

Final Board Minutes

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

March 16, 2023

9:00 am

Present: Mr. G. K. Washington, **Chair,** Mr. Tom Sadler, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Tammy Jo Franklin, Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. Michael Formica (Virtual), Mr. Brian Vincent, Mr. George Terwilliger and Mr. Jon Cooper; **Absent:** Mr. John Daniel; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director's Working Group:** Dr. Gray Anderson,(virtual) Mr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Darin Moore, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Bob Smet, Mr. George Braxton (virtual), Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Tom Guess

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.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper to read the Mission Statement.

The Board Secretary had a Roll Call Vote for attendance: Present: Leon Boyd, Catherine Claiborne, G. K. Washington, Tom Sadler, Jon Cooper, George Terwilliger, Mamie Parker, Michael Formica (virtual), Tammy Franklin, Brian Vincent
Absent: John Daniel

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

The Director called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a recognition who introduced Ms. Jenny West, Director of the Wildlife Foundation as the recipient of the Robertson Award from the Wildlife Society.

Approval of the January 19, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the January 19, 2023, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sadler made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Dr. Parker. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Washington, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual), Claiborne, Cooper, Vincent

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: Hearing none, he continued on with the meeting.

Establishing the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to Facilitate Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunter and Private Landowner Stakeholders

The Chair called on Ms. Jenn Allen, Deputy Chief of the Wildlife Division who provided a report and update on the stakeholder committee being formed to discuss hound hunting and landowner conflicts.

- Mr. Matthew Gutmann spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Todd Grubbs spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Lonnie Peterson spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. John Morse spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. David May spoke regarding Hound Hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Hound Hunting (virtual)
- Ms. Nichole Small spoke regarding Hound Hunting (virtual)

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Allen for her presentation and the speakers who their time to come speak or to call in virtually.

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. Leon Boyd for a report of the March 15, 2023, Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting.

Mr. Boyd gave an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting on March 15, 2023.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Boyd for his update.

The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for his presentation on the Migratory Game Bird Regulations Recommendations.

Dr. Costanzo presented the Migratory Game Bird Regulations Recommendations.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board approve the 2023-2024 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff, to be advertised for public comments. It was second by Mr. Sadler. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual), Vincent

The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for an update on Wildlife Regulation Proposals.

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

Mr. Godfrey presented the Deer & Elk Regulations:

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources propose for public comments the amendments to the deer and elk regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The Board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper, Washington, Formica (virtual), Parker, Vincent, Franklin, Sadler, Terwilliger, 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. Greg Austin spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)
- Mr. Sean Clarkson spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)
- Mr. Jared Hubbard 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. Cody McCulloch spoke regarding the Deer Regulations

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources propose the amendments to the bear and wild turkey regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The Board secretary called the roll:

Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper, Washington, Formica(virtual), Parker, Vincent, Franklin, Sadler, Terwilliger

4VAC15-50-10, 4VAC15-240-31, 4VAC15-240-32, 4VAC15-240-40, 4VAC15-240-51

Mr. Godfrey presented the General Regulations, Furbearer Regulations, and Small Game Regulations Proposals.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources propose 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, Vincent, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica(virtual)

4VAC15-20-66, 4VAC15-20-130, 4VAC15-40-195, 4VAC15-40-276, 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.

- Mr. Cyrus Brame of the USFWS spoke regarding 4VAC15-260-86 (new)
- Ms. Amanda Daisy of the USFWS spoke regarding 4VAC15-260-86 (new)

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources propose the amendments to the waterfowl and waterfowl blind regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The Board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual) 4VAC15-260-85 (New), 4VAC15-260-86 (New), 4VAC15-260-120

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his presentations and the speakers for their comments.

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

Mr. Guess presented the Boat Regulations Proposals.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board approve the Boating Regulations that staff recommended to be released for public comment. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The board secretary called the roll:
Boyd, Claiborne, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual) 4VAC15-390, Chapter 420, 4VAC15-390-10, 4VAC15-390-11 through 70, VAC15-390-80, 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

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

The Chair called for a Close Session at 12:30 pm and called on Mr. Sadler to read the Close Session Motion. It was seconded by Ms. Claiborne.

The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica(virtual), Vincent, Parker

Closed Meeting Motion, March 16, 2023

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting:

First, 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 Sussex County.

And secondly, 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.

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 Director, 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.

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 1:45 pm.

The Chair called on Ms. Claiborne to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Sadler, Terwilliger, Vincent, Franklin, Parker

Certification of Closed Meeting

March 16, 2023

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 the roll. Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Sadler, Terwilliger, Vincent, Franklin, Parker

The Chair called on Mr. Boyd for a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase +1,915 acres in the County of Sussex, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Claiborne, Washington, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Franklin, Sadler, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica(virtual)

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Tom Sadler to give an update on the March 15, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler gave an update on the March 15, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Sadler for his update.

The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for a presentation of the APA-Audit Report

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

The Chair called on Mr. John Kirk for an update.

Mr. Kirk gave an update and information on Capital Programs and Boating Access.

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

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Vincent to give an update on the March 15, 2023, Committee meeting.

Mr. Vincent gave an update on the March 15, 2023, Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

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

The Chair thanked Mr. Vincent for his Committee update.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report: The Chair called on Dr. Mamie Parker for an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of the March 15, 2023, Committee meeting.

Dr. Parker gave an update of the EPO Committee meeting on March 15, 2023.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Parker for her report.

The Chair called on Mr. Tim Tassitano for a report.

Mr. Tassitano gave a report on 2023 Restore the Wild Art Contest.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Tassitano for his update on the Wild Art contest.

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

- Reported on the One-Shot Turkey Hunt
- Agriculture work with Mike Bednarski and Mamie Parker
- Law Enforcement Awards Event
- Appreciative for the CPO's attending the Law Committee meeting
- Board's goals for this agency and how far the department has come
- Restore the Wild
- Grant Program success
- North America Conference 3/20-3/24/23

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

Chair's Report: The Chair commented on his appreciation for this agency and all the work that is done and the preparation and how it is made to look so easy.

The Chair also appointed the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee - Mamie Parker, Brian Vincent, and Catherine Claiborne

The Chair announced the next Board meeting date as Thursday, May 25, 2023, and adjourned the meetings at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/