



ACTIONS
TELEPHONIC MEETING
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 18, 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.

ROLL CALL – Betsy Haywood, *Executive Officer*, called the roll and announced staff and visitors present in the room. Commissioner John Coley was present in person. Commissioners Brian White, John Litton Clark, Michell Hicks, Richard Edwards, Joe Budd, and Ray Clifton were absent.

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

Jim Cogdell	Nat Harris
Tom Berry	Joe Barker
Wes Seegars	Neal Hanks
Mark Craig	Tommy Fonville
David Hoyle, Jr.	Garry Spence
Tim Spear	John Coley

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Gordon Myers	Mallory Martin
Betsy Haywood	Erica Garner
Chris Huebner	Isaac Harrold
Geoff Cantrell	Carolina Medina
Kate Pipkin	

VISITOR ATTENDANCE

Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS – Jim Cogdell, *Chairman*, 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

Chairman Cogdell 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.

TEMPORARY RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking for No Wake Zones on Lake Wylie

Erica Garner, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, informed the Commissioners that they received comments and adopted the temporary rule for no wake zones on Lake Wylie at the March 5, 2015 meeting. However, a technical correction by the Office of Administrative Hearings concerning the length of the open comment period requires that the Commission again consider this temporary rule for a vote.

Garner presented **Exhibit A-1**, a summary of comments and correspondence from a public hearing to consider temporary rulemaking for no wake zones on Lake Wylie in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties. On a motion by John Coley and second by Tom Berry, the Commission adopted **Exhibit A-2**, temporary rulemaking for two no wake zones at Sadler Island on Lake Wylie.

Exhibits A-1 and A-2, Temporary Rulemaking for Lake Wylie, are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

PERMANENT RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking for Taking Coyotes by Hunting and Depredation Permit in Five Counties, and for Designating the Red Wolf as a State-Listed Threatened Species

Erica Garner presented **Exhibit B-1**, a summary of public comments and correspondence concerning permanent rulemaking for taking coyotes by hunting and depredation permit in Washington, Hyde, Beaufort, Dare, and Tyrrell counties; and for designating the red wolf as a state-listed threatened species. These permanent rules are necessary to fulfill requirements of a court order, 2:13-cv-00060-BO, and will replace temporary rules adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission on January 29, 2015.

Prior to consideration of the permanent rules presented in **Exhibit B-2** Executive Director Gordon Myers addressed the Commission. Myers stated that he met in Nebraska with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Assistant Secretary of the Interior to discuss the red wolf program. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior and USFWS have agreed to not release any more wolves onto the landscape. On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Nat Harris, the Commission adopted the permanent rules. **Exhibit B-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Executive Director Gordon Myers provided a legislative update.

Executive Director Gordon Myers reported that Representative Jimmy Dixon invited twenty-six stakeholder groups including the Christian Action League, fox hunters, the WRC and others to a meeting to gather information about preserving and enhancing outdoor heritage for the future. Representative Dixon has asked for suggestions for three or four ideas for legislation. Myers stated that the WRC will suggest seven-day hunting, reduction of liability for private landowners to open property to the public, and establishment of an Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council to advocate for future legislation.

Myers reported that there has been no action on the budget.

Myers stated that the agency has been working for several weeks with the NC Department of Agriculture about a possible bill to transfer management of farmed cervids to Agriculture. Both agencies have agreed that if transferred, WRC will retain inspection authority. Myers stated that high fence hunting will be prohibited.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cogdell adjourned the telephonic meeting at 9:30 am.