



**Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Summary – July 15, 2015  
Commission Room, Raleigh NC**

In the absence of Chairman Cogdell, *Commission Vice Chairman* John Litton Clark called the meeting of the *Committee of the Whole* to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Attendees**

**Commissioners**

John Litton Clark  
Brian White  
Tim Spear  
Garry Spence  
Wes Seegars  
Mark Craig  
Ray Clifton  
Joe Budd

Neal Hanks  
Tommy Fonville  
John Coley  
Joe Barker  
David Hoyle, Jr.  
Tom Berry  
Richard Edwards

**Staff**

Mallory Martin  
Betsy Haywood  
Philip Lucas  
Kate Pipkin  
Chris Goudreau  
Colleen Olfenbuttel  
Carolina Medina  
Todd Ewing  
Scott Anderson  
David Sawyer  
David Cobb

Gordon Myers  
Jon Evans  
Cameron Ingram  
Cindy Carr  
Jon Shaw  
Kris Smith  
Christian Waters  
Christopher Serenari  
Margaret Martin  
Brad Howard

**Guests**

Joe McClees – McClees Consulting  
Fred Harris – NCWF  
John Crutchfield – Duke Energy  
Wilson Laney – USFWS  
Judith Ratcliffe – NC Natural Heritage

Henri McClees – McClees Consulting  
Nick Gould – NCSU  
Ann Somers – NWAC  
Harry LeGrand – NC Natural Heritage Program  
Sarah McRae - USFWS

## **State Wildlife Action Plan Update**

Cindy Carr, *Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator*, provided the Commissioners with an overview of draft revisions that are being made to the Wildlife Action Plan prior to approval by the Commission in August. Carr thanked *HNGES Chairman* Mark Craig for his thoughtful feedback about the draft content. She asked members of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee to introduce themselves and share their reviews of the WAP based on their areas of expertise. John Crutchfield, *NWAC Chair*, reviewed the freshwater fish section. Ann Somers reviewed the section on turtles, especially the bog turtle and box turtle. Harry LeGrand works with birds and taxa groups. He reviewed the habitats chapter. Sarah McRae focused on aquatic freshwater habitat and fish and mussel taxa. Wilson Laney reviewed migratory fish, status of the American eel, and pelagic birds. Carr provided a handout to the Commissioners with information about the Wildlife Action Plan. She noted that 41 percent of species in 2005 were of greatest conservation need. Through the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program the percentage of species of greatest conservation need has been reduced to 36 percent. Director Gordon Myers thanked HNGES Chair Mark Craig for his leadership and review of the document and thanked Cindy Carr for her efforts in the WAP revision.

## **Duke Progress Yadkin-Pee Dee FERC Relicense Agreement**

Chris Goudreau, *Fisheries Biologist*, provided an overview of the Duke Progress Yadkin-Pee Dee FERC Relicense Agreement. The relicensing process began in 2003. The 50-year license was issued this year. Lake Tillery and Blewett Falls are the focus of management and mitigation processes. Lake level fluctuation has been reduced, especially on Lake Tillery. Recreation upgrades such as a new boating access area and fishing area on Lake Tillery have been completed. There is a new access area at Blewett Falls. Land conveyances include two donations and three restrictive easements.

## **Permanent Rulemaking – No Wake Zone on Lake Wylie**

Kate Pipkin, *Rules Biologist*, reviewed a permanent rule to replace a temporary rule for no wake zones at Sadler Island on Lake Wylie. The area contains many safety hazards. Buoys were placed at the area on May 1, 2015. The Commission will vote on the permanent rule at tomorrow's meeting.

## **Deer Management Forum Recap**

The committee received a recap of nine state-wide deer management forums from David Sawyer, Brad Howard, Jonathan Shaw, and Chris Serenari. They shared biological data from a three-year analysis and discussed concerns about deer harvest with hunters. Hemorrhagic disease and a good mast had impacts in different areas in the state. The consensus was that deer seasons across the state may not be the best fit for the health of the populations, since peak breeding times vary widely in the state. The objective is to ensure that does are bred at the biologically correct time. Objectives for sex ratios for deer entering the rut were discussed. Consideration must be given to different habitats, but also balance desires of hunters.

### **Urban Bear Study Update**

Nick Gould provided an update of the Urban Bear Study, which is in its second year. Objectives include determining causes of mortality, travel corridors, movement and activity and reproduction parameters. The long-term study will provide educational strategies for adding bear habitat and for the more than 200 bear/human interactions in Asheville each year. Gould discussed the GPS collars that provide data every 15 minutes while the bears are inside Asheville. Twenty dens have been found with 40 percent inside the city limits. Seventeen females reproduced 45 cubs. Of the GPS collared bears there have been eight mortalities.

### **Eastern Carolina Houndsmen Update**

Terry Morris of the Eastern Carolina Houndsmen Alliance provided an update about the Alliance, which was formed to address deer dog problems. Private property owners are complaining about deer dog hunting on Weyerhaeuser property. Morris stated that the Alliance is working with Weyerhaeuser on a 26,000-acre tract for deer dog hunting. The organization seeks to work with the NCWRC and the General Assembly. They want to reach out to the deer dog “outlaw” hunters in hopes that Weyerhaeuser will continue to allow the use of their property for the sport. Morris stated that on August 29, 110 hunt clubs have been invited to a meeting at Morris’ house for discussion of the issues.

### **Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee Appointments**

Gordon Myers gave a brief overview of the six open seats on the NWAC Committee including an unexpired term. He has made his recommendations. The entire Commission will vote on the appointments at the July 16, 2015 meeting.

Myers distributed a draft public hearing schedule for January state-wide public hearings. The Commission will vote on the schedule at the August meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Vice Chairman Clark adjourned the meeting at 12:55.