

Draft Board Meeting Minutes

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

October 23, 2025
9:00 am

Present: Mr. George Terwilliger, **Chair**; Mr. Michael Formica, **Vice Chair** (Virtual); **Board Members:** Mr. Lynwood Broadus, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. Jon Cooper, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Parker Slaybaugh, Ms. Marlee Dance, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. James Maclin; **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, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman

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 called on Ms. Walters to read the Mission Statement.

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

Ms. Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting.

Recognition of Employees and Others: The Chair called on Mr. Ryan Brown for recognitions.

Director Brown called on Dr. Michael Bednarski to present the Biologist of the Year award to Mr. Jason Hallacher.

Director Brown called on Mr. Michael Lipford to present the Biologist of the Year award to Mr. Jordan Green.

Director Brown recognized past Board Member Mr. Brian Vincent and presented him with his Board Service award.

Approval of the August 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 21, 2025, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Edmunds made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, (virtual) Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

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

- Mr. James Medeiros spoke regarding the hound hunting
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding hound hunting
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Greg Austin spoke regarding hound hunting
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding hound hunting (v)

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

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

Mr. Cooper gave a report on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from October 22, 2025.

- Turkey Regulation Proposal – Mr. Cooper gave the Turkey Regulation Proposal.

Mr. Cooper made a motion; I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendment to the wild turkey bag limit regulation as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

- Blue Catfish Regulation Proposal - Mr. Cooper gave the Blue Catfish Regulation Proposal

Speakers:

Mr. Brent Hunsinger spoke regarding Blue Catfish Regulation
Mr. Tom Dunlap spoke regarding Blue Catfish Regulation (v)

Mr. Cooper made a motion, I move that the Board of Department of Wildlife Resources adopt staff's regulatory recommendations on Blue Catfish. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

- Regulatory Reform Proposals - Mr. Cooper gave the Regulatory Reform Proposals.

Mr. Cooper made a motion. I move that the Board of Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the staff recommendations to meet the Agency's goal of 25% regulatory reduction per Executive Order 19, It was seconded by Mr. Broaddus and Mr. Woodall.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Mr. Cooper presented the Black Bear Mange Management Plan and Response Protocol.

- Mr. Taylor Cuevas spoke regarding bears

Mr. Cooper made a motion. I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources Adopt the 2025-2029 Black Bear Mange Management Plan as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Mr. Cooper reported Ms. Amy Martin reported on Virginia Sea Turtle & Marine Mammal Conservation Plan, and Mr. Cale Godfrey reported on VPA-HIP Program Accomplishments. Division reports from Dr. Mike Bednarski, Fish Division, Mr. Michael Lipford, Wildlife Division, Ms. Stacey Brown, Boating Division, Ms. Amy Martin, Non-Game Program Update.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for his report of the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for an update on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting from October 22, 2025.

Mr. Woodall gave an update on the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of October 22, 2025, that covered the 1st Quarter FY26 Financial Report. Mr. Tim Springer, the new Budget Manager was introduced who spoke on the Federal Government shutdown and how it is affecting our agency at this time. The Chair thanked Mr. Woodall for his report of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Law Enforcement Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler for an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Mr. Wampler gave an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Mr. Wampler reported on:

- VLEPSC First Re-Accreditation
- Operation Midnight Express (OME) Summary
- Recruitment for the 15th Basic Academy update
- W3 Natural Resources Training Academy
- NAWLEA (North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation) update

The Chair thanked Mr. Wampler for his update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Ms. Laura Walters for an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

Ms. Walters gave an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of October 22, 2025.

Ms. Walters reported on:

- Inclusive Excellence Report for 2025
- Governance Manual, Code of Ethics and Conduct and Committee Charter Reviews
- DWR Archery LIVE
- State Fair and Outdoors Expo Events
- VACo Meeting to attend

- Ms. Walters had 1 Action Item – Governance Manual, Code of Ethics and Conduct and Committee Charter Reviews

Ms. Walter made a motion to approve staff recommendations for the Governance Manual, Code of Ethics and Conduct and five Committee Charter Reviews. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler and Mr. Parker. Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

The Chair thanked Ms. Walters for her update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of October 22, 2025.

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

- Thanked the Board for a good and productive Board meeting
- Recognized and thanked Mr. Brian Vincent for attending today

Chairman's Report: The Chair, thanked the public who attended and welcomed their remarks. The Chair thanked DWR staff for all work they put in to make DWR a better place.

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

Mr. Edmunds, commented on wanting to see a report on the number of hunters and how many different exemptions we have and comparing with our federal funding match.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 11:15 am.

Mr. Edmunds read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Wampler.

Ayes: Terwilliger, Formica (v), Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance

Closed Meeting Motion, October 23, 2025

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 1:20 pm

The Chair called on Mr. Edmunds to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.

Certification of Closed Meeting

October 23, 2025

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: Terwilliger, Formica, Slaybaugh, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus

Mr. Wampler had departed.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell