

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

March 15, 2023
10:00 am

Present: Mr. Leon Boyd, **Chair**, Mr. Jon Cooper, Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Absent:** Mr. Michael Formica, Mr. George Terwilliger arrived at 10:50 am, **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, Dr. Mamie Parker arrived at 12:30 pm; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Dr. Gray Anderson, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Tom Guess, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. George Braxton (virtual)

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

Approval of the January 18, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 18, 2023, Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023, committee meeting. Ms. Claiborne seconded the motion.

Ayes: Boyd, Cooper, and Claiborne

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

Hearing no Speakers for Public Comments – Non-Agenda, the Chair moved on with the meeting.

Migratory Bird Regulation Recommendations: The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for a presentation.

Dr. Costanzo gave a presentation on the Migratory Game Bird Regulation Recommendations.

After comments and questions, 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 Committee approve the preliminary 2023-2024 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff, for consideration by the full Board at the March 16, 2023, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper

Wildlife Regulation Proposals: The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for a presentation.

Mr. Godfrey presented the 2023-24 Wildlife Regulation Proposals and the Public Comments received.

Mr. Godfrey presented the Deer & Elk Regulations:

- Mr. Larry Readal spoke regarding the Deer and Bear Regulations (in person)
- Ms. Stefanie Taillon spoke regarding the Deer and Elk Regulations (in person)

The Chair called for a motion. Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendments to the deer and elk regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper
4VAC15-90-10, 4VAC15-90-80, 4VAC15-90-89, 4VAC15-90-90, 4VAC15-90-91, 4VAC15-90-530, 4VAC15-90-540.

Mr. Godfrey presented the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations:

- Mr. Larry Readal spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)
- Ms. Stefanie Taillon spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)
- Mr. Steve Nicely spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)
- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendments to the bear and wild turkey regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Claiborne. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper
4VAC15-50-10, 4VAC15-240-31, 4VAC15-240-32, 4VAC15-240-40, 4VAC15-240-51

Mr. Godfrey presented the General Regulations, Gray Fox in Virginia, Liberal Hunting and Trapping Seasons, and Furbearer & Small Game Regulations.

The Chair called for a motion. Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendments to the general regulations and the furbearer and small game regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper

4VAC15-20-66, 4VAC15-20-130, 4VAC15-40-195, 4VAC15-4-276, 4VAC15-40-285, 4VAC15-40-290 (NEW), 4VAC15-90-500, 4VAC15-90-510, 4VAC15-110-20, 4VAC15-110-25,(NEW) 4VAC15-110-35,(NEW), 4VAC15-110-80, 4VAC15-230-60

Mr. Godfrey presented the Waterfowl & Waterfowl Blinds regulations.

The Chair called for a motion. Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife and Bost Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendments to the waterfowl and waterfowl blind regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper
4VAC15-260-85 (New), 4VAC15-260-85 (New), 4VAC15-260-120

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

Boat Regulation Proposals: The Chair called on Mr. Tom Guess for Boat Regulation Proposals.

Mr. Guess presented the Boat Regulations Proposals.

After questions and comments, The Chair called for a motion, Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Boating staff recommendations be moved to the full board for their consideration. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper

4VAC15-390, Chapter 420, 4VAC15-390, 4VAC15-390-10, 4VAC15-390-11 through 70, 4VAC15-390, 4VAC15-390-80, 4VAC15-390-85 through 140, 4VAC15-390-150 and 160, Chapter 420 4VAC15-420-10 (proposed) Chapter 420-4VAC15-420-20 through 110, 4VAC15-420

The Chair thanked Mr. Guess for his presentation.

Front Royal Fish Hatchery – Reopening: The Chair called on Mr. Brendan Delbos for an update.

Mr. Delbos gave an update on the repairs and near future Reopening of the Front Royal Fish Hatchery.

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Advised about stocking concern on Clayton Lake and Smith Mountain Lake
- Stocking levels are appropriate for conditions, working with Outreach to share the message.

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

Wildlife Division Update:

Dr. Anderson reported:

- DWR migratory game bird staff have been capturing Atlantic Population Canada geese as a part of a cooperative migration chronology research project. 29 geese collared on the Ungava breeding grounds made the long trek to winter in Virginia and an additional 23 geese have been collared at other areas in Eastern Virginia. Elk Tagging – 1 row to date.
- Prescribed burn on Fairy Stone Farms WMA
 - To rehabilitate the older warm season grass stands, and to help control Autumn olive, Sericea Lespediza, and Ailanthus
- Prescribed burn on Highland WMA –
 - To help restore the rich native forbs found in the historical open grasslands of Highland County.
- Prescribed burn on Short Hills WMA in Region 4.
 - A NWTF Superfund grant to expand an existing wetland field containing a spring seep – an important water source for wildlife in the winter and important t amphibian habitat.
 - DWR biologists and land managers met at Flippo-Gentry WMA to discuss quail management plans. Staff evaluated a recent timer harvest and developed plans for future timber harvests on the WMA. Plans include making Flippo-Gentry a showcase WMA for quail management. Fire to release long leaf pine planting effort.

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

Boating Division Update: The Chair called on Mr. Tom Guess for an update.

Mr. Guess reported:

- Boating season has become a year around sport
- VA has 235,000 Boaters

- New Hire – Mr. Jim Patrillo as the Waterway Marker Manager
- Customer Service handles 400 phone calls a day

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

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

The Director reported:

- Thanked Staff for the work and preparation that goes into their presentation for the Regulations to be voted on.

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting and for the updates and presentations.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, he announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 24, 2023, and adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/