

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

January 20, 2021
10:00 am

Present: Ms. Catherine Claiborne, **Chair**; Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Frank Adams, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Alternate, Mr. Tom Sadler, Alternate. **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Dr. Gray Anderson, Mr. Tom Guess, Ms. Paige Pearson, Colonel John Cobb.

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

The Chair read the meeting procedure, This meeting is proceeding under Item 4-0.01, subsection G of the Appropriation Act and section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. It is being held by electronic communication, as the COVID-19 virus has made a physical meeting of the Committee impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Committee's actions today shall be solely limited to those matters included on the agenda; all of these proposed actions are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and discharge lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities of this Committee.

The Chair called on the Board secretary for a Roll Call vote of Board members present: Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Frank Adams, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. Tom Sadler, and Mr. G. K. Washington.

Approval of the October 7, 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the October 7, 2020 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 Committee meeting. Mr. Adams seconded the motion.

The Board secretary called a Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Claiborne, Adams, Boyd

Public Comment - Non Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items.

- Mr. Tim Slusser spoke regarding the Boat Access Permit
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding Deer Hound Hunting

The Chair thanked Mr. Slusser and Mr. Charlton for their comments.

2021 – 2022 Wildlife Regulations Public Scoping Process:

The Chair called on Mr. Gray Anderson for an Update.

Dr. Anderson presented the 2021-22 Wildlife Regulations Public Scoping Process and reported on the amount of public comments received.

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

2021-2022 Proposed Migratory Bird Harvest Regulations: The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for a presentation.

Dr. Costanzo presented the 2021-2022 Proposed Migratory Bird Harvest 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 board approve the 2021-2022 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag limit recommendations as presented by staff. These recommendations will be advertised for public comments and will be reconsidered at the Board meeting on March 18, 2021. It was seconded by Mr. Adams.

The Board Secretary took a Roll Call Vote. Aye: Catherine Claiborne, Frank Adams, Leon Boyd

Hatchery System Update: The Chair called on Mr. Brendan Delbos for a presentation.

Mr. Delbos gave a presentation on VDWR Fish Hatchery System: Current trends, Future direction.

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

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

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Gave the Harvest numbers for past hunting season – 2,400 Bears, 185,000 Deer, Turkey, 1,800 and Elk 3

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Trout stocking is underway, including in urban areas. Stocking will continue through March
- Jeff Williams is the new Region 3 Aquatics Manager, replacing the now retired Bill Kittrell
- In cooperation with the USFWS, AEP, the Canaan Valley Institute and the New River Land Trust, 1.3 miles of the North Fork Roanoke River were protected. This is important habitat for Roanoke Logperch, a Tier Ha species in the Wildlife Action Plan
- The AWRD continues to collaborate with Outreach on items such as the fishing report and an upcoming content workshop. We appreciate their assistance getting the word out, as an example, the December piece on Saugeye, unique fishing opportunity available in Virginia.

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

- HRBT Initiative will be presented at the Board Meeting
- Reported that DWR received a State Wildlife Grant for Wood Turtle (\$216,292) and Saltmarsh Sparrow (\$250,000)
- Advised that Mr. Tom Guess will update the Board with Legislative update on Thursday
- Gave an update on the Boat Access Permit

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting and thanked staff for their presentations. The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, she announced that next meeting will be determined and adjourned the meeting at 11:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Frances Boswell

