

Final Board Meeting Minutes

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

January 22, 2026
9:00 am

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

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.

The Chair called on Ms. Walters to read the Mission Statement.

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Recognition of Employees and Others: The Chair called on Mr. Ryan Brown for recognitions.

Director Brown called on and recognized Mr. Jon Cooper to receive his Chairman's Plaque from 2025.

Director Brown called on and recognized Mr. Cale Godfrey for receiving the SEAFWA C W Watson Award.

Director Brown called on Mr. Michael Lipford to recognize Ms. Jackie Rosenberger for the AFWA Mark Reef Award.

Director Brown called on Dr. Gray Anderson to recognize the Lands and Access Employee of the Year, Mr. Curtis Chandler. Mr. Anderson also introduced Brandon Prehn, Caity Blackburn, and Retired Kent Burtner who are part of the Forestry team.

Director Brown called on Mr. Michael Lipford who introduced Ms. Emily Purcell with Duck's Unlimited. Ms. Purcell who spoke concerning the Partnerships, Ducks Unlimited has had with DWR employees through many years.

Chair George Terwilliger read a Resolution on behalf of Board Secretary, Frances Boswell's retirement with the Department of Wildlife Resources. It was seconded by Mr. Formica. Ayes: Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Terwilliger, Formica

Approval of the October 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 23, 2025, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve the October 23, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

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

- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding the hound hunting
- Mr. Mike Carter spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Mike Hicks spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Bryan Morris spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Greg Austin spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. John Balasa spoke regarding hound hunting
- Philippa DeRamus spoke regarding hound hunting
- Laurie Allen spoke regarding hound hunting
- Ms. Robin Klevins spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Tyler Edmunds spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Sjerry Brown spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. W. K. Franklin spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Mike Hayes spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Cyrus Baird spoke regarding Delta Waterfowl (virtual)
- Mr. Mike Hayes spoke regarding hound hunting (virtual)

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper for an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper gave a report on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from January 21, 2026.

- Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limits Proposals Proposal.

Mr. Cooper made a motion; I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources approve the preliminary 2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Mr. Wampler made a motion to correct the starting date to September 5, 2026, for the Dove Season Dates. It was second by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance.

- Smallmouth Bass Management Plan - Mr. Cooper gave the Smallmouth Bass Management Plan.

Mr. Cooper made a motion; I move that the Board of Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the Smallmouth Bass Management Plan. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Mr. Cooper reported that Mr. David Norris gave an EPA Grant Update, Ms. Stacey Brown gave an Annual USCG Report, Ms. Amy Martin gave an update on Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas: A Citizen Science Informed Conservation Tool and staff updates were presented by Mr. Michael Lipford gave a Wildlife Division Report, Dr. Michael Bednarski, a Fishery's Report, Ms. Stacey Brown, a Boating report, Ms. Amy Martin, a Non-Game report.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for his report of the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for his report.

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for an update on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting from January 21, 2026.

Mr. Woodall gave an update on the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of January 21, 2026. Mr. Woodall reported Mr. Darin Moore and Mr. Tim Springer gave a Second Quarter Finance Report and Budget Update. He reported that Ms. Stephanie Adams, the Procurement Manager gave a Procurement Update.

Law Enforcement Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler for an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

Mr. Wampler gave an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

Mr. Wampler reported that Captain Jody Blackwell gave a Law Enforcement Training Overview and Captain Kopelove gave an Update on the Recruitment and Hiring Process, and Colonel John Cobb gave the Chief's Update.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wampler for his update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Ms. Laura Walters for an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

Ms. Walters gave an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of January 21, 2026.

- Ms. Walters had 1 Action Item – Governance Manual, Code of Ethics and Conduct and Committee Charter Reviews

Ms. Walter made a motion for the Board to adopt the Staff recommendations for the Governance Manual, Code of Ethics and Conduct and five Committee Charter Reviews. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler and Mr. Slaybaugh. Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Ms. Walters reported Mr. Michael Lipford, Mr. Max Goldman and Mr. David Hennaman spoke on DCR/DWR Cooperative Effort to control deer population on natural heritage sites, and Mr. David Murr and Mr. Max Goldman gave an update on Explore the Wild 2.0, and Mr. Bob Smet gave his Outreach Division Report.

The Chair thanked Ms. Walters for her update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of January 21, 2026.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 11:25 am.

Ms. Walters read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Wampler.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Closed Meeting Motion, January 22, 2026

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting:

First, 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.

Second, 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 Suffolk.

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 Directors, 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.

It was second by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Terwilliger, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Slaybaugh, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Formica.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 1:20 pm

Certification of Closed Meeting

January 22, 2026

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 Board Secretary called a Roll Call vote: Ayes: Mr. Woodall, Mr. Slaybaugh, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Maclin, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Broaddus, Ms. Dance, Mr. Terwilliger, Mr. Formica

The Chair called on Mr. Woodall for a motion. I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to accept a donation of a conservation easement which includes +/- 744 acres in the City of Suffolk, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Formica, Ayes: Mr. Woodall, Mr. Slaybaugh, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Maclin, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Broaddus, Ms. Dance, Mr. Terwilliger, Mr. Formica

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

- General Assembly Season update
- Budget update
- Challenge coin from Cumberland Access Easement in Buchanan, VA

Chairman's Report: The Chair, thanked the public who attended and welcomed their remarks.

- Thanked Board Secretary, Frances Boswell for all her help and work to this Board.
- Mentioned bills that are in General Assembly that are on Hunting with Hounds and the agency
- Addressing the financial situation, DWR is a Wildlife environment that the public is enjoying, hats off to Director Ryan Brown and our Outreach and staff for making the effort to include the public in all our events.

Additional Business/Comments: The Chair asked if any additional business or comments.

Mr. Edmunds thanked Frances Boswell for all her work.

He spoke about the use of hound training collars, will help the problems with hound hunting on other people's property.

Concerned that DWR doesn't know how many hunters DWR has, and we are losing Federal money, ask the board members to contact their legislators to support the \$3.00 license for hunters who do not have to purchase a license now.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell