

## **AGENDA**

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

May 21, 2025  
2:00 pm

Committee Members: Mr. Michael Formica, Chair, Mr. George Terwilliger, and Mr. Jon Cooper  
DWR Staff Liaison: Colonel John Cobb

1. Call to Order and Welcome  
Mr. Formica
2. Approval of the March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Mr. Formica
3. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item  
Mr. Formica
4. New Wildlife Crime Watch Partnership  
Major Frank Spuchesi
5. Law Enforcement Chief Update  
Colonel John Cobb
6. Director's Report  
Mr. Ryan Brown
7. Chair's Report  
Mr. Formica

**Final Action**

8. Additional Business/Comments  
Mr. Formica

10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
Mr. Formica

11. Adjournment  
Mr. Formica

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

March 19, 2025  
2:00 pm

**Present:** Mr. Michael Formica, **Chair**, Mr. George Terwilliger, and Mr. Jon Cooper; **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Ms. Laura Walters, Dr. Mamie Parker; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Mike Bednarski, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Michael Lipford.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

**14<sup>th</sup> Basic Academy Recruit Introductions:** The Chair called on Captain Ivan Kopelove for a presentation.

Captain Ivan Kopelove gave an update on the new recruit class was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Law Enforcement Academy and the 1<sup>st</sup> class that included another agency, this year being Virginia Marine Resources. Captain Kopelove had each recruit come forward and give their name, location of where they will be stationed and where they were from originally.

The Committee Chair and members and Executive Director asked the recruits questions and thanked them for being a part of Department and for attending the Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the January 22, 2025 committee meeting. Mr. Formica second the motion. Ayes: Formica, Terwilliger, Cooper

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

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Safety and law enforcement concerns
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding issues this year
- Judge Charlton (virtual) Hound Hunting issues

The Chair thanked the speakers for their comments.

**DWR Communications Center Overview:** The Chair called on Communications Manager Nancy Morey for an Overview.

Communications Manager Nancy Morey gave a very informative overview of the DWR Communications Center and its operations and how it is manned on a 24 – 7 days a week.

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

Colonel Cobb reported:

- NAWLEA (North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation) has reached a significant milestone, going operational with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission completing their “Initial Assessment” and obtaining formal NAWLEA Accreditation their “Initial Assessment” and obtaining formal NAWLEA Accreditation during our Board Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- W3 (Woods \*Wildlife\*Water) Natural Resources Training Academy (Update)
  - Established Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives (Webpage)
  - Membership Program about to launch for individual donations
  - Preparing for corporate sponsors and partnership meetings
  - Planning to give a Progress Report to Law Committee later this year
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual VCP Awards Ceremony – recognizing 62 officers/staff after the Committee meetings
- Attended the 90<sup>th</sup> North American Conference in Louisville, KY

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.

The Director reported:

- Very proud and impressed with our Law Enforcement and how they have moved ahead, becoming accredited, taking radio calls for other agencies, working heavily with sister agencies.

**Chair’s Report:**

The Chair thanked Law Enforcement staff for their presentations and always is appreciative of hearing the great work from law staff and enjoyed meeting the recruit class today.

The Chair announced the next Law Enforcement committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025, and asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 2:50 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:** May 21, 2025  
**Subject:** LE Committee Report on Hound Hunting Related Data

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## Hunting Dog Data Summary – 01/05/2025 to 04/30/2025

**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.

- DWR collects activity and species data for this complaint type.

**HVDOGS Incident Code:** This call type will be utilized when there is a hunting related violation reported that involves a hunting dog. An example would be hunter retrieving his dog while carrying a firearm on prohibited property.

- DWR collects activity and species data for this complaint type.

### Complaint Data:

- DWR received a total of 1098 hunting related complaints from 01/05/2025 to 04/30/2025
  - HDOG Complaints: 120
    - Species reported being chased was deer: 46
    - Species reported being chased was bear: 1
    - Involved dogs running across property w/o permission: 102
  - HVDOG Complaints: 25
    - Species reported being chased was deer: 15
    - Species reported being chased was bear: 0
    - Involved dogs running across property w/o permission: 13

2024		2025	
Total Hunting CFS	982	Total Hunting CFS	1098
HDOGs	138	HDOGs	120
HVDOGs	39	HVDOGs	25

\*This table displays the YOY difference based on the same time period.





## January 5 – May 5, 2025 HDOGS & HVDOGS Call Counts

<b>County/City Name</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>
Amelia County	1
Appomattox County	1
Buckingham County	6
Caroline County	2
Charles City County	1
Charlotte County	5
Cumberland County	7
Dinwiddie County	6
Essex County	1
Fluvanna County	3
Gloucester County	1
Goochland County	4
Greensville County	3
Halifax County	28
Hanover County	8
Isle of Wight County	1
King and Queen County	3
King William County	3
Louisa County	9
Lunenburg County	1
Mathews County	13
Mecklenburg County	2
Montgomery County	1
Northampton County	1
Nottoway County	2
Orange County	1
Patrick County	1
Pittsylvania County	12
Prince Edward County	3
Richmond County	1
Rockbridge County	1
Southampton County	6
Spotsylvania County	2
Suffolk City	1
Westmoreland County	4