



*Committee of the Whole Meeting Summary  
March 4, 2015 at 3:30 pm  
NCWRC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Room*

**Meeting Attendees**

• **Commissioners:**

Jim Cogdell  
John Coley  
Tommy Fonville  
Neal Hanks  
Ray Clifton  
Mark Craig

Joe Barker  
Tim Spear  
Brian White  
Richard Edwards  
Tom Berry  
David Hoyle, Jr.

• **Staff:**

Gordon Myers  
Betsy Haywood  
Erica Garner  
Todd Ewing  
Lisa Hocutt  
David Cobb  
Kerry Linehan  
David Sawyer  
Donnie Barefoot  
Shannon Deaton

Mallory Martin  
Erik Christofferson  
Bob Curry  
Kyle Briggs  
Dr. Maria Palamar  
Isaac Harrold  
Allison Nolker  
Allen Boynton  
Jeremy Harrill  
Carolina Medina

• **Visitors:**

Joe McClees – NC Sporting Dog Assn.  
Henri McClees – NC Sporting Dog Assn.  
Dr. Tom Ray  
Joe Hamilton – Quality Deer Mgt. Assn.  
Wooten Lamm – Congressional Sports Foundation  
Ned Jones – NC Trout Unlimited

Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation  
Tim Gestwicki – NC Wildlife Federation  
Hal Atkinson – Boone & Crockett Club  
Fred Harris – NC Wildlife Federation  
Karen Beck – NCDA & CS

Chairman Jim Cogdell called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 3:50 pm.

### **Wildlife Action Plan Revision Update**

Cindy Carr, *Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator*, gave an update about revisions to the Wildlife Action Plan. The Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) is a blueprint to inform and guide about nongame wildlife. Staff uses the WAP as a guide for seeking State Wildlife Grants to be used for priority species and habitats. Conservation partners use the WAP as a source of information to identify greatest needs in North Carolina. The WAP has no regulatory authority. It provides recommendations only and does not mandate action. Carr stated that an Executive Summary of the Wildlife Action Plan revision will be presented to the committee on May 20, 2015.

### **Draft CWD Response Plan**

The Committee received an update about revisions to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan from Dr. Maria Palamar, *Veterinarian*. Dr. Palamar explained that the CWD Response Plan is flexible. Revisions to the plan are made based on science with input from staff and the public. The WRC continues preventative measures to keep CWD out of the state through increasing public awareness, regulatory actions, and monitoring and surveillance of free-ranging deer. The CWD Response Plan will provide short-term guidance if CWD appears. It will provide response to unconfirmed positives and confirmed positives in free-ranging deer and in captive cervids.

*Executive Director* Gordon Myers reported that the WRC has aligned rulemaking with new laws regarding deer farming in North Carolina. The agency is working with deer farmers with the objective of allowing their business to grow while protecting white-tail deer and elk as public trust resources, prohibiting the importation of CWD by susceptible species, and prohibiting high fence hunting. Myers stated that a bill will likely be drafted to transfer oversight of the captive cervid program within the pens to the Department of Agriculture.

The committee received a report on behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation from Dr. Bob Brown, former Dean of Natural Resources at NCSU. Dr. Brown stated that the NCWF disagrees with the transfer of captive deer farming to the Department of Agriculture since it has resulted in problems in other states. The NCWF disagrees with issuance of new permits for deer pens until the current lawsuit is settled.

**Review of Comments from Public Hearings and Discussion of Rule Proposals for Consideration at March 5, 2015 Meeting**

Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, reviewed comments from state-wide public hearings and gave an overview of proposal wildlife management rules for consideration at the March 5 WRC meeting. Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, reviewed public comments and provided an overview of fisheries rules that will be considered for adoption at the March 5 WRC meeting. Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager*, reviewed public comments and rule proposals for game land management for consideration at the March 5 WRC meeting. Erica Garner, Rules Coordinator, reviewed public comments and proposals for no wake zones for consideration at the March 5 WRC meeting.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Jim Cogdell adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 5:15 pm.