

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2012**

ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

David Hoyle, Jr. — Chairman
Steve Windham
Ray White
Nat Harris
Durwood Laughinghouse
Dell Murphy
Ray Clifton
Tom Berry

John Coley
Garry Spence
Mitch St. Clair
Joe Barker
Wes Seegars
John Litton Clark
Berkley Skinner
Jim Cogdell

Visitors:

Hal Atkinson — Camp-Younts Foundation
Bob Brown — NC Wildlife Federation
Dick Hamilton — NCWF
Greg Culpepper — NCWF
Henri McClees — NC Sporting Dog Assn.
Joe McClees — NC Sporting Dog Assn.

Tom Ray — NCDA and CS
Curtis Smith
Diane Newton — NCBA
William Newton — NCBA
Russell Poole, Jr. — NCBA
J.R. Stone — NCBA

Staff:

Gordon Myers
Mallory Martin
Norman Young
Betsy Foard
Chris Dillon
Lisa Hocutt
Bob Curry
Christian Waters
Isaac Harrold
Kate Pipkin
David Cobb

Brad Howard
David Sawyer
Dave Butts
Kyle Briggs
Dale Caveny
Daron Barnes
Carolyn Rickard
Jackie Bullock
Cecilia Edgar
Evin Stanford

Summary:

Review of Proposed Regulations for 2013-2014

Fishing Proposals

Bob Curry reported on fishing proposals comments received through public hearings. Forty-one proposals generated 598 comments with 85 percent in agreement and 15 percent in disagreement. Proposal F-5 generated the most comment. Curry proposed moving forward with all proposals at the November 8 Commissioners meeting with the exception of two:

- **F-10 — Reclassify portion of Nantahala River from Wild Trout Waters to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters.**

Proposed leaving as is based on public comment.

- **F-23 — Remove 6.8 miles of Yellow Creek in Graham County on private lands from Public Mountain Trout Waters.**

Modify proposal based on public comment at mountain public hearings.

Wildlife Management Proposals

Dr. David Cobb reported on wildlife management proposal H-9, allowing open carry of firearms anytime on state-owned game lands and conservation areas. The proposal would change to exempt game lands owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The USFS wants to be contacted directly by the public for additional restrictions that may apply. The initial request to exempt game lands came from the USFS.

A question was asked if the exemption applied to all game lands owned by the USFS. The USFS wants to reserve the right to do so. Dr. Cobb recommended staff modification be stricken and going back to the original proposal (no exemptions, and notification in the regulations digest that additional restrictions may apply to the public on USFS lands).

H-20 — Ease restrictions on taking wildlife in the act of depredation without a permit.

Dr. Cobb recommended striking the third bullet in the proposal (Allow for the use of artificial lights at night in taking wildlife without a permit). The use an artificial light, if necessary, can be specifically allowed under a depredation permit.

H-22–H-27 — Captive Cervids

Dr. Cobb gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from 1967 to present. A question was asked about the incubation period for CWD; the response was five years but the incubation period can be longer.

Gordon Myers recommended working with the captive cervid industry and other stakeholders to examine all risk pathways for CWD while allowing for the importation of cervids. He proposed tabling H-22–H-27 and putting together a task force consisting of the Dept. of Agriculture, taxidermists, NCWRC staff, hunting groups and other groups to establish carcass importation rules.

Commissioner Seegars stated that he would like to see a public health representative be part of the task force.

Chairman Hoyle declared the meeting in closed session in order to discuss a legal matter.