

FINAL Board Meeting Minutes

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

August 22, 2024
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Jon Cooper, **Chair,** Mr. George Terwilliger, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Michael Formica, Mr. Brian Vincent, and Dr. Mamie Parker; **Absent:** Mr. John Daniel; **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, Ms. Rebecca Lane, Colonel John Cobb.

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.

The Chair recognized and introduced our 2 new Board Members to their first meeting, Ms. Laura W. Walters and Mr. Lynwood D. Broaddus.

Ms. Laura Walters read the Mission Statement.

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

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 Colonel John Cobb for introduction and recognition of Boating Officer of the Year, Officer First Class Adam Roberts.

The Director called on Colonel Cobb who recognized Mr. Doug Goodman, former Police Chief for Town of Ashland who has worked with DWR for the past 2 years and Law Enforcement is thanking him for his service the last 2 years.

The Director called on Mr. Bob Smet to recognize staff who received awards from the ACI Conference, Ms. Molly Kirk, Mr. Will Arnold, Mr. Ron Messina.

The Director called on Dr. Gray Anderson for introduction and recognition of a Lifesaving Award to Mr. Danny Harrington.

The Director recognized Mr. Jon Joyner, Mr. Billy Hall, and Mr. Cully McCurdy from the National Wild Turkey Federation, VA State Chapter to thank them for all they do for DWR, partnerships, fundraising, help with DWR projects every year.

Approval of the May 23, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the May 23, 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. Edmunds made a motion to approve the May 23, 2024, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica.

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

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

- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Jim Medeiros spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Raymond Carter spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Michael Lindsey spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Ms. Debra Watkins spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Nelson Gentry spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Bill Youmans spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Todd Grubbs spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Ms. Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. Taylor Britt spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Ms. Peggy Barton spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)
- Mr. James Hudson spoke regarding hound hunting (in person)

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their comments and time commitment to our meeting.

The Chair called for a 10-minute break at 10:30 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at 10:40 am

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. James Edmunds for an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Mr. Edmunds gave an update on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from August 21, 2024.

- Naming of a New Wildlife Management Area
- Biennial Wildlife Regulation Schedule
- Bear Mange Update
- Boating Division Stakeholder Engagement
- Division updates

Mr. Edmunds brought forth 2 Staff Recommendations for Board Action.

The First Staff Recommendation was for Biennial Wildlife Regulation Schedule –

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Edmunds made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the regulation review and amendment process and the recommended Board meeting date as it was presented by staff. It was seconded by Dr. Parker. Ayes: Woodall, Walters, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica

The Second Staff Recommendation was for Naming of a New Wildlife Management Area –

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Edmunds made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board endorse the proposed property names and designations as approved by the Wildlife and Boat Committee. It was seconded by Dr. Mamie Parker. Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica

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

Public Comment:

Mr. Greg Austin spoke regarding Bear Mange
Mr. Eric Lehmann spoke regarding Bear Mange

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, which included:

- DWR FY 24 Budget to Actual Review
- New Grant Awards for FY 24 and FY 25
- FY 24 Customer Analysis
- Introduction of new Deputy Director Marika Monroe

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

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Michael Formica to give an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Formica gave an update on Law Enforcement:

- Update on Law Enforcement Training for Hound Hunting
- Hollywood Buck Presentation Case

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

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

Mr. Wampler gave an update of the EPO Committee meeting:

- Mr. Bob Smet on Hound Outreach Deliverables
- Ms. Kelsey Steenburgh on Corporate Engagement Strategy
- Mr. Jimmy Mootz and Mr. David Hennaman on Hunting Outreach Programming
- Mr. Max Goldman on Virginia Birding Classic
- Mr. Bob Smet on his Outreach Division Update:

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

Dr. Mamie Parker acknowledged staff and Director Brown for all their efforts on the Grant money they all worked so hard on to receive, and awards receive at the ACI conference.

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

Mr. Brown reported on:

- ACI Conference and what an awesome job Outreach Division did putting it together
- Thankful to the Board for all their support

- Thanked the Public for their time and energy coming to the meetings to discuss what is important to them
- Thanked staff for all of their work

Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked staff for all the hard work that goes into these meetings and all day-to-day work that everyone is involved in to make DWR a better place.

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

Mr. Wampler invited anyone who has not been to Southwest VA to see the Elk and hear an Elk Bugle call, that a trip would be well worth your time. Director Brown talked about the \$2.75 million dollars DWR just received for a Recreational Access Easement in Southwest VA, near the Cumberland Forest along with the Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This 44,000 acres is the largest Easement received by anyone with direct access to Wildlife in VA. The Department is very excited and fortunate to have received this Easement.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, October 24, 2024

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 11:30 am. Mr. Wampler read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.
Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Parker, Wampler, Broaddus, Terwilliger, Formica

Closed Meeting Motion, August 22, 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 Roanoke and Montgomery Counties.

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 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 1:00 pm

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

Certification of Closed Meeting

August 22, 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 Board Secretary took a Roll call vote: Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Coopers, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Parker, Terwilliger, Formica

Acquire property in Roanoke and Montgomery Counties for the expansion of Havens WMA

Ms. Walters made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to acquire +1,800 acres in the Counties of Roanoke, VA and Montgomery, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items.

It was seconded by Mr. Woodall.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell