



**MINUTES**  
**August 18, 2022**  
**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**

Chairman Monty Crump called the August 18, 2022, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

Commissioner Ray Clifton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner John Alexander gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. John Coley, Wes Seegars, Hayden Rogers, and Mike Alford were absent.

**COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE**

Monty Crump	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	Ray Clifton
Thomas Fonville	Mark Craig	Kelly Davis	Landon Zimmer
David Hoyle	Tom Berry	Tom Haislip	
Brad Stanback	Steve Windham	John Alexander	

**MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY**

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

## **MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2022 MEETING**

On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by John Alexander, the Minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

**Exhibit A** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. DP Singla, *Chief Financial Officer*, presented a status report in **EXHIBIT B** on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

**Exhibit B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**Boating Safety Committee Report – August 17, 2022** – *Ray Clifton, Vice-Chair*, reported that the Committee met on August 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to review eight rule proposals presented by Betsy Haywood, *No Wake Zone Coordinator*. These included final approval of one temporary rule, final adoption of one permanent rule, and request for notice of text for six proposed rules. The Boating Safety Committee endorsed all eight proposals for adoption by the Commission.

**Rules Committee Report – August 17, 2022** – *David Hoyle, Vice-Chair*, reported that the Committee met on August 17, 2022, at 9:20 a.m. and received an update on rules subject to legislative review. The first rule was hunting on game lands. No bill was introduced on this rule in the 2022 short session so the rule will become effective on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is the 31<sup>st</sup> legislative day. All 2022-2023 annual cycle game lands rules are scheduled to become effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. For the 2023 long session, the Committee currently has 48 rules subject to legislative review. These include the bear sanctuary and Jordan Game Land rules from the 2022-2023 annual rule cycle, and 46 inland fishing rules that were adopted to provide clarity to the regulated public on game and nongame fishing regulations in inland fishing waters and game fish requirements in coastal fishing waters. A temporary rule was adopted for Jordan Game Land that will be effective October 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure regulations are in place for the upcoming seasons. Finally, the emergency and temporary rule amendments prohibiting use of hunter harvested cervid excretions in the surveillance area were reviewed. The emergency rule will be presented for adoption during the August 18<sup>th</sup> WRC meeting and is necessary to have restrictions in place before the hunting season. Temporary rulemaking must happen concurrently. Additionally, the required rule changes to 10B .0201 from the Session Law regarding use and possession of deer excretions state-wide were presented and will also be recommended for notice of text during the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Land Acquisition and Property Committee Report – August 17, 2022** – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported that the Committee met on August 17, 2022, to review and endorsed five Phase I, as well as two Phase II land acquisition projects. Cumulatively, the Committee reviewed over 5,000 acres of land acquisition projects that will hopefully result in conservation ownership. Chairman Berry noted the recent land acquisition work in sending interest letters to 15 property owners in underserved regions of the state.

**Habitat, Nongame, Endangered Species Committee Report – August 17, 2022** – *Mark Craig, Chair*, reported that the Committee met on August 17, 2022, at 10:15 a.m. to review information on the Henslow's Sparrow and Atlantic Pigtoe conservation plans, presented by Dr. Sara Schweitzer, and comments received from the public, that will be voted on later in today's meeting. Comments were overwhelmingly supportive and required no changes to the plans. Dr. Schweitzer then presented the nomination packet for the expiring terms of Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee (NWAC) membership, which will also be presented for a vote today. Requests for re-appointment and nominations from the public were solicited from February 28 through April 30, 2022. The committee received five very informative presentations, beginning with Allison Medford's presentation on how the commission is preparing for the potential passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Rachael Hoch provided an update on the Statewide Safe Harbor Agreement and Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, which is expected to post to the Federal Register soon. Brena Jones and TR Russ presented on efforts to raise, restore, and reintroduce the Magnificent Ramshorn snail and the Roanoke Logperch. Sarah Finn presented on staff's work with volunteers to locate and count Diamondback Terrapins through a multi-agency partnership.

**Motion from the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee** –The committee reviewed the ballot for the four final nominees for the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award and on a motion by Committee Chairman Mark Craig and second by Steve Windham, The Commission approved the motion to recognize Jean Beasley as the 2022 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award.

**Finance Committee Report – August 17, 2022** – *Landon Zimmer, Chair*, reported that the Committee met on August 17, 2022. Internal Auditor Steve Chase presented changes to NC General Statute 143-746 Internal Auditing Required and 143-746 Council of Internal Auditing to update the Committee about additional monitoring and compliance requirements. Additionally, WRC Internal Audit Key Performance Indicators were presented and discussed. Lastly, the Fiscal Year 2023 WRC Internal Audit Plan was presented. The plan consists of three continuous monitoring projects, a review of the process flow for cooperative agreements, and a compliance review of the IT file backup policy. Chief Financial Officer Dr. DP Singla then presented a comparison between Fiscal Year 22 and Fiscal year 21 for periods ending June, highlighting both revenues and expenditures for the General and Capital Improvement funds. Staff was asked to add to this analysis and provide a comparison that includes Fiscal Year 2020 data. The Committee also reviewed the balances and Asset Allocation of the Endowment Fund as of June 2022. The Committee discussed the ratio of equity compared to fixed assets and would like to further discuss that topic at the next Committee meeting. The staff was tasked to add earning details in Bond Index Fund and Equity Index Fund for Endowment fund portfolio. Staff was also asked to provide information about forecasting future endowment fund needs at the October meeting.

**Committee of the Whole Report – August 17, 2022** – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reports that the Committee met on August 17, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. and began with the recognition of the upcoming retirement of Colonel Jon Evans and his remarkable career. Ashley Pekarul then gave a presentation on 10 proposed emergency, temporary and permanent rules, which will be voted on later in this meeting. Next, Casey Phillips presented on the Forest Optimization Project that we have been working on for the last 10 years. This impressive project will provide a 50-year road map to managing the timber on our lands to first maximize wildlife benefit and secondly optimize revenue. Christian Waters then presented the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and maps

that were negotiated between the WRC and MFC chairmen. On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Tom Berry, the Committee voted to approve the draft MOA and maps. Brad Howard quickly updated the Committee on the location of the new Chronic Wasting Disease positive deer, which was approximately ½ mile from the original positive. He also updated the Committee on an ongoing outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease in deer. The Committee then moved into closed session to discuss ongoing litigation.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Order of the Long Leaf Pine** – *Cam Ingram, Executive Director*, presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to *Gary Dail, Coastal Region Construction Supervisor*

**Check Presentation from Davidson’s Inc.** – *Bill Bennett, Davidson’s Senior Marketing Manager*, presented the Commission with a donation from Davidson’s for improvements to R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range

### **AGENCY SPOTLIGHT**

**Providing Access to Shooting Sports** – *Steve Bailey, Facilities Construction Engineer, and Josh Jernigan, Shooting Range Manager*, gave a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary spotlight titled Providing Access to Shooting Sports. The presentation focused on the Commission’s development of ranges to provide shooting sports opportunities to the public and the operation of the facilities.

### **CONSIDERATION**

**Consideration of Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee Appointments** – Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-335, on a motion by Mark Craig and second by Kelly Davis, the Commission approved of Michael Abney, Jeff Beane, Elaine Jordan, Dr. Michael Martin, Dr. Joe Poston to the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee, presented by *Cam Ingram (EXHIBIT C)*

**Exhibit C** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS**

**Phase II Land Acquisition** – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Steve Windham, the Commission approved the acquisition of the following properties presented by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2)*

- Dixie Creek Tract – Haywood County (**EXHIBIT D-1**)
- Gaskin Swamp – Bertie County (**EXHIBIT D-2**)

**EXHIBITS D-1, D-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **RULEMAKING**

**Emergency and Temporary Rulemaking for CWD** – On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission adopted an emergency rule and concurrently notice a temporary rule for use and collection of substances containing cervid excretion from CWD Surveillance Areas (**EXHIBIT E**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul, Regulatory Analyst*

**EXHIBIT E** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved the following staff recommendations in (**EXHIBITS F, G-1, G-2**)

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed changes to 15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take (**EXHIBIT F**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Notice of Text – 10I .0103 - .0105 Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed changes to 10I .0103-.0105 Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species, to modify species lists. Review and consider approval of fiscal notes for proposed rule (**EXHIBITS G-1, G-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**EXHIBITS F, G-1, G-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

On a motion by Steve Windham and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission reviewed public comments and approved the following staff recommendations in (**EXHIBITS H-2, I-2, J-2, K-2, L-2, and M-2**)

**Adoption – 10B Wildlife Management** – The Commission readopted various 10B Wildlife Management rules as part of the periodic review (**EXHIBITS H-1, H-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Adoption – 10C Inland Fishing** – The Commission readopted various 10C Wildlife Management rules as part of the periodic review (**EXHIBITS I-1, I-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Adoption – 10H .1510 Wildlife Control Technician Certification and Eligibility Requirements** – The Commission adopted Wildlife Control Technician Certification and Eligibility rule clarifying certification requirements and prohibited activities (**EXHIBITS J-1, J-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Adoption – 10B .0101 Importation of Wild Animals and Birds** – The Commission adopted amendments to 10B .0101 Importation of Wild Animals and Birds rule to provide clarity on the importation of domestically raised game birds, chukars, and Hungarian partridges (**EXHIBITS K-1, K-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Adoption – 10A .1502 Replacement Costs of Wildlife** – The Commission adopted 10A .1501 Replacement Costs rule establishing and updating costs for various mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish (**EXHIBITS L-1, L-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**Adoption – 10C .0208 Spawning Areas** – The Commission readopted 10C .0208 Spawning Areas, with amendments to remove specific prohibitions on the Linville River and Cape Fear River and prohibit fishing in the sloughs from March through May (**EXHIBITS M-1, M-2**) presented by *Ashley Pekrul*

**EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, I-1, I-2, J-1, J-2, K-1, K-1, L-1, L-2, M-1, and M-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING**

On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by Steve Windham, the Commission approved the following staff recommendations in (**EXHIBITS N-2, O-2, P-1, P-2, Q, R, S, T, and U**)

**Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County** – The Commission reviewed public comments and approved final adoption of temporary Rule text for Jinks Creek in the Town of Sunset Beach in Brunswick County in Jinks Creek, to mitigate navigation hazards until a dredging project there is completed this winter (**EXHIBITS N-1, N-2**) presented by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*

**Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County** – The Commission reviewed public comments and approved final adoption of permanent Rule text in the Town of Avon in Dare County, to extend the no-wake zone in Mill Creek into a small portion of Pamlico Sound to mitigate boating and water recreation hazards in the shallow waters with blind curves there presented (**EXHIBITS O-1, O-2**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County** - The Commission approved the Fiscal Note and publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0314 to extend the no-wake zone in the navigation channel in a portion of Bradley Creek in Wilmington (**EXHIBITS P-1, P-2**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0361 Wilkes County** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0361 to extend no-wake zones at Dam Site Park and to incorporate the entire cove where Smithey’s Creek Boat Ramp and ADA Fishing Area and Fort Hamby BAA are located, to incorporate into the NCAC the Safety Zone adjacent to the dam, and to replace vague text language and itemize descriptions and locations of existing no-wake zones and marked swim areas (**Exhibit Q**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0336 Northampton and Warren counties** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0336, to incorporate the

Odom Boating Access Area on the Roanoke River and the Stonehouse Timber Lodge Marina on Lake Gaston in Littleton (**EXHIBIT R**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0326 Pamlico County** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed technical changes to correct addresses and describe and provide addresses for boating access areas in Pamlico County (**EXHIBIT S**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0327 Montgomery County** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing for a proposed technical correction to add the address for the Old North State Marina on Badin Lake in New London (**EXHIBIT T**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0301 General Provisions** – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing for a technical correction to 15A NCAC 10F .0301(g), to remove language that limits the size of a Safety Zone to within 50 yards of a protected hydroelectric facility (**EXHIBIT U**) presented by *Betsy Haywood*

**EXHIBITS N-1, N-2, O-1, O-2, P-1, P-2, Q, R, S, T, and U** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **CONSERVATION PLANS**

On a motion by Mark Craig and second by John Alexander, the Commission approved final adoption of two Species Conservation Plans (**EXHIBITS V-1, V-2**) presented by *Dr. Sara Schweitzer, Assistant Chief, Wildlife Management Division*

- Henslow’s Sparrow (**EXHIBIT V-1**)
- Atlantic Pigtoe (**EXHIBIT V-2**)

**EXHIBITS V-1, V-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN** – Chairman Crump provided information on the upcoming Setzer Fish Hatchery Meeting and the next Commission Meeting, which will be held in Cherokee, NC.


**COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Executive Director Cameron Ingram recognized the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Digital Engagement for the national awards they recently received. Mike Zlotnicki, *Associate Editor* of the *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine was recognized by the Outdoor Writers Association of America as a winner of their Excellence in Craft Contest for an article he wrote that appeared in last year’s September/October issue. At the recent Association for Conservation Information National Conference, the magazine won first place for “Survival Skills for Kids” in the general interest article category, our “Are You

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a Birder?" video won first place in the best use of humor category, and the agency's N.C. Wildlife Update constituent newsletter won second place in the external newsletter category. These accolades are well-deserved, and the Wildlife Resources Commission is fortunate to have such a skilled team working on our communications, marketing, and digital engagement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

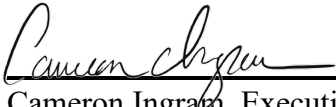


Monty Crump, Chairman

10/20/2022

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Date



Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

10/20/2022

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Date