

AGENDA

Board of Wildlife Resources
Law Enforcement Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 21, 2026

2:00 pm

OR

Following adjournment of the Finance Committee

Committee Members: Mr. Will Wampler, Chair, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. George Terwilliger,
Mr. James Maclin, Mr. Michael Formica

DWR Staff Liaison: Colonel John Cobb

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Mr. Wampler
2. Approval of October 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes
Mr. Wampler
3. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item
Mr. Wampler
4. Law Enforcement Training Overview
Captain Jody Blackwell
5. Update on Recruitment and Hiring Process
Captain Kopelove
6. Law Enforcement Chief Update
Colonel John Cobb

Final Action

7. Director's Report
Mr. Ryan Brown
8. Chair's Report
Mr. Wampler
9. Additional Business/Comments
Mr. Wampler
10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Mr. Wampler
11. Adjournment
Mr. Wampler

Draft Meeting Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

October 22, 2025
1:45 pm

Present: Mr. Will Wampler, **Chair**, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. James Maclin, Mr. James Edmunds and Mr. Michael Formica, (absent); **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Jon Cooper, Ms. Marlee Dance, Mr. Parker Slaybaugh; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. George Braxton, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Stacey Brown, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Michael Lipford, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Rebecca Lane.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Terwilliger made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Edmunds seconded the motion. Ayes: Wampler, Edmunds, Terwilliger, Maclin

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

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Hound hunting

The Chair thanked Mr. Kimberlin for his comments.

VLEPSC First Re-Accreditation: The Chair called on Captain Rob Ham for a presentation.

Captain Ham gave a presentation on VLEPSC on the First Re-Accreditation for Law Enforcement.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Captain Ham for his presentation.

Operation Midnight Express (OME) Summary: The Chair called on Major Ryan Shuler for a summary.

Major Ryan Shuler gave a summary of Operation Midnight Express (OME) Summary.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked major Shuler for his Summary.

Law Enforcement Chief Update: The Chair called on Colonel Cobb for an update.

Colonel Cobb reported:

1. Recruitment Effort for 15th Basic Academy (February 25)
 - 13 officers in the Field Training Program (14 weeks)
 - We are 12 vacant positions below 172 sworn officers
 - Completing background investigations and polygraphs (~45 left)
2. W3 Natural Resources Training Academy / Facility Progress Update
 - WFV have determined the potential building site / Continue discussions with County Zoning / Detailed Proposal for DWR Board Consideration expected during the first half of 2026
 - Awaiting Major Power Company “no cost” Proposal for Solar Panel installation to reduce operating cost of this potential building
 - NWTF Potential W3 Partnership – To assist with furnishing this potential building (discussed them funding all the furniture in the 32 dorm rooms at a cost of \$80,000 + \$20,000 for W3 programming); in addition, they would have some interest in renting this facility
 - Continue to build W3 Business Plan to include a detailed list of dorm room rentals that can be expected if this training facility opens
3. NAWLEA (North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation) Update
 - As the Board Chairman, I will have the honor at the SEAFWA Awards Banquet next week to formally present first accreditation certificates to:
 1. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 2. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Colonel Cobb for his update.

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

- Congratulated the Law Enforcement graduates and complimented how well organized and what a nice venue the graduation was, appreciated the Law staff on their work and efforts.

Chair's Report: Mr. Wampler thanked the Law Enforcement Division for the work they do around the state.

The Chair announced the next Law Enforcement committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2026, and asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Wildlife Resources

Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Ryan J. Brown
Executive Director

To: Members of the Board

From: Major Ryan M. Shuler 

Date: January 14, 2026

Subject: LE Committee Report on Hound Hunting Related Data and Operational Initiative

This memorandum provides an overall summary of hound hunting–related enforcement data collected and reported by the Law Enforcement Division between January 5, 2025, and January 3, 2026. It also includes a summary of the Directed Enforcement Effort conducted by Conservation Police Officers in counties where the use of dogs to hunt deer is permitted.

Directed Enforcement Initiative:

- The Law Enforcement Division implemented a Directed Enforcement Effort during the last two weeks of the 2025–26 hunting season, focused on areas of the Commonwealth that experience higher-than-average hound hunting complaints. To maximize effectiveness and efficient use of staffing, Regional Law Enforcement Managers developed and executed operational plans that provided clear direction and guidance. Overall, these efforts were effective in detecting violations and served as a strong deterrent to future noncompliance.

Directed Enforcement Effort Summary:

Total # of Man Hours	3182
Total Calls-for-Service (CFS)	1744
Total HDOGS CFSs	308
Total HVDOGS CFSs	36
Hunters Contacted	4234
Total Violations Detected	264
Summonses Issued	99
Written Warnings Issued	33
Hunting Incidents Investigated	7

2025/26 Hunting Dog Data Summary

HDOGS Incident Code: This call type will be utilized when the complaint being made does not involve a violation of law, such as hunting dogs running at large across private property.

2024/25		2025/26	
HDOGS CFSs	1072	HDOGS CFSs	1276
Chasing Deer	639	Chasing Deer	675
Chasing Bear	16	Chasing Bear	30
Dogs running across prohibited property	976	Dogs running across prohibited property	1153

HVDOGS Incident Code: This call type will be used when a hunting-related violation involving a hunting dog is reported. An example would be a hunter retrieving his dog while carrying a firearm on prohibited property.

2024/25		2025/26	
HVDOGS CFSs	272	HVDOGS CFSs	163
Chasing Deer	161	Chasing Deer	115
Chasing Bear	17	Chasing Bear	15
Dogs running across prohibited property	131	Dogs running across prohibited property	66

Hound Hunting Case Data:

2024/25		2025/26	
Total Hunting Cases w/charges placed	2006	Total Hunting Cases w/charges placed	2396
Hound-related cases w/charges placed	163	Hound-related cases w/charges placed	158
Total Hunting Cases w/warning given	972	Total Hunting Cases w/warning given	769
Hound-related cases w/warning given	75	Hound-related cases w/warning given	41

January 5, 2024 – January 3, 2025 HDOGS & HVDOGS Call Counts

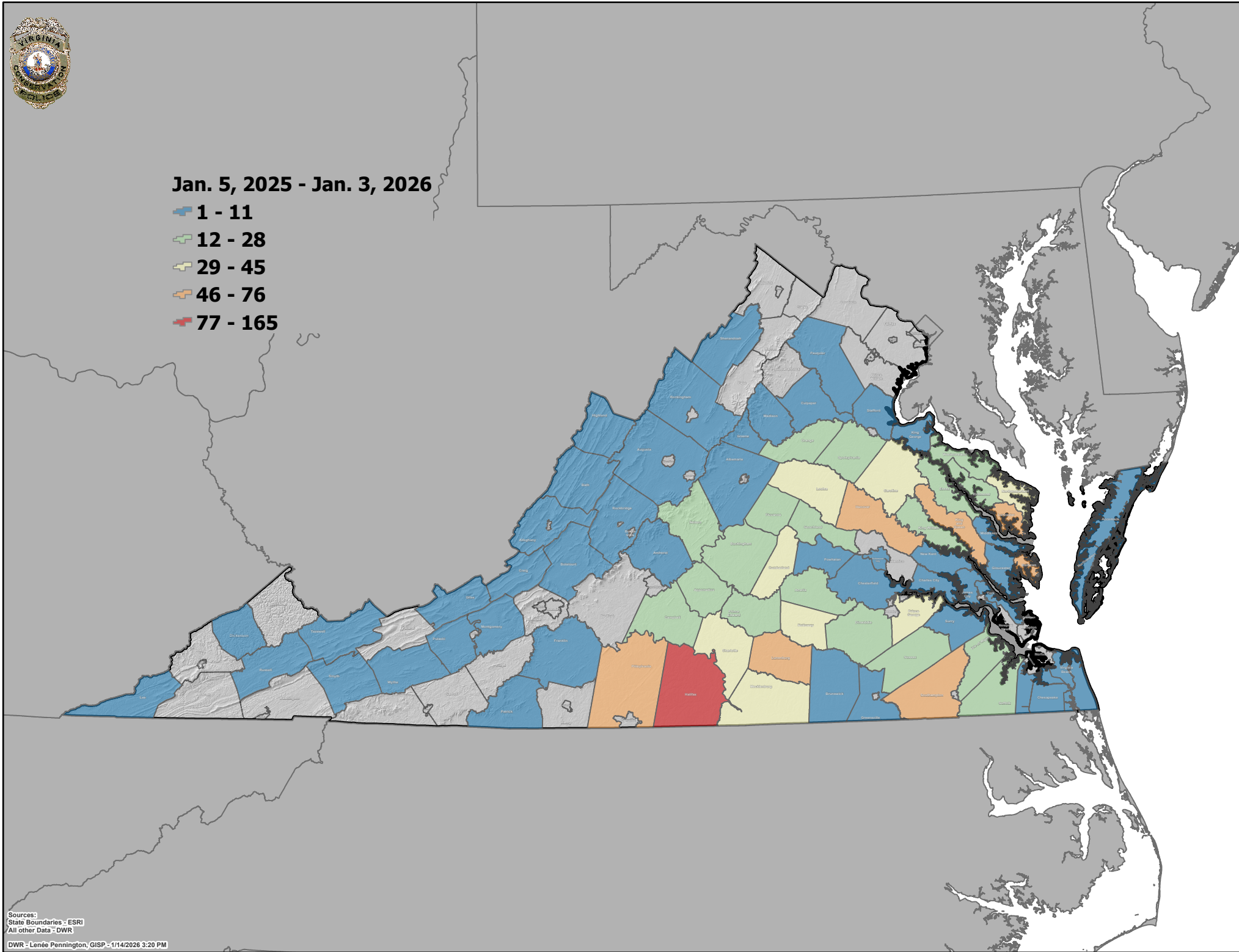
County/City Name	Number of Calls
Accomack County	6
Albemarle County	5
Alleghany County	2
Amelia County	15
Amherst County	6
Appomattox County	24
Augusta County	1
Bath County	1
Botetourt County	3
Brunswick County	11
Buckingham County	28
Campbell County	23
Caroline County	38
Charles City County	5
Charlotte County	43
Chesapeake City	6
Chesterfield County	1
Craig County	3
Culpeper County	5
Cumberland County	45
Dickenson County	2
Dinwiddie County	21
Essex County	13
Fauquier County	3
Fluvanna County	24
Franklin County	7
Giles County	1
Gloucester County	9
Goochland County	21
Greene County	2
Greensville County	11
Halifax County	165
Hanover County	52
Highland County	1
Isle of Wight County	15
James City County	1
King and Queen County	76
King George County	1
King William County	19

County/City Name	Number of Calls
Lancaster County	56
Lee County	2
Louisa County	42
Lunenburg County	53
Madison County	6
Mathews County	61
Mecklenburg County	42
Middlesex County	3
Montgomery County	2
Nelson County	13
New Kent County	4
Northampton County	1
Northumberland County	39
Nottoway County	34
Orange County	25
Patrick County	1
Pittsylvania County	65
Powhatan County	6
Prince Edward County	28
Prince George County	41
Pulaski County	1
Richmond City	1
Richmond County	18
Rockbridge County	4
Rockingham County	2
Russell County	2
Shenandoah County	4
Smyth County	1
Southampton County	68
Spotsylvania County	14
Stafford County	1
Suffolk City	21
Surry County	3
Sussex County	26
Tazewell County	1
Virginia Beach City	2
Westmoreland County	28
Wythe County	1
York County	1



Jan. 5, 2025 - Jan. 3, 2026

- 1 - 11
- 12 - 28
- 29 - 45
- 46 - 76
- 77 - 165



Sources:
State Boundaries - ESRI
All other Data - DWR

DWR - Lenée Pennington, GISP - 1/14/2026 3:20 PM



Jan. 5, 2025 - Jan. 3, 2026

