update.

The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for a presentation of the Mid-Year Budget to Actual Finance Report.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation.

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Sadler to give an update on the January 18, 2023 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler gave an update on the January 18, 2023 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

The Chair asked if there were any comments or questions from the public or the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sadler for his Committee update.

The Chair called on Major Milt Robinson for an Update.

Major Milt Robinson gave a CPO Recruitment Update. The academy of 28 recruits will begin on January 25, 2023.

Board member Mamie Parker left at 1:00 pm.

The Chair called for a Close Session at 1:00 pm and called on Catherine Claiborne to read the Close Session Motion. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin (virtual) Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

Closed Meeting Motion, January 19, 2023

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 the City of Winchester.

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 2:45 pm.

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

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

Certification of Closed Meeting

January 19, 2023

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 Chair called on Mr. Leon Boyd for a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to dispose of 30+ acres known as Red Bud Run Wildlife Management area in Frederick County, VA to Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation in accordance with House Bill 1278. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report: The Chair called on Mr. Bob Smet for an update on the January 18, 2023 Committee meeting.

Mr. Smet gave an update of the EPO Committee meeting on January 18, 2023.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Smet for a report.

Mr. Smet gave a report on The Virginia Wildlife Grant Program for 2022 and what to expect in 2023.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Smet for an Update and Plan.

Mr. Smet gave an update and Paddlesports Plan.

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

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

- Gave an update on the legislation concerning DWR at the General Assembly

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

Chair's Report: The Chair commented on what a nice event the Flippo-Gentry at was held in October, thanked staff for all the work that goes into putting together committees and Board meeting.

The Chair announced the next Board meeting date as Thursday, March 16, 2023 and adjourned the meetings at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/