

Teleconference/Video Board Meeting

FINAL Board Minutes

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

January 21, 2021
9:00 am

Present: Mr. John Daniel, II, **Chair,** Mr. Brian Vincent, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. Tom Sadler, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. Frank Adams, Mr. Douglas Dear, Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Tom Guess, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Darin Moore, Mr. Lee Walker, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Paige Pearson, Ms. Rebecca Lane.

Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting by Teleconference.

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the virtual meeting and thanked everyone for being able to attend by teleconference; The Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The Chair called on the Board Secretary for a roll call vote.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote for Attendance: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Sadler, Claiborne, and Dear.

The Chair, Mr. John Daniel announced that 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 Board impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Board'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 the Board.

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

The Director called on Mr. Patrick "Cully" McCurdy, District Biologist with the National Wild Turkey Federation who recognized Mr. Matt Cline as the recipient of the Andrew Huffman Award.

Mr. Patrick “Cully” McCurdy, also recognized Mr. Gary Norman with the NWTF Robert Wayne Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation).

The Director called on Dr. Gray Anderson who recognized Mr. Evan Shearer – The Wildlife Division Lands and Access Specialist of the Year.

The Chair and the Director thanked the presenters and congratulated the recipients for their recognitions and outstanding work performance.

Approval of the October 22, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 22, 2020 minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Parker made a motion to approve the October 22, 2020 Board minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, and Sadler

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non Agenda Items:

- Mr. Mike Ellsworth spoke regarding Boat Access Permits
- Mr. Erik Winchester spoke regarding Boat Access Permits
- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding Hunting with Dogs

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their comments.

Committee Meetings:

Law Enforcement Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. G. K. Washington for an update on the January 20, 2021 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Washington gave an update on the January 20, 2021 Virtual Law Enforcement Committee meeting and showed a new video that will be used for Recruitment in Law Enforcement.

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

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Ms. Catherine Claiborne for an update on the January 20, 2021 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Ms. Claiborne gave an update on the January 20, 2021 Virtual Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Ms. Claiborne called on Dr. Gray Anderson to present the 2021-2022 Wildlife Regulations Public Scoping Process.

Dr. Anderson presented the 2021 – 2022 Wildlife Regulations Public Scoping Process.

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

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

Ms. Claiborne called on Dr. Gary Costanzo to present the Proposed 2021-2022 Migratory Bird Harvest Regulations.

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

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the Board members.

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

The Chair called for a motion, Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. 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: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler

Ms. Claiborne called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a report.

Ms. Gwynn gave a report on the Hampton Roads Seabridge Conservation Initiative for 2020-2021.

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

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the board members.

The Chair thanked Ms. Gwynn for her report.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Claiborne for her Committee report.

The Chair called for a Break at 10:45 am
The Chair called the meeting back to order at 10:55 am

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent to give an update on the January 15, 2021 Finance, Audit, and Compliance committee meeting.

Mr. Vincent gave an update on the January 15, 2021 Virtual Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

The Board Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore to present the 2nd quarter Finance Report.

Mr. Darin Moore presented the FY 21 2nd Quarter Finance Report.

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

The Chair thanked Mr. Vincent and Mr. Moore for their presentations.

After questions and comments, the Chair moved on to the next agenda item.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Ms. Karen Terwilliger to give an update on the January 20, 2021 Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting.

Ms. Terwilliger gave an update on the January 20, 2021 Virtual Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting.

Ms. Terwilliger called on Mr. Brian Moyer for a presentation on Virginia Wildlife Viewing Plan 2021-2031.

Mr. Moyer presented the Virginia Wildlife Viewing Plan 2021-2031.

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

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the Board members.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Terwilliger and Mr. Moyer for their update and presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Ms. Terwilliger made a motion, I move that the Board approve the Virginia Wildlife Viewing Plan for 2021-2031 to go out for public comment as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

The Chair asked the Board Secretary to take a Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler.

Ms. Terwilliger called on Mr. Tom Guess for an update on the Governance Manual and Charters.

Mr. Guess presented the Governance Manual and Committee Charters language changes.

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

The Chair asked if there were any questions from the Board members.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Daniel made the motion, I move that the staff recommendations to amend the Board Governance manual, Code of Ethics, and Committee Charters be considered for action by this Board at its next regular meeting.

It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger.

The Board Secretary took a Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler

Ms. Terwilliger called on Mr. Lee Walker for a presentation.

Mr. Walker presented the New State Salamander License Plate.

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

Director's Report:

The Board Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his report:

- The Director commented on how gratifying to see staff recognized at DWR.
- The Director called on Mr. Tom Guess for a Legislative Update.
- The Director reported that DWR had received a State Wildlife Grant for Wood Turtle (\$216,292) and Saltmarsh Sparrow (\$250,000)
- The Director reported that it was a very successful hunting season and preliminary harvesting records numbers of Turkey, Deer, and Bear were up from last year.

Chair's Comments:

The Board Chair thanked Board members for attending and thanked staff for making it possible through Teleconference and Virtual means.

The Next Meeting Date:

The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Closed Session:

The Chair announced there would be a Closed Session. A motion was made by Mr. Adams and Director Ryan Brown read the Closed Session Motion (Amended)

Closed Session Motion

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting 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 Board, with respect to:

- (i) Real property located in : Franklin County, Virginia*

Secondly, pursuant to 2.2-3711.A.8 of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

And Finally, pursuant of 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:

- (i) 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) of the Code of Virginia, the Board requests legal counsel and the Department Executive Director who will 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.

It was seconded by Ms. Claiborne.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, Sadler, Adams, and Parker.

The Board went into Closed Session at: 11:45 am.

The Board reconvened from the Closed Session at 1:10 pm.

The Chairman called on Ms. Claiborne to read the Certification of Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting
January 21, 2021*

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.

It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The Chair called for a roll call vote.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, and Sadler

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

The Chair thanked the Executive Director and staff for making today's meeting possible and thanked Board members for their attendance and the work they continue to do for DWR during these times and asked if anyone had any further comments for today's meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Boswell
/s/

