

FINAL Board Meeting Minutes

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

May 23, 2024  
9:00 am

**Present:** Mr. Tom Sadler, **Chair**, Mr. Jon Cooper, **Vice Chair**; **Board Members:** Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Michael Formica, and Mr. Brian Vincent; **Absent:** Dr. Mamie Parker; **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, Mr. Rob Lewis, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Ms. Rebecca Lane, Colonel John Cobb, and Shelby Crouch

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.

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

The Director called on Mr. Bob Smet for introduction of our new Public Information Officer, Ms. Shelby Crouch.

The Director called on Colonel John Cobb for introduction and recognition of Officer of the Year, Master Officer Jason Harris.

The Director called on Mr. Nelson Lafon for recognition of Ms. Katie Martin for receiving the Mosby Award.

Ms. Martin introduced and recognized staff from the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

The Director recognized Mr. Ed Clark of the Virginia Wildlife Center on his retirement and thanked him for his dedicated work and leadership to the Wildlife Center of Virginia and to DWR.

### **Approval of the March 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the March 21, 2024, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

Ayes: Mr. Woodall, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Vincent, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Sadler, Mr. Terwilliger, Mr. Formica.

### **Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:**

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

- Mr. Sean Clarkson spoke regarding mange in black bears (in person)
- Mr. Mike Leonard spoke regarding deer harvest goals (in person)
- Mr. R. Bishop spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Earl Porter spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Cameron Porter spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Ms. Ashley Phillips spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Macs Crittenden spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. John Morse spoke regarding DWR (in person)
- Mr. Michael Lindsey spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Steven Nicely spoke regarding mange in black bears (in person)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Johnny Glazebrook spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Dennis David spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. James Hudson spoke regarding regulations (virtual)

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their comments.

### **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 an update on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from May 22, 2024, and brought forth 3 Staff Recommendations for Board Action.

The First Staff Recommendation was for Regulatory Amendments for Aquatics –

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the Aquatics Regulations staff recommendation to be released for a 30-day public comment period. It was seconded by Mr. Leon Boyd. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Second Staff Recommendation was for Regulatory Amendments for Boating –

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the Boating Regulations staff recommendations to be released for a 30-day public comment period. It was seconded by Mr. Leon Boyd. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Third Staff Recommendations was for Regulatory Amendments for Non-Game –

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the Non-Game Regulations staff recommendations to be released for a 30-day public comment period. It was seconded by Mr. Leon Boyd. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for his Wildlife and Boat Committee report.

The Chair called for 10-minute break - 10:15 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at -10:25 am

**Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee:** The Chair called on Mr. George Terwilliger for a report.

Mr. Terwilliger gave a report of the Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee meeting. He explained and discussed the FY 25 Budget pros and cons.

He thanked Mr. Rob Lewis, Director of Planning and Finance for his work on his first Budget as Director of Planning and Finance Division.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Terwilliger made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of the Department of Wildlife Resources approve the FY 25 Operating and FY 25 Capital Budget as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Terwilliger and Mr. Lewis for their report.

**Law Enforcement Committee:** The Chair called on Mr. John Daniel to give an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Daniel gave an update on Law Enforcement:

- The 22 Recruits were introduced to the Committee
- Colonel Cobb gave an update on the Illegal Trade of Reptiles and Amphibians Resolution
- The Colonel reported that in the last quarter the CPO's worked 205 events, researching some public and private scholarships, documenting law's history, there are 2 new canines in the division.

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

**Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:** The Chair called on Mr. Formica for a report on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting.

Mr. Formica gave an update of the EPO Committee meeting.

Mr. Formica reported that the Education, Planning and Outreach Committee had reports from:

- Ms. Kelsey Steenburgh on the Virginia Wildlife Grant
- Mr. Steve Living on Restore the Wild Art Contest
- Mr. Tim Tassitano and Ms. Caitlyn Jabcobus on Explore the Wild App Launch
- Mr. George Braxton on DWR Inclusive Excellence Plan Report
- Mr. Bob Smet on his Outreach Division Update:
  - Thanks to Molly Kirk and staff for the presentation of the VA Wildlife
  - The several new You Tube commercials
  - Introduced new PIO - Ms. Shelby Crouch
  - Elk Hunt Lottery – May 30, 2024
  - AFWA – Project Wild Award recipient -Ms. Courtney Hallacher
  - Outdoor Events worked and will be worked - Black Bear Rtival, Free Fishing Days, Fly Fishing, to name a few

Mr. Formica thanked and congratulated all the staff of the Outreach Division for their exceptional talent and hard work for this agency.

**Election of 2024-2025 Chair and Vice Chair:** The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent for a report of the Nominations Committee.

Mr. Vincent reported that the Nomination Committee consisted of himself, Mr. Michael Formica and Mr. James Edmunds, the committee had met and made their selection.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Vincent made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I nominate Mr. Jon Cooper as Chairman and Mr. George Terwilliger as the Vice Chairman for 2024-2025. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Michael Formica. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

Mr. Cooper thanked the nominating committee and the Board saying it will be a privilege to serve this Board.

Mr. Terwilliger also thanked the nominating committee and the Board and said it will be an honor to serve.

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

Mr. Brown reported on:

- Mr. Brown commented he will be looking forward to work with Mr. Cooper and Mr. Terwilliger as Chair and Vice Chair for the coming year as Chair and Vice Chair.
- Mr. Sadler has been a tremendous help this past year and he appreciated all his help.
- Mr. Brown gave accolades to Mr. Boyd who has served on this board for 11 years and thanked him for everything he has done for this board and how much he appreciated Mr. Boyd's friendship.

Mr. Boyd commented that he has learned to love this agency and is so thankful for the time he has been on the board and all the people and things he had learned about DWR. He will enjoy coming back to visit.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chair thanked Mr. Boyd for his service on this board and for the friendship. The Chair also thanked the Board for their support and help during this past year while he was serving as Chairman... He thanked the public for their input into this board and working together.

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

**Next Meeting Date:** The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, August 22, 2024.

**Closed Session:** The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 12:00 pm.

Mr. Edmunds read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

**Closed Meeting Motion, May 23, 2024**

**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 Accomack and Scott Counties.**

**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 Section 2.2-3712 (F), the Board requests counsel, the Department Director, the Department 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 12:41 pm

The Chair called on Mr. Formica to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

Ms. Becky Gwynn took a Roll call vote: Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Coopers, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler Terwilliger, Formica

Mr. Daniel left after Closed Session.

### ***Certification of Closed Meeting***

***May 23, 2024***

***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 Chair called on Mr. Cooper for a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase +-621 acres in the County of Accomack, VA, including the procurement of certain due diligence items.

It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger. Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Chair called on Mr. Cooper for a motion. Mr. Chair, I mover that the Board of Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase +-1.0 acres in Scott County, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger. Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Wampler, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

There being no other business,  
The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 12:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Frances Boswell