

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

October 7, 2020  
10:00 am

**Present:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne, **Chair**; Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Frank Adams, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Alternate, Mr. Tom Sadler, Alternate. **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. Brian Vincent, Mr. G. W. Washington; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Tom Guess, Ms. Paige Pearson, Major Scott Naff.

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.

The Chair read the meeting procedure, This meeting is proceeding under Item 4-0.01, subsection G of the Appropriation Act and section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. It is being held by electronic communication, as the COVID-19 virus has made a physical meeting of the Committee impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Committee's actions today shall be solely limited to those matters included on the agenda; there is no public comment on non-agenda items. All of these proposed actions are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and discharge lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities of the Board.

The Chair called on the Board secretary for a Roll Call vote of Board members present: Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Frank Adams, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. Tom Sadler, Mr. Brian Vincent, and Mr. G. K. Washington.

**Approval of the January 22, 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes:**

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 22, 2020 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Committee meeting. Mr. Adams seconded the motion.

The Board secretary called a Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Claiborne, Adams, Boyd

The Chair called on Mr. Gray Anderson for an Update.

Dr. Anderson presented the 2021-22 Wildlife Regulations Suggested Schedule

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

**Boat Ramp Fee Update:** The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an Update

Dr. Anderson gave an update on the Boat Ramp Fee.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Ms. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources approve for advertisement to the public the amendments to 4VAC15-20-66 regarding the expansion of facilities types where the department may charge a fee as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Adams.

The Board secretary called a roll call vote. Ayes: Claiborne, Boyd, Adams

**Camping on WMA Regulation Update:** The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an Update.

Dr. Anderson gave an update on Camping on the Departments WMA's.

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

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Ms. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources approve for advertisement to the public the new regulation proposed as 4VAC15-20-155 Camping on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) and other DWR-owned or managed lands as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Adams.

The Board secretary called a roll call vote. Ayes: Claiborne, Adams, Boyd

**Alabama Bass:** The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for a presentation.

Dr. Bednarski gave a presentation on Virginia's Alabama Bass Strategy.

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

**Wildlife Division Update:** The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an update.

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Becky Gwynn gave an update on Wildlife's Role in "Restore the Wild"
- Cale Godfrey reported on Wildlife's Role on the Elk Program

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Comment period due to close in time for the 10/22/20 board meeting on Wildlife Aquatics
- Trout stocking began on 10/1/20 and Urban Trout Stocking will begin in November
- Excellent participation in the Governor Fishing Challenge that included 300 participants
- AWCC Update on the Monkey Face Mussel

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

- HRBT Project Planning for the next Nesting season
- Migratory Bird Regulation Stakeholder process
- Reported the Successful Opening Seasons Numbers:

**Youth/Apprentice Deer Hunter Weekend (September 26-27, 2020)**

Weather was favorable

In the past, favorable weather resulted in a harvest of 2,300-2,400 deer

Electronic harvest this year was 2,733 (Saturday -1,739; Sunday – 994)

**Early 3-Day Bear Firearms Season (September 28-30, 2020)**

Weather was a touch warm and humid, but favorable for hunting

Electronic harvest was 293 bears (146 males, 147 females)

Last year, electronic harvest was 218 bears, which represented 51% of the harvest over these 3 days

We anticipate the % of bears checked in over the electronic systems increased from last year, but we can't provide an estimate of that increase until final harvest figures have been tabulated at the end of the hunting seasons.

**Opening Weekend Statewide Archery Season (October 3-4, 2020)**

Electronic Deer Harvest – 4,142 deer

Electronic Bear Harvest – 145

**Chair's Report:** The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting and thanked staff for their presentations. The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, she announced that next meeting will be determined and adjourned the meeting at 11:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Frances Boswell  
Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell  
/s/