

Final Board Meeting Minutes

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

May 21, 2026
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Michael Formica, **Vice Chair, Board Members:** Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. Jon Cooper, Mr. James Edmunds, Ms. Marlee Dance, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. James Maclin; Mr. Cyrus Baird; **Absent:** Mr. George Terwilliger; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Michael Lipford, Ms. Stacey Brown, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, 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.

The Chair called on Ms. Marlee Dance 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 Colonel Cobb who recognized Renee Brown as the Communications Officer for 2025.

Director Brown called on Colonel Cobb who recognized CPO Kevin Webb as Officer of the Year for 2025.

Director Brown recognized Ms. Becky Gwynn for recognition and receiving the Captain Ronald A. Erchul Environmental Leadership Award at the Environment Virginia Symposium.

Director Brown recognized Ms. Becky Gwynn for recognition of the North American Wetlands Conservation Achievement Award by Ducks Unlimited at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Approval of the March 19, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of March 19, 2026, Board meeting minutes have been distributed and posted to website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Woodall made a motion to approve the March 19, 2026, Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Dance. Ayes: Formica, Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Baird

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

- Mr. Chris Patton spoke regarding Property Rights (P)
- Mr. Judge Charlton spoke regarding hound hunting (P)
- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Landowner Conflicts (V)
- Mr. William Ester spoke regarding Budget shortfall (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 the May 20, 2026 Committee meeting.

Mr. Cooper presented 4 Action Items for a Vote.

Mr. Cooper made a motion on the presentation of staff recommendations for sportfishing regulations. I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the updates to Sportfish Regulations Amendments as presented by staff and be put out for public comments. It was seconded by Ms. Walters. Ayes: Formica, Edmunds, Cooper, Woodall, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Baird.

Mr. Cooper made a motion on the staff recommendations for Boating Regulations. I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the updates to Boating Regulations Amendments as presented by staff and be put out for public comments. It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Formica, Edmunds, Cooper, Woodall, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Baird.

Mr. Cooper made a motion on the presentation of the regulation changes recommended by Nongame staff: I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the Nongame Regulations as presented by staff and be put out for Public Comments. It was seconded by Mr. Broaddus.

Mr. Cooper made a motion on the Wildlife Regulation recommendations (cervid rehab, beard hound training season, elk conservation license program.) I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the regulation recommendations as presented by staff to be put out for public comments. It was seconded by Mr. Broaddus.

Mr. Cooper spoke about the additional agenda items that Wildlife and Boat presented. Stocked Trout Management Plan, Good Neighbor Agreement, CWR Update, Bear Mange Update, Fall Turkey Work Group & Spring Harvest Update.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cooper for his report on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting of May 21, 2026.

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Woody Woodall for an update on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting from May 20, 2026.

Mr. Woodall gave an update on the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee meeting of May 20, 2026. Mr. Woodall reported Mr. Tim Springer, and Mr. John Kirk gave presentations on the 2027 Budget.

After questions and comments, The Chair thanked Mr. Woodall for his presentation.

Mr. Woodall made a motion; I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources approve the FY2027 Operating Budget for \$67,973,436 and the Capital Budget for \$9,495,000 as presented by staff. Mr. Wampler presented a Substitute motion, to include the Law Enforcement Training Academy for FY2027. It was seconded by Mr. Edmonds. Ayes: Woodall, Edmonds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Formica, Baird

r. Woodall gave an update on the Staff Recommendation for Increases in Certain Licenses and Fees. He reported that Mr. Darin Moore presented the Staff Recommendations for Increases in Certain Licenses and Fees.

After questions and comments, The Chair thanked Mr. Woodall for his presentation.

Mr. Woodall made a motion, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the licenses and boat fee proposed increases, as presented by staff, to be put out for public comments. It was seconded by Mr. Broaddus. Ayes: Woodall, Edmonds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Formica, Baird

Law Enforcement Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Will Wampler for an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of May 21, 2026.

Mr. Wampler gave an update on the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of May 20, 2026.

Mr. Wampler reported that Mr. Jesse MacLelland gave a presentation on Fleet Management for Law Enforcement.

Mr. Wampler reported that Colonel Cobb gave a law enforcement update, reporting:

1. Leadership Work Session at Holiday Lake (Update)
 - Goal - Mission Success and Operational Improvement Team Survey
 - Defining Success for our Field Force
2. Second PBA Quarterly Meeting / Region Meetings (three of four completed)
 - Presented Next Step Solutions to our Field Force
3. SNHR / Public Safety & Law Enforcement Services Display (Update)
 - w/DCR and VMRC at First Landing State Park
4. National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial (two remaining fallen officers)
5. National Safe Boating Week / 6 Media Ride-alongs (through PIO Shelby Crouch)
6. Senior Officer Kevin Webb was honored as the NAWEOA Officer of the Year.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wampler for his update at the Law Enforcement Committee meeting of May 20, 2026.

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 May 20, 2026.

Ms. Walters gave an update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report of May 20, 2026.

Ms. Walters reported Mr. George Braxton gave a review of the 2025 Agency -Wide Climate Survey and he gave an Update on the Recreational Shooting Work Group. She reported that Mr. Smet reported in his Director's report:

- Update on the Elk Lottery
- Update on the Falcon Cam
- Update on VA is Film Lovers
- Update on the One-Shot Turkey hunt with the Wildlife Foundation

The Chair thanked Ms. Walters for her update on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting of May 20, 2026.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026-2027:

The Chair called on Mr. Cooper for a report on the Nomination Committee.

Mr. Cooper reported that the Nomination Committee meet at 8:30 am on May 21, 2026, and by acclamation nominated Mr. Michael Formica, Chairman of the Board and Mr. Woody Woodall as the Vice Chairman of the Board for the 2026-2027 Board Year, beginning July 1, 2026.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to elect Mr. Michael Formica and Mr. Woody Woodall. Several board members seconded the motion. Ayes: Cooper, Formica, Edmunds, Woodall, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Baird

Directors Report: The Chair called on the Director for his report.

- The Director thanked the Board for their time and debate on the 2026-2027 Budget.
- The Director thanked Mr. Woody Woodall for all his time spent on the budget and appreciated him chairing the FAC Committee
- Congratulations on behalf of Mr. Formica and Mr. Woodall to be Chair and Vice Chair of the Board for 2026-2027.
- Thanked Mr. Cooper, Ms. Dance, Ms. Walters for being the Nomination Committee

Chair's Report: The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions and announced that the next Board meeting date will be Thursday, August 20, 2026, and announced the Board would go into Close Session.

Closed Session: The Chair announced the Board would go into Close Session at 11:00 am.

Mr. Cyrus Baird read the Close Session Motion; it was seconded by Mr. Broaddus.

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

Closed Meeting Motion, May 21, 2026

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting:

First, 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, discipline, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or other 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 legal counsel for DWR, the Department Director, and the Deputy Directors 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.

Mr. Wampler read the Certification of Closed Meeting

It was seconded by Mr. Edmunds. Ayes: Woodall, Edmunds, Cooper, Maclin, Walters, Wampler, Broaddus, Dance, Formica, Baird

Certification of Closed Meeting

May 21, 2026

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 called a Roll Call vote: Ayes: Mr. Woodall, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Maclin, Ms. Walters, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Broaddus, Ms. Dance, Mr. Formica, Mr. Baird

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

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments, hearing none, he adjourned the Board meeting at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell