

Final Board Minutes

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

May 25, 2023  
9:00 am

**Present:** Mr. G. K. Washington, **Chair,** Mr. Tom Sadler, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. John Daniel, Ms. Tammy Jo Franklin (virtual), Dr. Mamie Parker (virtual), Mr. George Terwilliger and Mr. Jon Cooper; Ms. Catherine Claiborne (virtual); **Absent:** Mr. Michael Formica, Mr. Brian Vincent; **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 (virtual), Mr. Tom Guess, Colonel John Cobb, Mr. Stock Watson.

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.

Mr. Ross Phillips, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. George Terwilliger to read the Mission Statement.

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

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

The Director called on Mr. Darin Moore who introduced Ms. Karen Fleri for a recognition of her retirement after 30 years. Mr. Moore presented Karen with a 30 Year Retirement plaque. Mr. Moore also called to the podium Ms. Shelley Dibona and others from the Hadley WSFR office in Hadley, MA who came to show appreciation to Karen and presented her with a framed picture.

The Director called on Mr. Brian Moyer to introduce and recognize the Restore the Wild Contest Winner, Ms. Virginia Greene.

The Director called on Ms. Jaime Sajecki who introduced Ms. Carrier Pomfrey of USDA, Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conflict Help line for a recognition.

The Director called on Mr. Cale Godfrey who introduced Ms. Lisa Sztukowski as the New Wildlife Regional Manager for Region 3.

The Director called on Colonel John Cobb to introduce Officer First Class Amanda Nevel as the Law Enforcement Officer of the year for 2022.

**Approval of the March 16, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the March 16, 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. Boyd made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr.

Terwilliger.

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

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

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

- Mr. Eric Fagerholm spoke regarding lead in fishing tackle and hunting ammo

**Establishing the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to Facilitate Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters 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 Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters and Private Landowners.

Speakers:

- Mr. Michael Lindsey spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding Private Landowner Stakeholders (person)
- Mr. Jim Medeiros spoke regarding Private Landowner Stakeholders (person)
- Ms. Kathleen Gutmann spoke regarding Landowner rights (person)
- Mr. Todd Grubbs spoke regarding Deer/Foxhound trespass (person)
- Ms. Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding Deer/Foxhound trespass (person)
- Mr. Sean Clarkson spoke regarding ad hoc committee (person)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding Hound Hunting (person)
- Mr. John Morse spoke regarding Hound Hunting (in person)
- Mr. William Easter spoke regarding Hound Hunting (in person)
- Mr. John Payne spoke regarding Hound Hunting (in person)
- Ms. Nichole Small spoke regarding Hound Hunting (virtual)
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Hound training hours (virtual)
- Mr. Lonnie Peterson spoke regarding Ad Hoc Committee (virtual)

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Wildlife and Boat Committee:**

The Chair called on Mr. Leon Boyd for a report of the May 24, 2023, Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting.

Mr. Boyd gave an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting on May 24, 2023.

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

The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey to present the Wildlife Regulation Proposals.

Mr. Godfrey recognized and thanked all the staff that worked on the Staff Proposals.

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

Mr. Godfrey presented the Block Format Regulations:

After comments and questions, the Chair called for a motion. Mr. Daniel made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the regulation amendments for elk, general regulations, harvest reporting, gray fox, fox, squirrel, and the special sea duck area contained within the block format as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler. The Board Secretary called the roll: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Boyd, Claiborne(virtual), Cooper, Franklin(virtual), Sadler, Parker(virtual), Terwilliger

**Elk Regulations:**

- 4VAC15-90-530 (elk hunt lottery)
- 4VAC15-90-540 (landowner program)

**General Regulations:**

- 4VAC15-20-66 (Access permit)
- 4VAC15-20-130 (T&E species list)
- 4VAC15-40-195 (remote trap check)
- 4VAC15-40-276 (sale of parts)

**Harvest Reporting:**

- 4VAC15-40-290 (New, combined species)
- 4VAC15-90-500 (elk outside EMZ)
- 4VAC15-90-510 (elk inside EMZ)

Fox Regulations:

4VAC15-110-20 (red fox season)  
4VAC15-110-25 (New, gray fox season)  
4VAC15-110-35 (New, gray fox bag limit)  
4VAC15-110-80 (taking by landowner)

Fox Squirrel Regulation:

4VAC15-230-60 (open season)

Sea Duck Zone Regulation:

4VAC15-260-120 (redelineate zone)

Mr. Godfrey presented the Deer Regulations:

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed deer regulation amendments as presented by staff with the shortened late antlerless only firearms deer season as adjusted by the Wildlife & Boat Committee. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

The Board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Daniel, Claiborne(virtual), Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin(virtual) Sadler, Parker(virtual), Terwilliger, 4VAC15-90-10, 4VAC15-90-80, 4VAC15-90-89, 4VAC15-90-90, 4VAC15-90-91, 4VAC15-40-285.

Mr. Godfrey presented the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations:

- Ms. Stefanie Taillon spoke regarding the Bear & Wild Turkey Regulations (in person)

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

The Board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Daniel, Claiborne(virtual), Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker(virtual), Terwilliger, 4VAC15-50-10, 4VAC15-5-10, 4VAC15-240-31, 4VAC15-240-32

4VAC15-240-40, 4VAC15-240-51 – Staff does not recommend adoption at this time.

After final comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey and staff for all of the presentations and the speakers for their comments.

Following Mr. Godfrey's presentations, Director Brown noted that some individuals signed up to speak about the Board's waterfowl blind regulation proposals for which no action was required or taken by the Board as no motion to advance the waterfowl blind regulation proposals for further consideration was offered during the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting. Director Brown, noting that the waterfowl blind regulation proposals were no longer being considered offered the individuals who signed up to speak to the waterfowl blind regulation proposals the opportunity to address the Board if they so desired.

- Mr. James Miller spoke regarding Waterfowl
- Mr. Fred Getty spoke regarding Waterfowl
- Mr. Teddy Carr spoke regarding Waterfowl

**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 adopt the Boating Regulations amendments as reported by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. The board secretary called the roll: Daniel, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin(virtual), Sadler, Parker(virtual) Terwilliger, 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.

**Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:**

The Chair called on Mr. Tom Sadler to give an update on the May 24, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler gave an update on the May 24, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

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

- Mr. Steve Nicely spoke regarding Bear Mange, asking for money to be put in the budget to help with this problem.

The Chair thanked Mr. Nicely for his remarks.

The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for a presentation of the FY-24 Operating Budget Proposal.

Mr. Moore presented the FY-24 Operating Budget Proposal.

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

The Chair called on Mr. John Kirk to present the FY-24 Capital Budget Proposal.

Mr. Kirk presented the FY-24 Capital Budget Proposal.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Kirk for his Capital Budget Proposal.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Sadler made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move to approve the FY24 Operating Budget and Capital Budget proposals, as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

The Board Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker(virtual), Terwilliger

**Law Enforcement Committee:** The Chair called on Mr. Sadler to give an update on the May 24, 2023 Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler (for Mr. Vincent) gave an update on the May 24, 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. Sadler for the Law Committee update.

The Chair called for a 10 minute break at 12:15 pm

The Chair resumed the meeting at 12:25 pm

**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 May 24, 2023 EPO Committee meeting.

Dr. Parker gave an update of the Education, Planning & Outreach Committee meeting on May 24, 2023.

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

The Chair called on Ms. Jessica Ruthenberg for a report.

The Chair thanked Ms. Ruthenberg for her report.

The Chair called on Dr. Mamie Parker for a Nomination's Committee Report.

Dr. Parker thanked Mr. Washington and Mr. Sadler for their good work as Chair and Vice Chair for the past year on the Board.

Dr. Parker reported that the Nominations committee had met on May 25, 2023 at 8:30 am and the Slate recommended was Mr. Tom Sadler for Chair, and Mr. Jon Cooper for Vice Chair for the 2023-2024 board year. Dr. Parker moved to accept the slate of officers for 2023-2024. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger. The Board Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Cooper, Vincent, Boyd, Franklin (virtual), Sadler, Parker(virtual)

Mr. Washington commented his appreciation for this agency and how much he had enjoyed serving as Chair this past year.

Mr. Sadler commented how much he had enjoyed his tenure as Vice Chair and was looking forward to being Chair beginning July 2023 and thanked everyone for their dedication and work and support.

Mr. Jon Cooper commented how honored and humbled he was and looking forward to becoming the Vice Chair and appreciates staff dedication and work everyone does.

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

- Thanked G. K. Washington for a good job during his tenure as Chair and Mr. Sadler as being the Vice Chair during the past year.
- Welcomed Darin Moore as the New Deputy Director
- Recognized Becky Gwynn as the recipient of the VCU Unsung Hero Award
- Appreciates the Wildlife Staff for all the work that goes into the preparation of the Regulations
- Appreciates the Budget Team for all the work that goes into the preparation for the budget

**Chair's Report:** The Chair remarked on the recent Board Retreat on April 20 & 21, 2023 at Breaks Interstate Park and thanked Mr. Boyd and staff for their part in organizing it. He appreciated the commitment of almost all of Board members who could attend. In our meetings, we developed a Roadmap to move forward as a agency and he thanked our facilitators for helping with this. The Chair congratulated Mr. Darin Moore as the new Deputy Director.

The Chair called for a Close Session at 1:00 pm and called on Mr. Daniel to read the Close Session Motion. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

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

**Closed Meeting Motion, May 25, 2023**

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting:

*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 to also attend this meeting, as it believes his 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 2:25 pm.

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

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Franklin(virtual), Sadler, Parker (virtual) Terwilliger



## **Certification of Closed Meeting**

May 25, 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: Daniel, Washington, Cooper, Boyd, Sadler, Terwilliger, Parker(virtual), Franklin(virtual)

**Chair's Report:** The Chair expressed his appreciation for this agency and how much he had enjoyed serving as Chair this past year. He thanked staff for all the Regulation and Budget work that has been done.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions or comments and announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, August 17, 2023. He adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell  
/s/