

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

May 18, 2022
10:00 am

Present: Mr. Leon Boyd chaired the meeting, Mr. John Daniel, Dr. Mamie Parker; **Absent:** Ms. Karen Terwilliger; **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Michael Formica; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; Mr. Gary Martel; **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.

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 March 23, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Daniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2022 committee meeting. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Boyd and Daniel

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

Ms. Nedelcovic spoke regarding Wildlife Killing contest

Mr. Eric Fagerholm spoke regarding Wildlife Killing contest

CWD Update and Proposed Regulations: The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for an Update.

Mr. Godfrey gave an update and Proposed Regulations on CWD.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Daniel made a motion, Mr. Chair; I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendments to the chronic wasting disease regulations for Disease Management Areas 2 and 3 as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Boyd and Daniel
Aquatic Wildlife Regulations Staff Proposals: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for a presentation.

Dr. Bednarski presented the Aquatic Wildlife Regulations Staff Proposals.

Dr. Mamie Parker arrived at 10:45 am.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Daniel made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources adoption of the staff's regulatory recommendations for a 45 day public comment period. . It was seconded by Dr. Parker. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Boyd, Parker, and Daniel

Boat Regulations Staff Proposals: The Chair called on Mr. Tom Guess for a presentation.

Mr. Tom Guess presented the Boat Regulations Staff Proposals.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Dr. Parker made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Boating and Permits staff recommendations be moved to the full board for their consideration. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Boyd, Parker, and Boyd

Vulnerability of the DWR's Coastal Assets to Sea Level Rise: The Chair called on Mr. Clay Ferguson for a presentation.

Mr. Ferguson presented the Vulnerability of the DWR's Coastal Assets to Sea Level Rise.

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

Mr. Michael Formica departed at 12:10 pm.

Wildlife Division Update:

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Turkey Harvest 19,700
- Hound Field Trial Update

- Dr. Megan has moved onto the Fish and Wildlife Service

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

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

Hatcheries reopen to the public on Friday May 27. A hatchery open house event is being considered for late summer/early fall.

With less than two weeks remaining in the Stocked Trout season, coldwater hatchery staff have stocked over 750 thousand fish to date totalling over 500k pounds. Stockings will continue at the three fee areas (Clinch Mtn., Crooked Creek and Douthat lake) providing anglers with a great opportunity to continue to fish for trout throughout the heat of the summer.

Warmwater hatchery staff have been busy collecting and spawning Walleye, Saugeye, and Striped Bass this spring. To date 1.5 million walleye were stocked into two dozen waters, and 100K Saugeye fingerlings were stocked into 6 waters.

Nearly 2500 Northern pike fingerlings were stocked into 5 waters thanks to a collaborative partnership with New Jersey Fish and Wildlife. Striped Bass will be harvested in the coming weeks before culture ponds are restocked with Crappie and Sunfish.

Over 10,000 catchable channel catfish will be stocked later this month as part of the Division's Urban Water stocking program. Ten waters throughout the Commonwealth will receive stockings.

1500 Triploid Grass Carp were recently stocked in 14 area waters in order to control overgrowth of submerged aquatic vegetation.

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

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

- May 21 – 27, 2022 is National Safe Boating Season
- Boating Division formed in 2021 – still hiring staff
- As of May 31, 2022 front desk is open 5 days a week

- From May 1 - May 12, 2022 Boat Section processed 44,000 transactions and answered 3,000 phone calls
- Operation Dry Week will be July 2-4, 2022

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

The Director reported:

- Annual Free Fishing Days are June 3-5, 2022
- Annual HRBT efforts are beginning
- RAWA

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting. The Chair thanked all the DWR staff that came out to South West VA and how much he enjoyed their visit.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, he announced that the next meeting will be August 17, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/