

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# **The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission**

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM  
On Wed., April 19, 2023  
Department of Natural Resources  
Google Meet**

**Meeting Agenda:**

**Approval for April 19, 2023, Meeting Agenda**

**Approval for Minutes from March 15, 2023 Meeting**

**2023 Legislative Session Update (Associate Director Brian Eyler)**

**WAC Legislative Concepts Review (Group Discussion)**

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Colby Ferguson)**

**Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)**

**Old Business:**

- **Blood Tracking Dogs Regulation (Future Meeting-WAC Members' Discussion)**
- **Online Hunting Automatic Registration Renewal (Future Meeting-Chair Wagner and Commission)**

**New Business:**

**Public Comment:**

**Adjourn**

***NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.***

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2023 meetings  
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

<b>January 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building</b>
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>June 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building</b>
<b>July 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>August 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>September 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day</b>
<b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>November 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD  
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

**Note:** Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meeting. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 am. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

***NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.***

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES  
APRIL 19, 2023

Chairman Carl Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference. Chairman Wagner asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

**Approval for April 19, 2023, Meeting Agenda**

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept April 19, 2023, Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from March 15, 2023, Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept February 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes.
  2. Commissioner Cole seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**2023 Legislative Session Update** – Brian Eyler, Associate Director

- Associate Director Eyler outlined the list of the 32 bills passed and failed from the Summary of 2023 Legislation as of April 19, 2023. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Mr. Ferguson mentioned that the Maryland Farm Bureau got involved in the amendments of SB0001 because it would have negatively impacted the farming community. However, the MFB believes that it will be found unconstitutional.
- Acting Assistant Secretary Peditto expressed gratitude on behalf of the Wildlife and Heritage Service, the people we serve, the wildlife and habitats that we manage, to the Commission, in particular, Chair Wagner and Commissioner Keithley for your heavy lift and support of SB0327 and HB0983 Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps in getting 90% of these bills intact. These bills were the most significant in modern Maryland history, including substantial fees increase built into them that moved frankly smoothly but for some unusual opposition. It was miraculous, and thank you. Acting Assistant Secretary Peditto mentioned that future funding would be on a regular agenda item with R3 efforts for the Commission and staff. Assistant Secretary Peditto added that there would be a stakeholders’ meeting to discuss how Wildlife and Heritage Service should spend the money.
- Chair Wagner outlined that there are more things to work on.
- Commissioner Keithley added that the involvement with the hunting politics was a unified effort.

**WAC Legislative Concepts Review** – No Concepts considered by the Commission.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB)** – Director of Government and Public Relations Colby Ferguson

- Mr. Ferguson outlined no new information since the March meeting.
- Mr. Ferguson said that he agreed with the passing of the following bills, SB0327 and HB0983. Mr. Ferguson added that there are going to be a few people that will complain about the hunting fee increases. However, Mr. Ferguson recognized that the tools the increased fees will support are valuable, including the sacrificial crop program for the farmers.
- Mr. Ferguson announced that the Maryland Department of Agriculture has a Deer Summit on May 11 to discuss deer management.
- Mr. Ferguson informed the Commission that failing the Doe Harvest Challenge bill at the last moment conflicts with the Doe Harvest Challenge Program, which has been effective on the lower shore.

- Mr. Ferguson pointed out that \$150,000 was added to the Venison Donation Program, where the farmers and hunters feeding the hungry funding came from for years. Hopefully, this program will ramp back up and utilize that effective program for people that want to donate deer to the food bank. Farmers and Hunters Feeding Hungry (FHHF) were pleased that MFB supported that funding source.
- Mr. Ferguson mentioned that he is looking forward to working with the Commission and DNR on implementing a cost-shared program that will align with the USFWS guidelines.
- The revised license fees are sold starting on July 1, 2023. Therefore, the match does not come until the following September, a year and a half from now. Staff are in discussions related to hiring new staff for positions.
- Acting Secretary Peditto replied that WHS would accommodate if the Commission wants an update at every meeting about the additional funding.
- Chair Wagner agreed that funding and R3 updates at every meeting are acceptable, and the Commission will let WHS sort out what is best related to presentations.
- Chair Wagner would like an invitation to the Deer Summit, or an update presented at the next WAC meeting to hear MDA's thoughts on deer management.
- Acting Secretary Peditto indicated that Ms. Spencer would forward the Deer Summit invitation to the Commission since it is a public meeting; all the members should attend.

**Natural Resources Police Update** – Captain Garren gave a presentation.

- Captain Garren mentioned that Natural Resources Police (NRP) is still waiting for a Colonel to be appointed.
- Captain Garren outlined the Natural Resources Police Stats from January 1 to April 19, 2023, as a total of 4,341: 3,173 warnings, 1,164 citations, and 4 SERO (Repair Orders).
- There were 16% wildlife violations, 15% boating, 13% public lands, 31% fisheries, and 25% traffic violations.
- The traffic violation should be going down because Senior staff decided after this year not to pursue traffic grants anymore.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Chair Wagner received a question about Sunday hunting enforcement. Chair Wagner asked if there were tickets for hunting violations after 10:30 am and noon, especially since the turkey season is open. Chair Wagner also asked if Captain Garren had any statistics or feedback.
    - a. Captain Garren agreed to gather that information for the next meeting.
    - b. Captain Garren replied that NRP would enforce hunting end times on Sundays. NRP has the same enforcement on Sunday that they do on Saturday.

**Old Business**

- Blood Tracking Regulation – Commissioner Keithley outlined that it would be suitable for Acting Assistant Secretary Peditto and Acting Director Stonesifer to discuss possible Blood Tracking Regulations before further dialogue among the Commission.
  1. Chair Wagner reviewed prior meeting minutes on the topic. The Commission is waiting for a one-page synopsis on this topic.
  2. Commissioner Keithley and Mr. Minor were assigned from the January meeting to research other contiguous states with Blood Tracking Regulations.
  3. Chair Wagner would like something before the June 21 meeting.
  4. Commissioner Keithley agreed to work with Acting Assistant Secretary Peditto and Acting Director Stonesifer to get something together for the Commission.
- Future Hunting License and Stamp Model Discussion – Chair Wagner suggested that this topic falls under Acting Assistant Secretary Peditto and Acting Director Stonesifer's purview. Chair Wagner noted that he did not think it was a lot to discuss without knowing the capability of the new COMPASS system. Chair Wagner moved this discussion to the June 21 meeting since it is part of the R3 items.

### New Business

- Acting Director Stonesifer highlighted that it would be a busy spring, fall, and winter for staff with the new legislation that passed.
- Acting Director Stonesifer reminded the Commission that staff would be starting conversations internally this summer about the upcoming regulation concepts for the Commission to review and approve this winter. Staff members have blood tracking dogs on the radar and loop in Mr. Minor in the stakeholders' meeting.
- Chair Wagner reiterated that the Commission would like an R3 Program Update and include legislative updates regarding allocating the additional funds as WHS and Commission move forward. The R3 is something WHS and the Commission need to continually focus on because it is the lifeblood of what we are trying to do regarding getting more people recruited and ensuring we can revitalize individuals.
- Commissioner Keithley asked Mr. Ferguson about the FHFH funding.
  1. Mr. Ferguson gave a background on the funding source of FHFH. When FHFH started, there was a dollar from the hunting licenses going to FHFH until USFWS decided that was not allowed with the match allocation. Therefore, that was pulled back, and the O'Malley Administration wanted to continue the FHFH by putting it into the general fund. The highest amount was \$125,000. The Hogan Administration came in and cut it back. FHFH was given \$85,000 for a year or two, which dwindled to nothing. After that, FHFH was funded by grants and donations. FHFH was processing around 5,000 deer through the program, and now FHFH processed about 1,000 or less. So, that was the reason for bringing FHFH back; many people rallied to get it back. It is an opportunity for good high protein for people.
  2. Chair Wagner requested an FHFH Update at the June 21 meeting.

### Public Comment –

- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at [wac.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:wac.dnr@maryland.gov).
- There were no further public comments.

### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room, Annapolis, Maryland.

### Attendance

Members:	M. Cole, S. Keithley, J. Schroyer, and C. Wagner
Absent:	B. Alder, T.J. Jenkins, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, and R. Showalter
Guest:	S. Boyles-Griffin and C. Ferguson
Staff:	B. Eyler, S. Garren, R. Karge, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer

**Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation  
Wildlife and Heritage Service  
(as of April 19, 2023)**

<b>Number/ Chapter (Cross File)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Primary Sponsor</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<a href="#">HB0188 (SB0320)</a>	Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership	<a href="#">Delegate Palakovich Carr</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0378 (SB0310)</a>	Natural Resources - Black Bear Conflict Reduction and Damage Reimbursement Fund - Uses	<a href="#">Delegate Love</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0406 (SB0275)</a>	Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement	<a href="#">Delegate Love</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0449 (SB0323)</a>	Calvert County – Sunday Hunting – Repeal of Time Restrictions	<a href="#">Delegate Morgan, T.</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB0466 (SB0824)</a>	Worcester County - Natural Resources - Hunting	<a href="#">Delegate Otto</a>	Passed	All species (except mig. birds) and 50 yard safety zone. New Sundays restricted to 10:30 am
<a href="#">HB0467</a>	Worcester County - Turkey Hunting - Sundays	<a href="#">Delegate Otto</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB0683 (SB0091)</a>	Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations	<a href="#">Delegate Morgan, T.</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0874 (SB0611)</a>	Office of the Attorney General - Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit - Establishment	<a href="#">Delegate Stewart</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0934 (SB0779)</a>	Natural Resources - Female Deer Hunting Contests - Authorization	<a href="#">Delegate Hutchinson</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB0950 (SB0836)</a>	Maryland Native Plants Program	<a href="#">Delegate Stein</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">HB0954</a>	Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans	<a href="#">Delegate Hornberger</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB0983 (SB0327)</a>	Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps	<a href="#">Delegate Allen</a>	Passed	Without Sunday migratory bird hunting
<a href="#">HB1005 (SB0096)</a>	Howard County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone and Position of Archery Hunter Ho. Co. 15–23	<a href="#">Howard County Delegation</a>	Passed	DMP holders and county managed hunt participants only
<a href="#">HB1085</a>	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	<a href="#">Dorchester County Delegation</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB1087 (SB0796)</a>	Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	<a href="#">Wicomico County Delegation</a>	Passed	All species (except mig birds) and 50 yard safety zone. New Sundays restricted to 10:30 am
<a href="#">HB1118 (SB0777)</a>	Middle Shore Counties - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	<a href="#">Delegate Hutchinson</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">HB1119</a>	Dorchester County - Hunting - Fur-Bearing Mammals	<a href="#">Dorchester County Delegation</a>	Did Not Pass	
<a href="#">SB0001</a>	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)	<a href="#">Senator Waldstreicher</a>	Passed	
<a href="#">SB0155</a>	Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	<a href="#">Senator Jackson</a>	Did Not Pass	