



ACTIONS
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

October 30, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
NC Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

Call to Order – *Commission Chairman* Jim Cogdell called the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Conference Room, 5th floor. He reminded everyone that the meeting audio is being streamed live and will be available on the Wildlife Resources Commission website. He requested that all in the room silence their electronic devices. Commissioners Michell Hicks and Dell Murphy were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – *Commissioner* Neal Hanks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation - *Commissioner* Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

Mandatory Ethics Inquiry - Chairman Cogdell read the ethics inquiry mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e). Cogdell announced that he would recuse himself from discussion and action on **Exhibit G-6**, proposed acquisition of the Texas Plantation tract in Tyrrell County.

Welcome – Chairman Cogdell welcomed Commissioners and guests.

Approval of Minutes - the Commission approved the August 28, 2014 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

Approval of Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2014 – the Commission approved the minutes of the special teleconference meeting of the NCWRC on October 1, 2014 as presented in **Exhibit B**.

Approval of Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2014 – the Commission approved the minutes of the special teleconference meeting of the NCWRC on October 10, 2014 as presented in **Exhibit C**.

Financial Status Report - the Commission received a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as of August 31, 2014 from Cecilia Edgar, Budget *Officer*, presented in **Exhibit D**. The Operating Fund balance was \$18,068,462.62 The Endowment Fund balance was \$108,262,619.95. Expendable interest was \$18,212,827.87.

Fisheries Committee Meeting Report – *Committee Chairman* Wes Seegars reported that the Fisheries Committee met on October 29, 2014. Chad Thomas provided an overview of the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Striped Bass Stock Assessment and new management benchmarks. The current fishing mortality estimate is at the target, and spawning stock biomass is estimated to be close to the threshold. Total allowable landings are being reduced from 550,000 pounds to 275,000 pounds in 2015 of which 68,500 pounds are allocated to the Roanoke River recreational fishery. Director Gordon Myers informed the Committee that he met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional staff October 1-3, 2014. Management at Lake Mattamuskeet will be addressed similarly to the approach used in the Canid Management agreement. An executive committee, steering committee, and four working groups have been established. Staff is developing a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize the approach, and it will be signed at Lake Mattamuskeet Refuge’s annual Swan Days on December 6. Christian Waters provided an update on several human dimension surveys that will be initiated in early 2015. Waters provided an update on current rulemaking by the Marine Fisheries Commission. Proposed rules of interest address river herring, American eel, and a correction to the inland/coastal fishing waters boundary on Queen Creek in Onslow County.

Small Game Committee Meeting Report – *Committee Chairman* Garry Spence reported that the Small Game Committee met on October 29, 2014. David Cobb and Brad Howard provided an overview of the CURE Program that was developed to enhance small game early successional habitats and species, especially bobwhite quail. The program benefits early successional habitat, long leaf pine forests and implements the farm bill program. Other benefits and successes include conversion to native warm season grasses which are beneficial during droughts, use of prescribed fires to improve habitats, introduction of best wildlife practices, and enhancement of habitats for quail, red cockaded woodpeckers and songbirds in parts of the state. Isaac Harrold gave a report on the agency’s evaluation of what has been done and what more can be done to enhance early successional habitats on game lands. The WRC continues to work on longleaf pine restoration, prescribed burns of 30,000 acres, thinning of 5000 acre parcels, and has established partnerships with State Parks, the Nature Conservancy, and the Forest Service. Discussions are underway with the Marine Corps Camp Lejeune about longleaf restoration at Holly Shelter Game Land for the benefit of red-cockaded woodpeckers. The Committee received a report from Chris Kreh about the use of surrogators in quail management. Surrogators are outdoor brooder boxes used to raise quail chicks to provide more game birds for hunting. David Cobb reported that deer hunter observations about small game are being obtained in a survey. The fox squirrel season has been extended to the entire state. Research is being conducted about the distribution of Appalachian cottontail. Dr. Cobb will provide information to the committee about the importation of quail at a later meeting.

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Meeting Report – *Committee Chairman* Mark Craig reported that the HNGES Committee met on October 29, 2014. Ken Bridle, *Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee Chair*, reported that comments from the NWAC will be incorporated into the Procedures and Schedule for operation of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. Shannon Deaton provided an overview of the revised NWAC resolution and stated that if adopted, the resolution will change the membership from 18 to 15 members. The HNGES Committee will recommend adoption of the resolution by the Commission. Todd Ewing summarized an augmentation project proposal to partner with N.C. State University to use hatchery produced yellow lance (mollusks, Neuse and Tar River basins) and place them in the same location where brood stock was originally collected. An augmentation project has the potential to get any listed species removed from the federal listing. HNGES Committee members received an update from Todd Ewing and Allen Boynton on a species state listing process and timeline to continue efforts started by the Scientific Council. Staff has developed an objective tool that is consistent with state law (NC Species Assessment Tool) for assessing the 67 species recommended for status changes in 2011. This tool will be tested and used to provide a staff recommendation to the Commission in late 2015.

Land Use and Access Committee Meeting Report – *Committee Chairman* Tom Berry reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met on October 29, 2014. Isaac Harrold presented three Phase I potential property acquisitions in Exhibits F-1, F-2, and F-3. The Committee will recommend approval of the Godwin Tract, Scotland County; Gullede Tract, Richmond County; and McEachern Tract, Bladen County for further investigation and possible funding. Harrold then presented six Phase II properties for final approval. The Committee will recommend approval of Cow Pen Landing Tract, Craven County; Spring Garden Tract, Craven County; Sassafras Tract, Scotland County; Loflin-Cut Laurel Gap Tract, Ashe County; and Page Tract, Cleveland County, in Exhibits G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, and G-5.. Chairman Jim Cogdell announced that he will recuse himself from consideration of the Texas Plantation Tract, Tyrrell County, in **Exhibit G-6**. The Committee also will recommend that parcel for adoption as a Phase II acquisition. The Committee reviewed an easement request from the NC Department of Transportation for an easement on a portion of Embro Game Land in Warren County to facilitate a bridge replacement project in Exhibit H. Harrold reviewed a staff recommendation to sever by demolition a 70 year old building at the Marion Fish Hatchery in McDowell County in preparation for renovations to increase fish production capacity and provide office space.

Boating Safety Committee Meeting Report – *Committee Chairman* Joe Barker reported that the Boating Safety Committee met on October 29, 2014 at 3:00 pm. Colonel Jon Evans updated the Committee on the On the Road On the Water Don't Drink and Drive campaign on Labor Day. Contacts were made with 1,320 boaters with 264 warnings and 184 citations issued. There were eleven citations for Operating While Impaired. Evans reported on Operation Dry Water that was conducted over the June 27-29, 2014 weekend. One hundred forty nine officers participated. Contacts were made with 3,108 boaters on 1,190 boats. There were fourteen OWI's issued. Col. Evans reported that of the boating fatalities in the state, none were wearing personal flotation devices. Kate Pipkin reviewed public comments and provided a summary of four no wake zones requested on Mountain Island Lake. She reviewed public comments and provided a summary of a request by Perquimans County for a no wake zone on Bethel Creek. Pipkin gave an overview of the request by Currituck County for a no wake zone in the canals at Waterview Shores. She reviewed the fiscal note required before Notice of Text can be published for the proposed no wake zone.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Report – *Assistant Attorney General* Tamara Zmuda provided an update to the Committee of the Whole about continuing education and responsibilities of Wildlife Commissioners. David Cobb, Bob Curry, and Isaac Harrold reviewed proposed rules for wildlife management, fisheries, and game lands management to be voted upon at today’s meeting. Kate Pipkin reviewed the no wake zones proposals. David Cobb reviewed public comments received about temporary rulemaking for the regulation of captive cervids. Cobb also reviewed the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan. Chairman Cogdell provided information about laws for captive cervids and required rulemaking to comply with the August 7, 2014 budget bill. He explained that farmed cervids are under the authority of the Department of Agriculture but there are potential conflicts with authority over white-tail deer.

Agency Spotlight – Law Enforcement Special Investigations Unit – the Commission received an update on the Wildlife Enforcement Special Investigations Unit from Lieutenant Philip Lucas. The Special Investigations Unit was formed to provide oversight of investigations of ongoing violations of laws and safety rules. Special investigators provide assistance to uniformed officers with boating safety, illegal commercialization of wildlife and protected species, poaching and illegal importation of wildlife, boating while impaired, trout fishing violations, and internet crimes among others.

Resolution Regarding Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee – the Commission adopted a new Resolution regarding the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee, presented in **Exhibit E**.

Phase I Potential Land Acquisitions – the Commission approved the presentation by Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager* authorizing staff to work with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the following properties:

- Godwin Tract – Scotland County (**F-1**)
- Gulledge Tract – Richmond County (**F-2**)
- McEachern Tract – Bladen County (**F-3**)

Phase II Land Acquisitions – the Commission gave final approval to proceed with acquisitions of the following properties:

- Cow Pen Landing Tract – Craven County (**G-1**)
- Spring Garden Tract – Craven County (**G-2**)
- Sassafras Tract – Scotland County (**G-3**)
- Loflin-Cut Laurel Gap Tract – Ashe County (**G-4**)
- Page Tract – Cleveland County (**G-5**)

With Chairman Jim Cogdell recusing himself the Commission gave final approval to proceed with the acquisition of the Texas Plantation Tract – Tyrrell County, presented in **Exhibit G-6**.

Easement Request, Warren County – the Commission approved a request, presented in **Exhibit H**, from the NC Department of Transportation for an easement on a portion of Embro Game Land in Warren County to facilitate a bridge improvement project.

Surplus Property – the Commission approved a staff recommendation in **Exhibit I** to sever by demolition a 70-year old building at the Marion Fish Hatchery in McDowell County in preparation for renovations to increase fish production capacity and provide office space.

Game Land Management Rulemaking – the Commission approved staff recommendations for proposed changes in the following game land management rules for presentation at statewide public hearings and approved the fiscal note (**Exhibits J-1, J-2**)

Applying to Game Lands Generally

- 1) Define target shooting as “the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping or self-defense”.
15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

- 2) Prohibit the use of dogs for taking deer on those portions of game lands posted as “Restricted Deer Hunting Zones”, except as may be otherwise authorized by permit.
15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

Applying to Specific Game Lands

- 1) Prohibit target shooting on the following game lands, with the exception of designated shooting ranges:
 - Angola Bay Game Land (Duplin and Pender counties)
 - Buckridge Game Land (Tyrrell County)
 - Buxton Woods Game Land (Dare County)
 - Cape Fear River Game Land (New Hanover and Pender counties)
 - R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell (Caswell County)
 - Holly Shelter Game Land (Pender County)
 - Nicholson Creek Game Land (Hoke County)
 - Rockfish Creek Game Land (Hoke County)
 - Sampson County Game Land (Sampson County)
 - Sandhills Game Land (Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties)
 - Stones Creek Game Land (Onslow County)*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands*

- 2) Prohibit horseback riding on Harris Game Land (Chatham, Harnett and Wake counties).
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 3) Modify the current rule pertaining to horseback riding on Jordan Game Land (Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties) such that riders, other than youth under 16 years of age, are required to possess a Game Land License or other license which includes the game lands privilege to ride horses on posted equestrian trails that lie entirely within the game land boundary.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 4) Regulate the use of horses on Pee Dee River Game Land (Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties) by allowing equestrian use the months of June, July, August and Sundays the remainder of the year, except during the open turkey and deer seasons, on roads which are open and maintained for vehicular traffic.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 5) Expand the opportunity for horseback riding on Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County, which is currently May 16 through August 31, to also include Sundays throughout the months of September and October.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 6) Amend rules regarding the use of horses on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land (Caswell County) and Thurmond Chatham Game Land (Alleghany and Wilkes counties) to exempt youth under 16 years of age from the requirement to obtain a Game Land License or other license containing the game land privilege.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 7) Designate Lewis Millpond on Uwharrie Game Land in Montgomery County as a managed waterfowl impoundment and limit waterfowl hunting to three days per week, holidays and opening and closing days.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- 8) Change the opening day of the Deer Archery Season from the Monday on or nearest September 10 to the Saturday on or nearest September 10 on Buffalo Cove Game Land (Caldwell and Wilkes counties) and South Mountains Game Land (Burke, Cleveland, McDowell and Rutherford counties).

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

Inland Fisheries Update – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry announced that 3,200 people visited various activities on National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 27. Youth hunts and special disabled hunts have had good turnouts. The Mountain State Fair had 8,000 visitors to the WRC exhibit. There were 45,339 visitors at the State Fair in Raleigh. The Armstrong Fish Hatchery is being renovated. At McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery renovations are nearly complete. The Fisheries Division has produced robust redhorses, a species of special concern. Curry stated that 6,300 will go to the Pee Dee River through the Diggs Tract. Director Myers stated that the biologists' work on these species of special concern may preclude their designation on the Endangered Species list.

Fisheries Rulemaking - the Commission approved staff recommendations for proposed changes in the following fisheries rules for presentation at statewide public hearings and approved the fiscal note (**Exhibits K-1, K-2**)

Trout

- 1) Reformat the structure of 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 2) Designate approximately 3.6 miles of Lovills Creek in Surry County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 3) Designate approximately 2.2 miles of the Tuckasegee River in Swain County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 4) Designate approximately 0.6 mile of the Cane River in Yancey County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 5) Designate 6.0 miles of streams on Pond Mountain Game Land as Public Mountain Trout Waters and allow them to default to the Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands
- 6) Clarify the boundaries of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on South Fork New River at Todd Island Park in Ashe County.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 7) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Stecoah Creek in Graham County, allowing 1.8 miles on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 8) Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Little River in Alleghany County, removing approximately 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 9) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Big Laurel Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 7.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 10) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Beaver Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 2.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 11) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Old Fields Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 2.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- 12) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Valley River in Cherokee County, removing 3.1 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.5 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 13) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tusquitee Creek in Clay County, removing 3.2 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.7 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 14) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tulula Creek in Graham County, removing 3.1 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 1.0 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 15) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tuckasegee River in Jackson County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 16) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Scott Creek in Jackson County, removing 3.5 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 17) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Savannah Creek in Jackson County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.4 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 18) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Nantahala River in Macon County, removing 2.4 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 19) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Meadow Fork in Madison County, removing 3.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.2 mile on Pisgah Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 20) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Middle Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 21) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Meat Camp Creek in Watauga County, removing 1.9 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 22) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Stony Fork in Watauga County, removing 2.4 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- 23) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Broad River in Henderson County, removing 0.1 mile from Public Mountain Trout Water.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 24) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Laurel Creek in Watauga County, removing 3.5 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 25) Remove a 0.8 mile section of the unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek on Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 26) Remove 2.5 miles of Jones Creek in Avery County from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 27) Allow night fishing in Wild Trout Waters (including Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters, Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters, and Wild Trout/ Natural Bait Waters) and Public Mountain Trout Waters on game lands.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands
- 28) Allow the harvest of trout in undesignated waters from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout
- 29) Reformat the structure of 15A NCAC 10C .0316(e) Trout.
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout

Crappie

- 1) Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and the 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie on the South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam, Yadkin River downstream from Idols Dam, High Rock Lake, and Tuckertown Lake.
15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie

Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass

- 1) Modify the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids by increasing the minimum size limit from 16 inches to 20 inches and reducing the daily creel limit from 8 fish in aggregate allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches to 4 fish with no exception. Reservoirs affected include High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Reservoir.
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass
- 2) Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids in Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake by decreasing the daily creel limit from 8 fish in aggregate allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches to 4 fish with no exception. The minimum size limit will remain 16 inches.
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass

American Eel

- 1) Clarify that American Eel less than 9 inches cannot be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in any inland fishing waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

Equipment

- 1) Clarify the definitions of set-hooks, jug-hooks, and trotlines. A set-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than 3 hooks that is attached at one end only to a stationary object. A jug-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than 3 hooks that is attached at one end only to a float. A trotline is a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common line having multiple hooks attached. The proposed change will also clarify that set-hooks, jug-hooks, and trotlines without bait or not labeled properly may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement officers.

15A NCAC 10C .0206 Trotlines, Jug Hooks, and Set Hooks

- 2) Add bow nets to the list of equipment that can be used to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in inland fishing waters with an inland fishing license.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

Administrative

- 1) Clarify in 15A NCAC 10C .0407 that the Neuse River is not located in Granville County.

15A NCAC 10C .0407 Permitted Special Devices and Open Seasons

Wildlife Management Update – the Commission received an update about the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. Cobb distributed copies of the *Upland Gazette*. He introduced new employees Allen Boynton, *Wildlife Diversity*; Christopher Serenari, *Human Dimension* and Alison Nolker, *Captive Cervids*. Cobb announced a statewide deer hunter observation survey that is ongoing. Cobb stated that 60,000 hunters have signed up for a bear stamp. The E-bear stamp has been mailed, along with a tooth envelope to return to the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Temporary Rulemaking for Captive Cervids - the Commission reviewed in **Exhibit L-1** a summary of public comments from two public hearings and comments submitted in writing, pertaining to temporary rulemaking to allow the WRC to issue captivity licenses and permits for the purpose of holding cervids in captivity, to allow certified herd owners to sell or transfer cervids to any other licensed facility, and to increase the age of mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease testing from 6 months to 12 months. Of comments received, eight were in favor of temporary rulemaking. Two petitions were received in opposition, along with 1,968 comments and five letters from organizations opposing temporary rulemaking. Based on questions raised in the meeting of the Committee of the Whole about statutory authority of the WRC over native species (white-tailed deer and elk) as public trust resources, the Commission approved temporary rulemaking presented in **Exhibit L-3**, pertaining to “farmed” cervids only as defined by NCGS 106-549.97.

Wildlife Management Rulemaking – the Commission approved staff recommendations for proposed changes in the following wildlife management rules for presentation at statewide public hearings and approved the fiscal note. (**Exhibits M-1, M-2**)

Deer

- 1) Create a Youth Deer Hunting Day to coincide with National Hunting and Fishing Day. On this day, youths under the age of 16 years would be able to use all legal weapons to hunt deer on both private lands and game lands. Youth do not need an accompanying adult. Adults can hunt with or without a youth, but are restricted to the legal weapon for the open season in that area. All hunters need to wear blaze orange on this day.
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
- 2) Extend the gun deer season in Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties until January 1. Currently this season closes on the 5th Saturday after Thanksgiving.
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)

Bear

- 1) Clarify in the Administrative Code that legal bait to take bears is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw components. Also clarify that bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of any processed food product, extracts of processed food products or any legal bait that has been modified by extracts or other substances.
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

Waterfowl

- 1) Eliminate the Gaddy Goose Refuge goose zone and designate this area as part of the Southern James Bay Hunt Zone.
15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory game birds
- 2) Allow the shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as a special sea duck area the Administrative Code.
15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory game birds

Trapping

- 1) Increase the number of days that the public has to tag bobcat, otters and foxes from the current 10 days to 30 days. Establish a time frame of 23 days after the close of the season for the Commission to mail tags to sportsmen.
15A NCAC 10B .0404 Trappers and hunters

Feral Swine

- 1) Allow hunters to use electronic calls to take feral swine.
15A NCAC 10B .0223 Feral swine

Water Safety Rulemaking - the Commission adopted rules for no wake zones:

No Wake Zone Adoption – Mountain Island Lake – the Commission reviewed public comments and adopted four no wake zones on Mountain Island Lake, presented in **Exhibit N**.

No Wake Zone Adoption – Perquimans County – the Commission reviewed public comments and adopted a no wake zone proposal by Perquimans County for an area on Bethel Creek, presented in **Exhibit O**.

Notice of Text Approval and Fiscal Note Approval – Currituck County – the Commission approved the fiscal note and approved recommendation to publish Notice of Text for a proposed no wake zone at Waterview Shores in Currituck County, presented in **Exhibits P-1 and P-2**.

2015 Meeting Schedule of the Wildlife Resources Commission – the Commission approved a schedule for 2015 meetings of the Wildlife Resources Commission, to be held at Commission Headquarters in Raleigh:

Thursday, January 29, 2015

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Comments – *Commissioner* Joe Barker congratulated Jim Wilson, Editor of *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine, for the national award given to the magazine. *Vice Chairman* John Litton Clark thanked staff and commissioners for their work in tackling recent tough issues.

Comments by the Executive Director – *Director* Gordon Myers thanks Commissioners for their active committee work. He announced that January 2015 will be a very busy month with state-wide public hearings and a WRC meeting at the end of the month. Myers noted the strong agency focus on education, outreach and marketing. He mentioned strategic recruitment and retention efforts, mentoring programs, agency branding, and organization alignment underway to reflect the educational and outreach focus. Myers called on Jenny Harris, *Marketing Director*, who announced a special native brook trout license plate that is available for sale. One hundred per cent of the proceeds from license sales will be used for habitat restoration and access.

Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.