



ACTIONS
TELEPHONIC MEETING
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
April 21, 2015 9:00 am
Commission Room 5th Floor
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

CALL TO ORDER –*Chairman* Jim Cogdell called the telephonic meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission to order at 9:00 am. A speaker phone was available for visitors to hear the proceedings. No visitors were present in the room.

ROLL CALL – Betsy Haywood, *Executive Officer*, called the roll. Commissioners John Coley and Tommy Fonville were present in person. Commissioners David Hoyle, Jr., Garry Spence, and Michell Hicks were absent.

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

Jim Cogdell	Brian White
Joe Barker	Wes Seegars
John Litton Clark	Nat Harris
Joe Budd	Neal Hanks
Ray Clifton	Mark Craig
Richard Edwards	John Coley
Tommy Fonville	Tom Berry
Tim Spear	

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Gordon Myers	Mallory Martin
Betsy Haywood	Erica Garner
Bob Curry	David Cobb
Lisa Hocutt	Ashton Godwin
Kris Smith	

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS – Betsy Haywood read the statute pertaining to an electronic meeting of a public body:

North Carolina General Statute 143-318.13 mandates that if a public body holds an official meeting by use of conference telephone or other electronic means, it shall provide a location and means whereby members of the public may listen to the meeting and the notice of the meeting required by this Article shall specify that location. A public body may not vote by secret or written ballot. The members of a public body shall not deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action upon any matter by reference to a letter, number or other designation, or other secret device or method, with the intention of making it impossible for persons attending a meeting of the public body to understand what is being deliberated, voted, or acted upon.

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Betsy Haywood read the mandatory ethics inquiry:

North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same.

RESOLUTION

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, introduced a Resolution supporting the Outdoor Heritage Act (House Bill 640) of the 2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Myers stated that the Resolution is an affirmation of WRC support of proposed legislation sponsored by Representative Jimmy Dixon for preserving and enhancing outdoor heritage for the future. The Outdoor Heritage Act aligns with the agency's Strategic Plan for investments in recruitment and retention of youth and adults for enjoyment of the outdoors, providing access to lands and waterways, and expanding opportunities for people to enjoy outdoor sports and recreation.

Myers stated that a significant part of HB640 is to allow hunting on Sunday on private lands. Additional opportunities for hunting would be open to youth and to adults who work on week days. He stated that this legislation would prohibit hunting deer with hounds on private land on Sunday. Myers discussed the compensatory days for waterfowl hunting currently provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to prohibition on Sunday hunting in North Carolina. The USFWS position now is that hunting any migratory bird, not just waterfowl, will cause a loss of compensatory days. Myers will meet with the Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. next week. If the USFWS remains unwilling to allow compensatory days the bill sponsor will change the statute to include a prohibition against hunting any migratory birds on Sunday on private lands.

Commissioner Tim Spear stated that twenty-five counties oppose the Sunday hunting portion of HB 640, including the northeastern counties of the state. Spear believes that the Resolution should place greater emphasis on other important components of HB640 instead of focusing on Sunday hunting on private lands. Myers stated that he recognizes the controversy surrounding Sunday hunting and appreciates Commissioner Spear's comments.

Commissioner Neal Hanks stated that constituents have asked why hunting on Sunday on public land is not under consideration. Hanks said that there are more hunting opportunities on public lands in the mountains. Vice Chairman John Clark replied that allowing hunting on Sunday on private lands is an issue of private property rights.

On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Joe Barker, the Resolution was adopted. Commissioner Tim Spear voted no.

The Resolution is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Executive Director Gordon Myers provided a legislative update. He stated that Senate Bill 647, a trapping bill, will be considered on April 22. Myers stated that several years ago the use of Conibear traps was controversial. SB 647 prohibits certain uses of body-gripping traps. He will continue to work with the Legislature regarding this bill.

Myers told the Commission about House Bill 736, North Carolina American Indian Hunting and Fishing Rights. The bill would allow any federally recognized American Indian to hunt and fish without purchasing a North Carolina license. The economic impact has been estimated to be at least \$170,000.00 in lost license sales and fewer federal funds allocated.

Myers reported about the Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, a provision of which would limit Wildlife Enforcement Officers' authority while making inspections. Under this Act an officer would not be allowed to inspect equipment used in hunting or fishing without reasonable suspicion of a crime. Myers stated that this restriction would be detrimental to the WRC mission for protection and safety of the resources and license holders.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cogdell adjourned the telephonic meeting at 9:35 am.