

Teleconference/Video Board Meeting

Final Board Minutes

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

October 22, 2020
9:00 am

Present: Mr. John Daniel, II, **Chair,** Mr. Brian Vincent, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. Tom Sadler, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. Frank Adams, Mr. Douglas Dear, Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Tom Guess, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Darin Moore, Mr. Lee Walker, Major Scott Naff, Ms. Paige Pearson, Major Bryan Young, Ms. Rebecca Lane.

Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting by Teleconference.

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the virtual meeting and thanked everyone for being able to attend by teleconference; the Chair thanked the Director and staff for making this virtual meeting possible, the Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The Chair called on the Board Secretary for a roll call vote.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote for Attendance: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Sadler, Claiborne, and Dear.

The Chair, Mr. John Daniel announced that 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 Board impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Board's actions today shall be solely limited to those matters included on the agenda. All of these proposed actions are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and discharge lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities of the Board.

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

The Director called on Dr. Mike Bednarski who recognized Ms. Louise Finger as the 2020 Fish Biologist of the Year.

The Director called on Dr. Gray Anderson who recognized Mr. Jeff Cooper as the 2020 Wildlife Biologist of the Year.

The Director called on Mr. Darin Moore who recognized staff from the IT Telecom group for all of their exemplary work and efforts during COVID-19 who set up staff that were teleworking and staff at the office and to have everything they need in working order. In addition to the COVID-19 situation, the IT Telecom group handled the Department name change that was effective on July 1, 2020 and should be commended for these efforts.

The Chair thanked the presenters and congratulated the recipients for their recognitions and outstanding work performance.

Approval of the August 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 20, 2020 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 August 20, 2020 Board minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, and Sadler

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non Agenda Items, hearing none, he continued on with the Agenda.

Committee Meetings:

Law Enforcement Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. G. K. Washington for an update on the September 22, 2020 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Washington gave an update on the September 22, 2020 Virtual Law Enforcement Committee meeting that was held in Oakwood, VA. Board Member Leon Boyd hosted the Committee meeting..

Mr. Washington called on Lt. Rob Ham for an update on the Accreditation Plan.

Lt. Ham gave an update on the Law Enforcement Accreditation Plan.

Mr. Washington called on Major Bryan Young to speak about a new program.

Major Bryan Young spoke about a program called “tip411”. It is a way for individuals to provide crime line related tips for violations by text message to our communications center.

Individuals text DWRTIP to 847411 with their crime line related information.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Washington and Lt. Ham and Major Young for their updates.

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Ms. Catherine Claiborne for an update on the October 7, 2020 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

Ms. Claiborne gave an update of the October 7, 2020 Virtual Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Claiborne for her update.

Aquatic Regulations:

The Board Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski to present the Final Aquatic Wildlife Regulations.

The Board Chair thanked Dr. Bednarski for his presentation.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

After questions and comments, the Board Chair called for a motion.

Ms. Claiborne made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the Final Recommendations for Aquatics Regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Adams.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Dear, and Sadler

Wildlife Regulations public scoping schedule:

The Board Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson to present the Wildlife Regulations public scoping Schedule.

The Board Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

After questions and comments, the Board Chair moved on to the next Agenda item.

Regulation proposal for Facility Use Fee on boat ramps:

The Board Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson to present the Regulation proposal for Facility Use Fee on boat ramps.

The Board Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

After questions and comments, the Board Chair called for a motion.

Ms. Claiborne made a motion, Mr. Chair; I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the proposed amendments to 4VAC15-20-66 regarding the expansion of facilities types where the department may charge a fee as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Washington.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Parker, Dear, and Sadler.

Regulation proposal for camping on Department Lands:

The Board Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson to present the Regulation proposal for camping on Department Lands.

The Board Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

After questions and comments, the Board Chair called for a motion.

Ms. Claiborne made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the new regulation proposed as 4VAC15-20-155 Camping on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other DWR-owned or managed lands as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, and Sadler

The Chair called for a 10 minute break at 10:30 am
The Chair resumed the meeting at 10:40 am

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent to give an update on the October 8, 2020 Finance, Audit, and Compliance committee meeting.

Mr. Vincent gave an update on the October 8, 2020 Virtual Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

The Board Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore to present the Finance Report.

Mr. Darin Moore presented the FY 21 First Quarter Finance Report.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Vincent and Mr. Moore for their presentations.

After questions and comments, the Chair moved on to the next agenda item.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Ms. Karen Terwilliger to give an update on the October 1, 2020 Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report.

Ms. Terwilliger gave an update on the October 1, 2020 Virtual Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report.

Ms. Terwilliger then called on Ms. Suzie Gilley to give a presentation on Project WILD Goes Virtual.

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Terwilliger and Ms. Gilley for their presentations thanked Ms. Gilley for her years of service to the Department.

Regulation proposal for changing DGIF to DWR:

The Board Chair called on Mr. Aaron Proctor to present the Regulation proposal for changing DGIF to DWR.

The Board Chair thanked Mr. Proctor for his presentation.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or the Board.

After questions and comments, the Chair called for a motion on the Proposal.

Mr. Dear made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the recommendation by staff to amend language throughout the Department's regulations referencing the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to the Department of Wildlife Resources. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, and Sadler

Director's Report:

The Board Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his report:

- The Director called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel update
- The Director called on Ms. Kelci Block from the Attorney General's office to report on the Federal Court case involving migratory birds
- The Director reminded all hunters of the upcoming fall hunting season and for everyone to enjoy their hunt but be safe while hunting

Chair's Comments:

The Board Chair thanked Board members for attending and thanked staff for making it possible through Teleconference and Virtual means.

The Next Meeting Date:

The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Closed Session:

The Chair announced there would be a Closed Session. The Chair read the Closed Session Motion.

Closed Session Motion

October 22, 2020

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting 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 negotiation strategy of the Board with respect to:

- (i) Real property located in: Franklin County*

And Finally, 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;

- (i) 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 Department's Executive Director, as it believes his presence will reasonable aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, and Sadler

The Board went into Closed Session at: 11:45 am

The Board reconvened from the Closed Session at 1:10 pm.

The Chairman read the Certification of Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting
October 22, 2020*

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.

It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger.

The Chair called for a roll call vote.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Claiborne, Vincent, Terwilliger, Boyd, Dear, and Sadler

The Chair thanked the Executive Director and staff for making today's meeting possible and thanked Board members for their attendance and the work they continue to do for DWR during these times and asked if anyone had any further comments for today's meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Boswell
/s/