

Draft Board Meeting Minutes

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

October 24, 2024
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Jon Cooper, **Chair:** **Board Members:** Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Michael Formica, (virtual), Mr. Brian Vincent, Mr. John Daniel; **Absent:** Mr. George Terwilliger, Dr. Mamie Parker; **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.

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

The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag.

Ms. Laura Walters read the Mission Statement.

Proposed Hound Hunting Regulations: The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for a staff presentation.

Mr. Godfrey gave an update on implementation of the Board's Non-Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals as well as a summary of public comment received and recommendations for final action on the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals. The two regulatory proposals included a new regulation that would require GPS tracking devices to be affixed to all dogs used for hunting bear and deer (Proposal #6) and a new regulation that would require hunters using dogs to make reasonable efforts to prevent their dogs from entering property for which the hunter had received notification that their dog was not wanted on the property (Proposal #7).

Speakers:

Ann Morse spoke regarding Hound Hunting
James Hudson spoke regarding Hound Hunting

Jim Medeiros spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Johnny Kendrick spoke regarding Hound Hunting
William Easter spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Hunter Thrasher spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Thomas Preston spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Robert Bishop spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Bryson Lipscomb spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Kelly Kendrick spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Richard Tetterton spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Steven Nicely spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Tim Goodba spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Judge Charlton spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Jacob Levy spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Raymond Carter regarding Hound Hunting
Kirby Burch spoke regarding Hound Hunting
David Hart spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Reg Cook spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Todd Grubbs spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Taylor Britt spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Todd Watson spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Matt Gutman spoke regarding Hound Hunting
Ronald Stidham spoke regarding Hound Hunting

The Chair thanked all speakers for attending today and speaking.

The Chair spoke concerning the Hound Hunting and called on everyone in the room to help and be part of the solution called for a motion...

Mr. Daniel offered a motion to approve both of the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals (Proposal #6 and Proposal #7). This motion was not voted upon due to lack of a second.

Mr. Edmunds offered a substitute motion to table the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals (Proposal #6 and Proposal #7) and revisit the proposals after the upcoming hunting season. This motion was not voted upon due to lack of a second.

Mr. Wampler offered a motion to pass by indefinitely both of the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals (Proposal #6 and Proposal #7). Mr. Woodall seconded the motion.

Mr. Cooper called for discussion on the motion. Several Board members spoke to the motion.

Prior to a vote on Mr. Wampler's motion, Mr. Daniel offered a substitute motion to vote on each of the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals (Proposal #6 and Proposal #7) separately rather than as a single unit. Mr. Edmunds seconded the motion.

Ayes: Daniel, Edmunds, Vincent

Nays: Cooper, Woodall, Walters, Wampler, Formica (virtual), Broaddus

Returning to Mr. Wampler's motion to pass by definitely the Board's Regulatory Hound Hunting Proposals, the vote was:

Ayes: Cooper, Woodall, Walters, Wampler, Formica (virtual), Broaddus

Nays: Daniel, Edmunds, Vincent

The Chair called for a 15-minute break at 11:00 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at 11:15 am

Approval of the August 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 22, 2024, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Walters made a motion to approve the August 22, 2024, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Woodall.

Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Daniel, Formica. (virtual)

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

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

Hearing none, he continued with the agenda.

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 a report on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting from October 23, 2024.

Mr. Edmunds presented the Aquatic, Boating, and Non-Game Regulations for Final Adoption.

➤ Proposed Aquatic Regulations:

Mr. Edmunds gave summary of the Aquatic Regulations, and made a motion, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendments to the general aquatic regulations as presented by staff for implementation on January 1, 2025. It was seconded by Ms. Walters.
Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Formica (virtual)

➤ Proposed Boating Regulations:

Mr. Edmunds gave a summary of the Boating Regulations, and made a motion, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendments to the general boating regulations as present by staff for implementation on January 1, 2025. It was seconded by Ms. Walters
Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Formica (virtual)

➤ Proposed Non-Game Regulations:

Mr. Edmunds gave a summary of the Non-Game Regulations, and made a motion, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendments to the general nongame regulations as presented by staff for implementation on January 1, 2025. It was seconded by Mr. Woodall.

Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Formica (virtual)

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent for a report. (Mr. Vincent chaired the meeting for Mr. Terwilliger)

Mr. Vincent gave a report of the Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee meeting from October 23, 2024, which included:

- FY24 Financial Report
- Update on License Certification and Data Analytics Review
- 1st Quarter FY25 Financial Report

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

Law Enforcement Committee: Mr. Cooper (chaired Law meeting for Mr. Formica) gave a report from the October 23, 2024
(There was not a quorum at this meeting).

Mr. Cooper's report on Law Enforcement Committee included:

- POST Plan Presentation

Mr. Cooper called for any comments or questions.

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 a report of the EPO Committee meeting which included:

- Intern Accomplishments 2024
- Train the Trainer
- Deer Processing Workshops

After questions and comments, The Chair thanked Mr. Wampler for his report.

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

Mr. Brown reported on:

- Recognized staff who received awards during the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting on Wednesday Committee meetings.
 - Megan Thomas received the AFWA's Mark J. Reeff Award
 - John Odenkirk received the Biologist of the Year Award
 - Brad Mawyer received the SOBA Award
- Reported and thanked Staff on the work they diligently worked during and after Hurricane Helene, on DWR department property and other areas to get all areas open as soon as possible. He appreciated all the hours they put in to accomplish this.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked staff for all the work and thanked the Board for their support during the last year with the Hound Hunting.

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

Mr. Edmunds reminded everyone that Public Comments for 2024-2025 Hunting Regulations will end on December 6, 2024.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced that the next meeting date will be Thursday, January 23, 2025

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 12:15 pm. Mr. Vincent read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Wampler.
Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Daniel, Wampler, Broaddus, Formica (virtual)

Closed Meeting Motion, October 24, 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 King William County.

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, Deputy 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. Woodall.

Certification of Closed Meeting

October 24, 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, Daniel, Formica (virtual)

Vote from Close Session:

Received a conservation easement in King William County for public access and preservation of wetland wildlife habitat.

Mr. Woodall made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to accept a donation of a conservation easement which includes (+/-) 479 acres in the County of King William, VA including the procurement of certain due diligence items.

It was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

The Board Secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Edmunds, Cooper, Vincent, Walters, Wampler, Daniel, Broaddus,

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell