

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

October 18, 2022
10:00 am

Present: Mr. Leon Boyd, **Chair**, Mr. Jon Cooper, Mr. Michael Formica and Mr. George Terwilliger; **Absent:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne, **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, and Dr. Mamie Parker; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director’s Working Group:** Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Dr. Gray Anderson, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Tom Guess, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. George Braxton

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.

Approval of the August 17, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 committee meeting. Mr. Terwilliger seconded the motion.

Ayes: Boyd, Cooper, Formica, and Terwilliger

Public Comment - Non Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items, hearing none the Chair continued with the Agenda.

Proposed Property naming: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for presentation.

Dr. Anderson gave a presentation on the Proposed Property naming.

The Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Terwilliger made a motion, Mr. Chair; I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources the proposed property name and designation as present by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper. Ayes: Boyd, Cooper, Formica and Terwilliger.

Elk Hunt Report: The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for a Report and Update.

Mr. Godfrey presented the Elk Hunt Report and Update.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Godfrey for his Report.

Wildlife Regulation Cycle Schedule & Public Scoping: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an update.

Dr. Anderson gave an update of the Wildlife Regulation Cycle schedule and public scoping.

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

WMA and Boating Access sites Allowable Activities: The Chair called on Dr. Gary Anderson for an update.

Dr. Anderson gave an update on the WMA's and Boating Access sites Allowable Activities.

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

Nature-based solutions: low cost, high yield approaches to abating the hazards of climate change: The Chair called on Mr. Clay Ferguson, Virginia Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow

Mr. Clay Ferguson gave a presentation on low cost, high yield approaches to abating the hazards of climate change.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Ferguson for his informative presentation.

Wildlife Division Update:

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Early Harvest Report on Deer – up 8% and Antlerless up 3%
- Hemorrhagic update – reported in 59 counties

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

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

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Trout stocking is underway across the state with million fish and 85,000 catfish

Jeff Trollinger reported on Non-Game & Endangered Species –

- Set up a turtle quarantine facility at the K&Q Hatchery to hold confiscated turtle until cases can be adjudicated
- AWCC and VFAWC have propagated over 900,000 mussel and released over 33 species back into the wild which included 1300 James Spiny mussels reintroduced into the mainstream of the James River at Scottsville for the first time since the 1960's and 75 Appalachian Monkeyface mussels released into the Clinch River in Russell County
- We confirmed Golden-winged Warblers breeding at Highland WMA after years of doing habitat work there to promote habitat for this species
- Our bats monitoring efforts are cranking up again after Covid where we couldn't go into caves. Several species of bats that have experienced significant declines have leveled off recently. There is hope White-nosed Syndrome will be passing on, but we'll continue to monitor.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Bednarski and Mr. Trollinger for their updates.

Boating Division Update: The Chair called on Mr. Tom Guess for an update.

- Official Boating Season ends with Labor Day but some boating continues all year long
- Reminding Waterfowl and Anglers to be mindful they are on the water
- Boating accidents – 91; Injuries 40; Fatalities – 17 -the rest in property damage
- Boating Survey has been sent out to 235,000 boaters and being returned
- 22,723 boaters have taken the boating course on line and in person
- Coming on board soon will be a Waterways manager
- Met with County Administrator at Smith Mountain Lake

- Attended a boating conference in New Hampshire – received informative information
- Group met at DWR to discuss paddle boats
- Will be working on Boating Safety Management Plan
- Customer Service handles 400 phone calls a day

Director’s Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his report.

The Director reported:

- There will be an Orientation session for the 3 new board members during the lunch break.

Chair’s Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, he announced that the next meeting will be January 18, 2023 and adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

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