



**ACTIONS**  
**N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**January 29, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**NC Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters**  
**1751 Varsity Drive**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Call to Order** – *Commission Chairman* Jim Cogdell called the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor. He reminded everyone that the meeting audio is being streamed live and will be available on the Wildlife Resources Commission website. He requested that all in the room silence their electronic devices. Commissioners Michell Hicks and Nat Harris were absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – *Commissioner* Tommy Fonville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation** - *Commissioner* Neal Hanks gave the invocation.

**Mandatory Ethics Inquiry** - Chairman Cogdell read the ethics inquiry mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e).

**Welcome** – Chairman Cogdell welcomed Commissioners and guests.

**Approval of Minutes** - the Commission approved the October 30, 2014 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

**Approval of Teleconference Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2014** – the Commission approved the minutes of the teleconference meeting of the NCWRC on December 9, 2014 as presented in **Exhibit B**.

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission Actions**  
**January 29, 2015**

**Financial Status Report** - the Commission received a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2014 from Cecilia Edgar, *Budget Director*, presented in **Exhibit C**. The Operating Fund balance was \$19,269,718.25. The Endowment Fund balance was \$112,458,491.62. Expendable interest was \$20,322,127.

**Land Use and Access Committee Meeting Report** – *Committee Chairman* Tom Berry reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met on January 28, 2015. The Committee reviewed five Phase I land acquisitions and seven Phase II acquisitions. The Committee charged staff with reviewing five recent acquisitions to compare actual costs with the estimated stewardship costs. The Committee discussed the proposed project at Texas Plantation. Ducks Unlimited will make a matching commitment to enhance the project. Other discussion included a suggestion to create a map of the counties showing locations of shooting ranges to investigate where others are needed. A request was made to show an inventory of nongame species on land acquisition forms. Chairman Berry stated that conservation partners have made a commitment to purchase more than 500 acres for elk habitat.

**Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Meeting Report – January 7, 2015 in Greensboro** - *Committee Chairman* Mark Craig reported that the HNGES Committee met in Greensboro on January 7, 2015. The committee received an update on the Wildlife Action Plan. A full report and update about state listings will be given in March.

**Joint Meeting of HNGES and Big Game Committees Report – January 28, 2015 in Raleigh** – *HNGES Committee Chairman* Mark Craig reported that the HNGES and Big Game Committees met jointly on January 28, 2015. Staff presented a summary of a Dwarf Wedgemussel Augmentation proposal. The Committee authorized staff to proceed with the proposal. *Big Game Committee Chairman* David Hoyle, Jr. reported that RTI International presented a summary of the final report for the Evaluation of the Feasibility of Establishing a Hunttable Elk Population in North Carolina, prepared for the Commission by RTI International.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Report** – *Executive Director* Gordon Myers reported that the Committee of the Whole met on January 28, 2014. The Committee reviewed comments from public hearings about rules proposals for adoption in March. The COW received a Boating Safety report from Colonel Jon Evans. The COW reviewed a request from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission for no wake zone rules on Lake Wylie.

The Committee of the Whole moved into closed session under NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) to receive legal advice from agency and assigned counsel on three lawsuits.

The Committee of the Whole returned to open session. The COW received an update from Law Enforcement about Operation Something Bruin. A work group will be established for legislative issues associated with the management of captive cervids.

**Presentation of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine** – Director Gordon Myers introduced the recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Robbie Norville. Norville is a 32-year employee of the Wildlife Resources Commission and has worked as the Coastal Region Supervisor. Mary Jean Pugh, *Interim Assistant Secretary of DENR*, presented the award to Robbie Norville.

**Agency Spotlight – The Nongame Propagation Program at the Conservation Aquaculture Center** – the Commission received a spotlight about the activities at the Conservation Aquaculture Center at the Marion Fish Hatchery by Rachael Hoch, *Conservation Aquaculture Biologist*. Hoch stated that the Center is propagating freshwater mussels to strengthen declining populations of some species. The Center partners with other agencies and works with landowners to promote delisting or avoid listing of some aquatic species.

**Fisheries Update** – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry stated that the decline of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River has resulted in a decrease in allowable catch from 550,000 to 275,000 pounds per year. He announced that upcoming events of interest to the Commission include the Dixie Deer Classic and the East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival.

**Wildlife Management Update** – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Wildlife Management Division from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. Cobb announced that 70,355 hunters received the ebear stamp and 24,000 purchased the stamp. 2500 of the sales were to non-resident hunters. As of January 28, 2015, 2084 bears had been taken. Because of the good mast this year bears in the mountains did not move, resulting in a decrease in take of mountain bears. Staff is involved with skill-based workshops with the Hunting Heritage Program. Cobb stated that Cherokee biologists are monitoring the health of 17 deer that have been moved to Cherokee properties from Morrow Mountain. Nine GPS collars have been placed on elk. Cobb stated that the deer harvest will be down approximately 10 percent because of the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak across the state. Cobb announced that the Upland Gazette will be inserted into the spring and fall magazine guides.

**CURE Program and Wildlife Conservation Lands Program Updates** – the Commission received the 2012-2014 biennial report on the Cooperative Upland habitat Restoration and Enhancement Program(CURE) from Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit D**. Cobb reported that the CURE program continues in Rowland, Turnersburg and in the northeastern part of the state. The Wildlife Conservation Lands Program provides property tax benefits for management of certain species.

**Summary of Public Comments and Temporary Rule Adoption for Management of Captive Cervids** – the Commission received in **Exhibit E-1** a summary of public comments pertaining to a temporary rule adoption for the management of captive cervids. The Commission adopted temporary rules for management of captive cervids to implement the directives to the Commission in Section 14.26 of S. L. 2014-100.

**Summary of Public Comments and Temporary Rule Adoption for Coyote Hunting and Taking Depredating Coyotes in Five Counties, and for Designating the Red Wolf as State-Listed Threatened Species** – the Commission received **Exhibit F-1**, a summary of public comments on proposed temporary rulemaking for coyote hunting and for taking depredating coyotes in Dare, Tyrrell, Washington, Beaufort and Hyde Counties, and for designating the red wolf as a state-listed threatened species. The Commission adopted those temporary rules as presented in **Exhibit F-2**.

**Phase I Potential Land Acquisitions** – the Commission approved the presentation by Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager*, in **Exhibits G-1 through G-5**, authorizing staff to work with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the following properties:

- Gibson Tract – Scotland County
- Poplin Tract – Richmond County
- Max Lake Tract – Richmond County
- North Toe River Penland Fishing Access Area Tract – Mitchell County
- North Toe River Wolf Song Ridge Fishing Access Area Tract – Yancey County

**Phase II Land Acquisitions** – the Commission gave final approval to proceed with acquisitions of the following properties presented in **Exhibits H-1 through H-7**:

- Allen Tract – Swain County
- Blackburn Tract – Wilkes County
- Tracy Tract – Ashe County
- Davis Tract – Buncombe County
- Godwin II Tract – Pender County
- Goodwin Tract – Scotland County
- Watson-Old Man’s Bog Tract – Alleghany County

**Temporary Rulemaking – Lake Wylie** – the Commission adopted a request from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission, presented in **Exhibit I** by Kate Pipkin, *No Wake Zone Coordinator*, for temporary rulemaking to establish two no wake zones near Sadler Island east and Sadler Island west in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties.

**Comments by the Chairman**- Chairman Cogdell thanked staff for their efforts in presenting public hearings across the state. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of Law Enforcement. He thanked Commissioners for their dedication in attending public hearings. Chairman Cogdell announced the importance of Commissioners’ contacting Legislators about wildlife issues during the session that begins January 28, 2015.

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission Actions  
January 29, 2015**

**Comments by the Executive Director** – Director Gordon Myers thanked staff and Commissioners for their attendance at public hearings. He noted there were many comments of great concern about the health of the deer herd. Myers stated that state-wide public meetings will be held about the white-tail deer herd. Myers reminded Commissioners about the Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus on February 3, 2015, with discussion about issues the legislators want to address. Agency staff will set up tables to display some of the activities and related issues of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

**Resolution Requesting the USFWS Declare the Red Wolf Extinct in the Wild and Terminate the Red Wolf Reintroduction Program in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington Counties, North Carolina** – as a result of discussion by the Committee of the Whole, Director Myers read a resolution asking that the US Fish and Wildlife Service declare the red wolf extinct in the wild and requesting termination of the Red Wolf Reintroduction Program in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Resolution Requesting that the USFWS Remove Red Wolves Released onto Private Lands in the Red Wolf Recovery Area Located in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties, North Carolina** – on behalf of the Wildlife Resources Commission Director Myers read a resolution asking the US Fish and Wildlife Service to capture and remove red wolves and their offspring from private lands in the five-county area. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Cogdell adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am.