

Draft Meeting Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive - Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

August 19, 2026
2:00 pm

Present: Mr. James Maclin, **Acting Chair**, Mr. Will Wampler, **Chair**, (Virtual), Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, **Absent:** Mr. Michael Formica; **Board Members in attendance:** Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Jon Cooper, Ms. Marlee Dance; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. George Braxton, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Stacey Brown, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Bob Smet.

Mr. Maclin, Vice Chair, conducted the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, committee meeting. Mr. Broaddus made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026, meeting minutes, and Mr. Woodall seconded the motion, The board secretary called a Roll call vote. Ayes: Maclin, Woodall, Broaddus, Wampler

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item.

- Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding big game hunting with dogs (P)
- Judge Charlton spoke regarding law enforcement pertaining to hound hunting (V)

The Chair thanked our speakers for their comments.

VCP Honor Guard Program: The Chair called on Senior Officer James Hale.

Senior Officer James Hale and the Officers who are on the VCP Honor Guard Program marched in Uniform into the meeting, Senior Officer James Hale explained and had a video showing the importance of the Honor Guard Program and the History of the Program.

Law Enforcement Chief Update: The Chair called on Colonel Cobb for an update.

Colonel Cobb reported:

1. Requested Current CPO Vacancy Map (Provided)
 - Since FY27 Budget was approved, 8 sworn officers have left the agency
 - Results in Sworn Officer Vacancy Credits of \$900,320 in current budget
2. W3 Basic Law Enforcement Academy (15th Class)
 - Our 10 Recruits are doing well and are set to graduate on September 3
 - With part of their 15-week Field Training Program during Hunting Season
3. Field Communication Initiatives in 2026 (Update)
 - Command Staff Presentations (2 hours) w/Q&A at In-service Trainings
 - Mission Success and Organizational Improvement Survey
 - Leadership Work Session (2½ days) with all Supervisors and Managers
 - Command Staff Follow-up Presentations w/Q&A at all Region Meetings
 - Officer Wellness Survey coordinated by Agency Human Dimensions
 - Third PBA Quarterly Meeting this year (July 29); Recent Topics included:
 - Career Progression Program (CPP)
 - Loss of Overtime and Holiday Pay
 - CPO Staffing Pressure / Vacancies
 - Vehicle and Boat Fleet Needs
 - Proactive Project Tracker (Commitments)
 - In addition, continued VCP Rollcall Monthly Newsletters and Spot Recognition Program including Colonel's Lunch Meetings (68 Total)
4. VCP Annual Report 2025 has been published and is available
 - Highest number of investigative cases (7,551) over the last five years
 - 70% increase in arrests in only a one-year period from 2024 to 2025
5. Will be honored with the AFWA 2026 LE Conservation Award
 - For our teamwork efforts to create and operationalize the North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation (NAWLEA) Program

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Colonel Cobb for his update.

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

- The Director thanked the CPO's who serve on VCP Honor Guard
- Commented about new CPO graduation on Thursday, September 3, 2026, remarked what a highlight it is to watch the Officers be sworn and starting their new career with DWR.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Director Brown for his report.

Chair's Report: Mr. Maclin asked if anyone had any other comments, he announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, 2026, and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Mr. Edmunds asked how the methodology of complaints on hound hunting was progressing,

Major Shuler commented that Law Enforcement has created a draft hound hunting complaint form that has been reviewed by the Law Enforcement Division and would allow people to make hound-related complaints via the Agency website instead of contacting the communications center, if Law Enforcement decides to go this route. Further, Major Shuler has worked with the Outreach Division, and they capable of making the form work from a technical perspective. The form has not yet been reviewed and approved by the Director's Office.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell