

**EXHIBIT A**  
**August 18, 2022**



**MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2022**  
**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**

Chairman Monty Crump called the July 14, 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 Kelly Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Landon Zimmer and Mike Alford were absent.

**COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE**

Monty Crump	John Coley	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	J.C. Cole
Thomas Fonville	Mark Craig	Ray Clifton	Hayden Rogers	
David Hoyle	Tom Berry	Kelly Davis	John Alexander	
Wes Seegars	Brad Stanback	Steve Windham	Tom Haislip	

**VISITORS**

Spencer Hodges – Neuse Sport Shop  
Elsa Vue and Family  
Hal Atkinson

## **MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY**

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

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

On a motion by John Coley and second by Wes Seegars, the Minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

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

## **MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2022 MEETING**

On a motion by John Coley and second by Wes Seegars, the Minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

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

## **MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2022 MEETING**

On a motion by John Coley and second by Wes Seegars, the Minutes of the June 28, 2022 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT C**.

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

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **RECOGNITION OF 2022 NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK LICENSE WINNERS – *Chairman Crump***

Elsa Vue was presented with a Lifetime Unified Sportsman License donated by Neuse Sport Shop represented by Spencer Hodges. The Commission also announced Carson Gates as the winner of a Lifetime Comprehensive Inland Fishing License donated by the NC Council of Trout Unlimited. Both winners were drawn from youth participants at fishing events held during the 2022 National Fishing and Boating Week.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**Executive Committee Report – July 13, 2022 – *Monty Crump, Chair***, reported the Executive Committee met on July 13 at 8 am and adjourned into a closed session after opening the meeting to review Executive Director's 2021/2022 performance evaluation under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). After returning to open session, the meeting was adjourned.

**Land Acquisition and Property Committee Report – July 13, 2022 – *Tom Berry, Chair***, reported the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on July 13, 2022. The Committee reviewed and endorsed five Phase I, as well as three Phase II land acquisition projects.

Cumulatively, the Committee reviewed over 10,000 acres of NCWRC, and partner, land acquisition projects that will hopefully result in conservation ownership. One easement request was discussed and denied by the Committee. The 2023-2024 Land and Water Access Rule Proposals were introduced to the Land Acquisition and Property Committee. Chairman Berry noted the recent work in pursuing land in underserved regions of the state. Staff plan to send outreach letters to the 16 landowners that were identified in the “New Game Land Study.”

**Education and Communication Committee Report – July 13, 2022** – *Kelly Davis, Chair*, reported the Education and Communication Committee met on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Wildlife Education Division Chief Travis Casper gave an update on his team’s progress. This presentation included survey results on why hunter education graduates are not purchasing licenses. Three barriers were identified: lack of time, lack of access, and lack of mentors, and the team has already begun addressing these barriers through several initiatives. An update on the Pathway to Wildlife Relevancy Project was delivered with an overview of the new division structure for operational efficiencies. The Office of Communication, Marketing, and Digital Engagement’s Director Fairley Mahlum, presented an update on efforts to reduce expenditures and increase revenues for Wildlife in North Carolina magazine, including a significant reduction in the deficit. Digital Marketing Manager Jamie Hall provided an update on the agency’s website, including a recent content management system update that will result in an annual cost savings of \$58,000. He also provided information about a corporate partnership that will be leveraged in several marketing campaigns to generate license sales and magazine subscriptions.

**Fisheries Committee Report – July 13, 2022** – *John Stone, Chair*, reported the Fisheries Committee met on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief, presented 10 fisheries proposals for initial consideration for the 2023-2024 annual cycle. Kelsey Roberts, Piedmont Fisheries Research Coordinator, provided an overview of White Bass populations in North Carolina and an update on a research project focusing on the behaviors and triggers for spawning migrations of White Bass in tributaries of Falls of the Neuse Reservoir. Ben Ricks, Coastal Fisheries Supervisor, presented an update on annual monitoring efforts conducted by fisheries staff for river herring in reference tributaries of the Chowan, Tar, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers. Jamie Hall, WRC Digital Marketing Director, provided an overview of the Better Fishing with 2 Bald Biologists podcast hosted by Corey Oakley and Ben Ricks.

**Big Game Committee Report – July 13, 2022** – *David Hoyle, Chair*, reported the Big Game Committee met on Wednesday, July 13. The Committee received a presentation from Mikiah Carver, a Ph.D. student from NC State, who is working on the current deer study that is well underway. James Tomberlin, Mountain Region Supervisor, updated the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the CWD Response Plan. Colleen Olfenbuttel, Bear and Furbearer Biologist, updated the Commission on the submission rates of the mandatory bear tooth submission. Submission rates have improved significantly from previous years. Staff will continue to educate bear hunters on the new requirement, and the agency can anticipate hunters will continue to improve their compliance rates. Wildlife Management Division Chief Brad Howard shared two rule proposals up for discussion the 2023-2024 annual cycle. One will increase either-sex seasons in several counties in the Northwest and Western deer seasons.

**Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – July 13, 2022** – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported that the Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee met on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Hannah Plumpton, Upland Game Bird Biologist, started the meeting with an update on the 2022 wild turkey harvest. While

the total harvest fell over the past two years, our harvest remains above the long-term average and ahead of the pre-Covid numbers. Brad Howard gave an update to the Committee on trapping rule proposals that are under consideration for the upcoming rule cycle. Colleen Olfenbittel, Bear and Furbearer Biologist, gave a presentation on the furbearer management program and furbearer species. Hannah Plumpton discussed predation management and specifically focused on nest predator trapping and the benefits to quail.

The Committee received and approved the staff's recommendations for the recipients of this year's Lawrence G. Deidrick Small Game Award. Kathryn Booher, nominee for the 2022 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award, was nominated by a constituent and is an excellent candidate for the award. The Wake County Wildlife Club, nominee for the group award, commits significant resources to educate the public and youth about wildlife and to further the cause of wildlife conservation.

**Motion from Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee** – On a motion by Chair Jim Ruffin and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved a motion to approve Kathryn Booher as the Individual recipient and the Wake County Wildlife Club as our group recipient for the Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award for 2022.

**Committee of the Whole Report – July 13, 2022** – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reports that the Committee of the Whole met on July 13 at 3:45 pm. The meeting began with a presentation from Ducks Unlimited on their Ecology, Conservation, and Management Certification Program. After the presentation, the committee voted to provide a letter expressing support for the program to the Department of Public Instruction. Brad Howard presented 3 potential rule proposals for Wildlife Conservation Areas and Alligator Control Agents. Cindy Simpson presented Addendum 2 to the Wildlife Action Plan, which adds plant species of greatest conservation need. This major revision received an overwhelmingly positive response and the committee voted unanimously to write a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service stating our strong endorsement of the revision. Travis Wilson presented extensive efforts of staff in conjunction with the NC Department of Transportation and other partners to create wildlife crossings on state roadways. Staff is working to formalize our partnership with DOT in an agreement. Due to time constraints, Chair Crump postponed the scheduled legal update until August and recognized all the work Commissioner Davis, Deputy Director Hocutt, and staff has accomplished towards meeting the charge given them to improve our communications and educational efforts. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

### **AGENCY SPOTLIGHT**

**75 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFF THE PAVEMENT**– *Captain Jeremy Harrill* gave a presentation entitled 75 years of Law Enforcement Off the Pavement. The presentation focused on the law enforcement role in the agency's mission of conservation and public safety since the very first "bird and game wardens" were hired in NC. This 75th anniversary spotlight focused on the role of the NC's wildlife law enforcement officers, the "tools of the trade", officer hiring, selection and training, and how these things have changed over time. The presentation also honored the 11 wildlife officers who have died in the line of duty throughout our history.

## **LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS**

**Phase II Land Acquisition** – On a motion by John Alexander and second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the acquisition of the following properties presented by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager* (**EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E3**)

- Burkemont Tracts – Burke County (**EXHIBIT E-1**)
- Beach Tract – Swain County (**EXHIBIT E-2**)
- Green River Game Land Addition – Polk and Henderson County (**EXHIBIT E-3**)

**Exhibits E-1, E-2, E-3** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Other Property Matters** – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission denied the easement request of the following presented by *Ben Solomon* (**EXHIBIT F**)

- Smith Fish Farm Easement Request – Pender County (**EXHIBIT F**)

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

**OCTOBER 2022 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION LOCATION CHANGE** – On a motion by Hayden Rogers and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission approved a change of location for the October 2022 WRC meetings from in Raleigh to in Cherokee presented by *Cameron Ingram, Director* (**EXHIBIT G**)

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

## **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Crump expressed his appreciation for the productive committee meetings held yesterday and thanked the board and staff for all their hard work.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

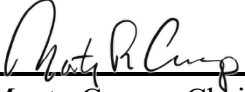
Executive Director Ingram opened his comments by thanking everyone for their commitment as he reflected on the agency's past accomplishments and priorities for the upcoming year. He also shared that framed and hanging in Commission Room opposite of the original 1983 print is the 40<sup>th</sup> and final edition duck print drawn by artist Ron Louque. In closing, Director Ingram announced Commissioner Seegars was selected for The Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Award, 2022 Sportsman of the Year Award.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

**NCWRC Meeting**  
**July 14, 2022**  
**Minutes**

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

  
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Monty Crump, Chairman 08/18/2022  
Date

  
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Cameron Ingram, Executive Director 08/18/2022  
Date