

Final Board Minutes

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

October 26, 2023
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Tom Sadler, **Chair**, Mr. Jon Cooper, **Vice Chair**; **Board Members:** Mr. John Daniel, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. Woody Woodall, and Mr. Michael Formica (Virtual); **Absent:** Mr. Brian Vincent, Dr. Mamie Parker, and Mr. Leon Boyd; **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, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. Stock Watson, Mr. Rob Lewis, Ms. Paige Pearson, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Ms. Rebecca Lane(virtual)

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.
Delegate Otto Wasserman attended the Board meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Terwilliger to read the Mission Statement.

The Board Secretary had a Roll Call Vote for attendance: **Present:** Tom Sadler, Jon Cooper, John Daniel, Woody Woodall, Michael Formica (Virtual), George Terwilliger,

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

The Director called on Dr. Mike Bednarski who recognized Ms. Joan Blankenship for her receipt of the John L. Morris Award from AWFA.

Dr. Mike Bednarski recognized Ms. Margi Whitmore and presented her with the DWR Fisheries Biologist of the Year award.

The Director called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for two recognitions.

Ms. Gwynn recognized Dr. Gary Costanzo for receiving the Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award from SEAFWA.

Ms. Becky Gwynn recognized Ms. Jenny West of the Wildlife Foundation for receiving the October 2023 Spirit of Virginia Award given by First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin.

The Director called on Mr. Bob Smet who recognized Mr. Tom Wilcox for his receipt of the Stephen Kellert Award from AFWA.

The Director recognized the Law Enforcement Office of Professional Standards for their receipt of the 2023 Law Enforcement Award from AFWA. Major Milt Robinson and Captain Rob Ham excepted the award.

The Director recognized Mr. Tom Guess for of his service to the agency as he moves on to the Coast Guard.

Approval of the August 17, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 17, 2023, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mr. George Terwilliger.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Woodall, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: Hearing none, the Chair moved on with the meeting.

Establishing the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to Facilitate Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters and Private Landowner Stakeholders:

The Chair called on Mr. Mike Foreman, who provided a report and update on the Collaborative Solutions for Hound-Hunters and Private Landowners.

Speakers:

- Mr. Keith Johnson spoke regarding the Deer Hound Problems (in person)

- Mr. Todd Grubbs spoke regarding Deer/Fox Hound Trespass on Private property (in person)
- Mr. Lee McLaughlin spoke regarding need more Law Enforcement (in person)
- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding Hunting with dogs (in person)
- Mr. Robert Bishop spoke regarding Hunting with dogs (in person)
- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding the SAC (virtual)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding the SAC (virtual)
- Mr. James Hudson spoke regarding the Hound hunting survey (virtual)
- Mr. Todd Miller spoke regarding Hound Hunting (virtual)
- Ms. Glenda Grubbs spoke regarding Deer/Fox Hound Trespass (virtual)

After questions and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Foreman for his update and the speakers who took their time to come speak and to call in virtually.

Committee Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper for a report of the October 25, 2023, Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting.

Mr. Cooper gave an update of the Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting on October 25, 2023, Committee meeting on the VA Black Bear Management Plan, The Wildlife Report, The Fisheries Report, and The Boating Report.

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

Speakers on the Bear Plan:

- Mr. Kirby Burch spoke regarding the Bear Plan (in person)
- Mr. Steve Knicely spoke regarding the Bear Plan (virtual)

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Cooper made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the 2023- 2032 VA Black Bear Management Plan as submitted by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. George Terwilliger for an update on the October 25, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Terwilliger gave an update on the October 25, 2023, Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee FY24 -First quarter Financial Report and an update on the Capital Programs and the Fish Hatcheries.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Mr. Terwilliger for his update.

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Daniel to give an update on the October 25, 2023, Committee meeting.

Mr. Daniel gave an update on the October 25, 2023, Law Enforcement Committee meeting on Law Enforcement Solutions on the Illicit Reptile Trade in Virginia.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Daniel for his update.

A Resolution was presented.

The Chair called for a vote, Mr. Daniel made motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the Resolution on the Enforcement Solutions for the Illicit Reptile Trade in Virginia. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper The board secretary took a roll call vote:
Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report: The Chair called on Mr. Michael Formica for an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of the October 25, 2023, EPO Committee meeting.

Mr. Formica gave an update of the Education, Planning & Outreach Committee meeting on October 25, 2023, where we heard about the *WildTail*: America's Wildest Conservation Success Story, and the 2023 Elk Hunt.

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

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

- Proud for all the recognitions today.
- Update on Leon Boyd

Chair's Report:

The Chair enjoyed all the recognitions we had today, and how proud the Board is of the DWR employees and other constituents who were recognized.

Additional Business: The Chair asked if there was any other business, hearing none, he continued with the agenda.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced the next meeting date is Thursday, January 18, 2024.

The Chair called for a Close Session at 11:50 am and called on Mr. Cooper to read the Close Session Motion. It was seconded by Mr. Terwilliger.

The board secretary called the roll: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Closed Meeting Motion, October 26, 2023

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 Accomack, Buchanan, Dickenson, Powhatan, and Wise counties.

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, the Department Deputy Directors, 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 1:25 pm.

The Chair called on Mr. Jon Cooper to read the Certification of Closed Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Daniel, Woodall, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica (virtual)

Certification of Closed Meeting

October 26, 2023

***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 Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to purchase +1,242 acres in fee-simple in Accomack County, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr.

Cooper. The secretary called a roll call vote. Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources authorize the Director to acquire a public access easement of +44,327 acres in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties, including the procurement of certain due diligence items. It was seconded by Mr. Cooper.

The secretary called a roll call vote: Ayes: Woodall, Daniel, Cooper, Sadler, Terwilliger, Formica

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions or comments and announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, January 18, 2024. He adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/