



*Committee of the Whole Meeting Summary
May 21, 2014 at 4:25 pm
NCWRC, 5th Floor Commission Room*

Meeting Attendees

• **Commissioners:**

Joe Barker
Wes Seegars
Garry Spence
John Litton Clark
Dell Murphy
Tom Berry

Jim Cogdell
Joe Budd
Neal Hanks
Mark Craig
Nat Harris
Brian White

• **Staff:**

Dr. Maria Palamar
Erik Christofferson
Gordon Myers
Kate Pipkin
Ryan Myers
Brandon Sherrill
Isaac Harrold
Chris Dillon

Bob Curry
Betsy Haywood
David Cobb
Brad Howard
David Sawyer
Mark Jones
Lisa Hocutt

• **Visitors:**

Joe McClees – NC Sporting Dogs Assoc.
Pete Benjamin – US Fish & Wildlife Svc.
Jim Burnette – NC Dept. of Agriculture & CS
Leo Miranda - USFWS

Henri McClees – NC Sporting Dogs
Peter Letteny – Duke Univ. School of Law
Jett Ferebee

Chairman Jim Cogdell called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 4:25 pm.

- Declaration of Moles as Pests in N.C. – the Committee of the Whole received an update from Jim Burnette of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, about the Pesticide Board's request to be able to use pesticides to control hairy-tailed moles and eastern moles. The request does not include the star nose mole. North Carolina is the only state that does not register any pesticide to control moles.

- The committee reviewed proposed temporary rulemaking to implement a preliminary injunction on coyote hunting and to comply with a court order to address coyotes in five counties where there is an experimental red wolf population. The court order does not allow tools to address the coyote depredation in the five-county area. The committee instructed Executive Director Gordon Myers to formally write the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to request an immediate review of the red wolf program. Farm owner Jett Ferebee reported to the committee about the decimation of wildlife from coyote depredation on his eastern North Carolina farm. Leo Miranda of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressed the committee. He referenced an agreement for coyote management that was signed last year by Gordon Myers and Cindy Dohner of the USFWS. The agreement cannot be upheld because of the injunction. The USFWS continues to have concerns about coyote night hunting in the area where there are red wolves but do not want to jeopardize the partnership with the State and with stakeholders.
- The committee reviewed proposals for temporary rulemaking for still hunting zones on game lands. Comments received at the April 22, 2014 public hearing were overwhelmingly opposed to “still hunting zones.” Staff recommends changing the description in the proposed temporary rule to “restricted deer hunting zone” and removing bear hunting from the restricted designation. On Bladen Lakes Game Land the designation would stop hunting deer with hounds south of the red line shown on the exhibit. The temporary rule allows for regulation at Bladen Lakes Game Land, and does not give the WRC authority to impose the restricted deer hunting zone elsewhere without due process.
- Discussion was held about reciprocal hunting license fees for non-residents from neighboring states. The committee endorsed proceeding with establishing reciprocal hunting license fees for non-residents. It is anticipated that the change will bring \$1.7 million in revenue.
- Placement of processed food products in areas with a bear hunting season was discussed. Two standing resolutions pertaining to the use of mineral blocks for deer and the use of processed food to feed raccoons were discussed for possible revision in July as a result of the new deer season that is being established in the Piedmont concurrently with the bear season.
- Exhibit D, temporary rulemaking for coyotes in the 5-county area, was reviewed. There will be a 30-day comment period and one local public hearing at a location to be determined. The temporary rule will be in effect for 270 days unless the judge rescinds the injunction. If so the temporary rule will expire.
- Motion to Go Into Closed Session – Commissioner John Litton Clark made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose of receiving legal advice from Counsel on a lawsuit: Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of the Red Wolf Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, and Animal Welfare Institute v. NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
- The Committee of the Whole then moved into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss pending litigation with Counsel. The closed session returned to open session and adjourned at 7:31 pm.