



ACTIONS

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters
Raleigh, North Carolina

Meeting - Commission Chairman Wes Seegars called the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters, Raleigh, NC.

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

Minutes – the Commission approved the February 11, 2009 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

Financial Status Report – the Commission received a financial status report as of January 31, 2008 for the Wildlife Operating Fund, which has a balance of \$14,894,362.43, and the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which has a balance of \$69,306,918.87, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, presented in **Exhibit B**.

Remarks by Senator John Snow – the Commission received remarks from Senator John Snow encouraging support of a proposed Senate bill that would clarify authority of wildlife enforcement officers to initiate traffic stops in the interest of public safety.

Boating Access Area, Alamance County – the Commission approved staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit C** by Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, to enter into an agreement with Alamance County for construction of a boating access area at Saxapahaw on the Haw River.

Easement Request, Hyde County – the Commission approved staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit D** by Erik Christofferson to grant an easement to Hyde County at the Englehard Boating Access Area for an underground waste water pipeline.

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Property Acquisitions – the Commission adopted staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit E** by Dr. David Cobb, Wildlife Management Division Chief, to work with the State Property Office for the acquisition of the following tracts for inclusion into the Game Land Program:

- Fitch Tract – Caswell County
- Hogan Tract – Richmond County

Right of Way Request, Pender County – the Commission adopted staff recommendation presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit F** to grant a right of way to Four County Electric Membership Corporation on the Canetuck Tract of Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land, for the installation of power poles.

Land Acquisitions Staff Update – the Commission received a regular staff update from Dr. Cobb on the status of land acquisitions, presented in **Exhibit G**.

Waterfowl Field Sanctuary Program- the Commission voted to continue the Waterfowl Field Sanctuary Program for 2009-2010 at the Black Rock Farm in Bertie County, at a cost of \$7200.00.

Changes in the 2009-2010 Hunting and Trapping Rules – the Commission took action on the following proposed changes in the 2009-2010 hunting and trapping regulations presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit I**.

The Commission adopted the following proposals as presented in Exhibit I.

H1) Require persons harvesting deer through the Deer Management Assistance Program to use tags provided by the Commission and report their harvests, whether those deer are antlerless or antlered. Allow harvest of deer on DMAP areas under the big game harvest report card and the bonus antlerless deer harvest report card, where applicable.

15A NCAC 10B .0113 Big Game Kill Reports

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

H2) Change the description of where bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards may be used from “private lands” to “lands other than those enrolled in the Commission’s Game Land Program” in order to permit the use of these cards on military installations, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands that are NOT game lands.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

H3) Remove the daily bag limit for deer.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

H4) Allow hunters to use archery equipment to harvest deer during the muzzleloading firearms season on game lands.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

H5) Shorten the bow season by one week and open the muzzleloader season one week earlier to create a two week muzzleloader season.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

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H9) Assign all of Moore County to the Eastern Deer Season.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 White-tailed Deer

H10) Allow bear hunting on the Daniel Boone bear sanctuary by permit only.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

H11) Add the western portions of Northampton and Halifax counties to the bear season currently open in the eastern part of those counties.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

H12) Change the bear season in Pamlico County to open on the second Monday in November and close on January 1.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

H13) Eliminate the winter either-sex turkey season.

15A NCAC 10B .0209 Wild Turkey

H16) Remove permit requirements for youth hunting on Youth Turkey Day on these game lands: Croatan, Holly Shelter, North River and Van Swamp.

15A NCAC 10B .0209 Wild Turkey

H17) Open wild boar season on the Monday on or nearest September 10 and end it on the last day of February. Allow hunting wild boar with dogs only during open bear season and never on bear sanctuaries. Allow wild boar to be taken in the deer bow and arrow season, deer muzzleloading season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.

15A NCAC 10B .0204 Wild Boar

H18) Open bear sanctuaries to wild boar hunting during the entire wild boar season. Dogs may not used to hunt wild boar on bear sanctuaries.

15A NCAC 10B .0204 Wild Boar

H20) Set the season on red and grey squirrels to open Oct. 1 and close on the second Saturday of February.

15A NCAC 10B .0206 Squirrel

H21) Allow the Commission to authorize the use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls when allowed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting migratory game birds.

15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory Game Birds

H22) Change the season for crows to include the state observed holidays of July 4th, New Years Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day and change the opening day of the season from June 1st to the first Wednesday in June.

15A NCAC 10B .0215 Crows

T23) Remove the bag limits on otters in the western region of North Carolina.

15A NCAC 10B .0303 Bag Limits

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T24) Allow raccoons to be trapped in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties (District 9).

15A NCAC 10B .0302 Open Seasons

H25) Allow falconry on Sundays, except for migratory game birds.

15A NCAC 10B .0201 Manner of Take

H26) Allow bow hunting on Sundays on private lands only, except for migratory game birds.

15A NCAC 10B.0201 Manner of Take

H28) Allow the use of crossbows, without permit, anytime bow and arrows are legal weapons.

15A NCAC 10B .0116 Permitted Archery Equipment

H29) Remove restrictions on firearms allowed on game lands during open hunting seasons but while big game seasons are closed.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use

H30) Prohibit the training and running of dogs from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Commission.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use

H31) Specify the use of permit hunts as the means by which the Commission will create additional hunting opportunities for Disabled Sportsman Program participants. Allow the Commission to schedule these disabled sportsman permit hunts during the closed season and limit the weapon type if necessary.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use

H32) Clarify that the use of disabled sportsman blinds on game lands is for individuals enrolled in the Disabled Sportsman Program and their able bodied companions exclusively and their use of these blinds shall be on a first come basis during regular scheduled hunting days. On permit hunts the Commission will designate use of the blinds.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use

H33) Remove the disabled hunting dates required by 15A NCAC 10D .0103 on Bladen Lakes and Holly Shelter game lands. Disabled hunts on these game lands will be available through the permit system.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H34) Change the shooting hours for hunting waterfowl on Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land from a 1 p.m. ending to all day.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H35) Add Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday to the list of applicable hunt days for waterfowl on Butner -Falls of Neuse Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

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H36) Implement permit-only hunting and restrict vehicular access from September 1 to the end of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit on the Parker Farm Tract of Goose Creek Game Land and the Pender 4 Tract of Holly Shelter Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H37) Implement permit-only hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments located on Goose Creek and White Oak game lands during October and through the end of the waterfowl season.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H38) Allow hunters who possess disabled access permits to operate All Terrain Vehicles on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access on Holly Shelter Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H39) Allow youth to hunt the Camden County portion of the North River Game Land during the Youth-only Wild Turkey Season without a permit.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H40) Add one week to dove hunting on the field trial grounds of the Sandhills Game Land with the last hunting day being the third Saturday of September instead of the current second Saturday in September.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H41) Limit consecutive nights stay to 14 days in any 30 day period on designated campgrounds on Thurmond Chatham Game Land from May 1 to August 31 and require the removal of personal property at the end of a 14 day period.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H42) Identify the hunting opportunity permit as the type of permit needed to access Hargett Avenue on the White Oak River Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H43) Create Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County as a six-day-per-week game land and Conservative Either Sex Deer Season.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H44) Limit dog training on Sandy Mush Game Lands to Mondays, Wednesday and Saturdays.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H45) Prohibit vessels powered by internal combustion engines and swimming at Lake Upchurch in Nicholson Creek Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H46) Create Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County as a permit-only area.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

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H47) Change the description of areas of Gull Rock Game Land in the N.C. Administrative Code so that new tracts are automatically open to bear hunting unless the tracts are designated as part of the bear sanctuary.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H48) Disallow the selling of live foxes and coyotes taken under a depredation permit to controlled hunting preserves.

15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredations or Accidentally

15A NCAC 10B .0404 Trappers and Hunters

15A NCAC 10B .0409 Sale of Live Foxes and Coyotes to Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves

H49) Remove the 1,000 acre upper limit on controlled hunting preserves.

15A NCAC 10H .0102 Establishment and Operation

H50) Allow a landowner with a valid depredation permit to give away the edible portions of deer to anyone. Require the recipient to retain a copy of the depredation permit.

15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredations or Accidentally

H51) Eliminate the requirement that a landholder must get a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit for the taking of migratory birds before getting a Commission permit to do so.

15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredations or Accidentally

H52) Allow the executive director to issue depredation permits for special concern species.

15A NCAC 10I .0102 Protection of Endangered/Threatened/Special Concern

H53) Add importation as an action that would require a native reptile and amphibian possession permit.

15A NCAC 10H .1302 Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians

H54) Remove spotted turtles from being uniquely listed under the collection license.

15A NCAC 10B .0119 Wildlife Collectors

H55) Eliminate the fox hunting/trapping season in Stokes County that is described in the N.C. Administrative Code.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 Foxes (Gray and Red)

H56) Remove Broad River Game Land from the game land program.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H57) Remove Caswell Farm Game Land from the game land program.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H58) Allow camping anytime within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

H59) Add or delete counties to the descriptions of these game lands in the NCAC to accurately reflect the locations of these game lands: Bachelor Bay, Elk Knob, Embro, Juniper Creek, Lower Fishing Creek, North River, Rhodes Pond, Shocco Creek, Suggs Mill Pond, Thurmond Chatham and Toxaway.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

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H60) Eliminate the requirement that controlled hunting preserve operators and game bird propagators apply to the Commission for permits to use quail call pen traps, the requirement that they provide the Commission with a map of quail call pen traps and attach a registration card to each one. Require persons placing call pen traps on their property to label those traps with their contact information. Eliminate the limit on the number of traps that may be placed by controlled hunting preserve operators and game bird propagators.

15A NCAC 10H .0109 Quail Call-Pen Traps

15A NCAC 10H .0907 Quail Call-Pen Traps

H61) Eliminate the limit on the number of bird feeders that may be placed on controlled hunting preserves. Eliminate the requirement that controlled hunting preserve operators provide the Commission with a map of bird feeders.

15A NCAC 10H .0108 Bird Feeders

Modified Proposals Adopted by the Commission

H6) Original Proposal: Establish a uniform deer season (matching the current Eastern Deer Season) in and east of Yancey, McDowell and Rutherford counties (WRC Districts 1-8), on private lands only, with the following structure:

- bow and arrow season opens on the Saturday on or nearest to September 10 and ends the fourth Friday thereafter;
- muzzleloader season opens the Saturday on or nearest to October 8 and ends the following Friday;
- and all lawful weapon seasons opens the Saturday on or nearest to October 15 and ends January 1.
- Bow and arrow will be allowed during the muzzleloader season.

****Modified Proposal Adopted by Commission****

H6) Deer seasons in the Northwestern Deer Season will be changed so that the regular gun season is extended through January 1. Deer seasons in the Eastern, Central, and Western deer season structures will remain unchanged.

15A NCAC 10B.0203 White-tailed Deer

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H7) Original Proposal: Establish a uniform deer season (matching the current Eastern Deer Season) in and east of Yancey, McDowell and Rutherford counties (WRC Districts 1-8), on public lands, with the following structure:

- bow and arrow season opens on the Saturday on or nearest to September 10 and ends the fourth Friday thereafter;
- muzzleloader season opens the Saturday on or nearest to October 8 and ends the following Friday;
- and all lawful weapon seasons opens the Saturday on or nearest to October 15 and ends January 1.
- Bow and arrow will be allowed during the muzzleloader season.

****Modified Proposal Adopted by Commission****

H7) Deer seasons on game lands in the Northwestern Deer Season will be changed so that the regular gun season is extended through January 1. Deer seasons on game lands in the Eastern, Central, and Western deer season structures will remain unchanged.

15A NCAC 10B.0203 White-tailed Deer

H8) Original Proposal: Open all counties in and east of Yancey, McDowell and Rutherford counties to the maximum either-sex deer season.

****Modified Proposal Adopted by Commission****

H8) Open all private lands in the Eastern, Central, and Northwestern Deer seasons to the maximum either-sex deer season.

15A NCAC 10B.0203 White-tailed Deer

Proposal Tabled by Commission

H19) Require hunters to attach a physical tag to big game harvests at the site of harvest. Delay implementation of this rule change until the 2010 hunting season.

15A NCAC 10B.0113 Big Game Kill Reports

****The Commission voted to table this motion for further study of the potential economic impacts in light of budgetary constraints on the agency.****

Proposals Disapproved by Commission

H14) Replace Youth Only Wild Turkey Season with a Friends and Family Afield Wild Turkey Season. This season shall be the first Saturday in April and every person hunting on that day must be accompanied by at least one other person. The shooting hours during this season shall end at 1pm. The bag limit is one bird (male or bearded).

15A NCAC 10B .0209 Wild Turkey

****H14 was disapproved by the Commission, thereby preserving the current Youth Wild Turkey Season.****

H27) Allow bow hunting on Sundays on game lands, except for migratory game birds.

15A NCAC 10B.0201 Manner of Take

****H27 (to allow bow hunting on Sundays on game lands) was disapproved by the Commission.****

Modified Proposal Disapproved by Commission

H15) Original Proposal: Open Spring Wild Turkey Season the day after Friends and Family Afield and end the season the Saturday of the fourth week thereafter. During the first six days of this season (Sunday through Friday) shooting hours end at 1 pm. The bag limit shall be one bird for the first six days of the season. If a hunter takes a bird during Friends and Family Afield Wild Turkey Season, the hunter may not take another bird during the first six days of the spring season. After the first six days have passed, the shooting hours end at one-half hour after sunset and the season bag limit is two birds (male or bearded).

H15) Modified Proposal: In Districts 1 through 9, open spring wild turkey season on the first day hunting is allowed after Youth Turkey Season and close the fifth Saturday thereafter, with shooting hours and bag limits to remain as currently established.

****The Commission voted to disapprove the modified proposal. The Spring Wild Turkey Season will remain as structured.****

Comments by the Executive Director - Following the vote on H15 *Executive Director* Gordon Myers addressed the assembly about the rulemaking authority that is statutorily mandated to the Wildlife Resources Commission. He directed these comments about the Commission's regulatory responsibility to the Wild Turkey Season proposal (H15) in particular, stating that it came forward the previous year through a petition from hunters in the western part of North Carolina. Contrary to many rumors to the contrary he said, this proposal, as all others, has been discussed and debated among Commissioners, agency staff, the public, and through independent research without consideration of a "predetermined outcome." Myers stated that regardless of the outcome of each vote, the Commission has upheld and followed the core governance process to its conclusion.

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Commissioner Statements – Commissioner Steve Windham thanked Commissioners and the conservation partners for their comments and input throughout the long and sometimes heated consideration of Proposal H15. Windham stated that despite the fact that he does not always agree with the outcome he strongly supports the process, started two years ago under Chairman Seegars, of taking every rule proposal to the appropriate committees for vigorous discussion and debate, receiving input from constituents, considering biological data, and weighing socioeconomic issues before coming to conclusions that are best for the resource. He said that such debate is critical before decisions can be made by the Commission as a whole and not dictated by individuals. Windham addressed the visitors present as he added that despite sometimes being at odds with some conservation partners, he values and respects every one of them as a crucial component of the process. He said that the Commission would not be able to reach the best conclusions about wildlife proposals without their input.

Commissioner Doug Parsons thanked Commissioner Windham for his comments. He commended Chairman Seegars for opening proposal H15 up for consideration, stating that it needed to be voted on and that the Commission needed to hear from all the constituents that Commissioner Windham mentioned before coming to a conclusion. He closed by stating that the democratic process works and commended all for their participation in the process.

Inland Fisheries Activities Update – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry mentioned ongoing negotiations with Duke Energy concerning the Lake James Catawba Dam water supply project. Duke Energy's insistence on their right to charge for the use of the water will be discussed in the Cold Water Fisheries Committee.

Changes in the 2009-2010 Fishing Rule Proposals- the Commission took action on the following proposed changes in 2009-2010 Fishing Rules presented by Bob Curry in **Exhibit J**:

The Commission adopted the following proposals as presented in Exhibit J.

F1) Wilson Creek (Caldwell County) – Classify 3.5 miles of this stream as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F2) Mill Creek (McDowell County) – Classify 0.7 miles of this stream in the Town of Old Fort as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F4) Winkler Creek (Watauga County) – Classify 1.6 miles of this stream in the Town of Boone as Wild Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F5) Clear Creek (Henderson County) – Classify 4.6 miles of this stream as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

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F6) Buck Creek (Clay County) – Reclassify 2.5 miles of this stream from Wild Trout/Natural Bait to Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F7) Hemphill Creek (Haywood County) – Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F9) Little River (Transylvania County) – Identify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters as “100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls.”

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands

F10) Jonathan Creek (Haywood County) – Identify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as “upstream of SR 1302 bridge” and correct the spelling of the stream’s name.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F11) Richland Creek (Haywood County) – Identify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as “US 23-74 bridge.”

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F12) Watauga River (Watauga County) – Identify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters as “adjacent to the intersection of SR 1557 and SR 1558.”

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F13) Green River (Polk County) – Change the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters from Brights Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands

F14) Lake Lure (Rutherford County) – Establish the statewide creel and length regulations for trout in undesignated waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Creel and Size Limits

F15) North Shoal Creek (Cherokee County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land and reclassify the portion on game lands to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F16) Webb Creek (Cherokee County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F17) Big Tuni Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

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F18) Vineyard Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F19) Little Cove Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F20) Cove Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F21) Hoskins Fork (Ashe County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F22) Hothouse Branch (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F23) Tessentee Creek (Macon County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F24) Shooting Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F25) Camp Creek (Polk and Henderson counties) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F26) Ramey Creek (Alleghany County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

F27) Lake Lure (Rutherford County) – Establish the general statewide creel and length regulations for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Creel and Size Limits

F28) Roanoke River – Increase the minimum size limit for crappie from eight to ten inches on Roanoke River below Roanoke Rapids dam to Albemarle Sound, including Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Creel and Size Limits

F29) Reduce the number of grass carp that can be taken by bow and arrow from Lake James, Lookout Shoals, Lake Norman, Mountain Island, Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids Lake from two to one fish per day.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale

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F30) Add Lake Wylie to the list of reservoirs where possession of grass carp is prohibited, except that one fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale

F31) Prohibit the possession of zebra mussels.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes

F32) Eliminate the special size restriction on bow, dip, and landing nets in the Roanoke and Dan rivers.

15A NCAC 10C .0208 Spawning Areas

F33) Include members of the U.S. Armed Forces, military families on appreciation days, and those with physical or mental limitations among those qualified to receive fishing license exemptions during special fishing events.

15A NCAC 10C .0216 Fishing License Exemptions

F34) Include Community Fishing Program waters among those waters where fish size and creel limits that differ from statewide regulations are posted.

15A NCAC 10E .0104 Use of Areas Regulated

Proposals Disapproved by Commission

F3) Hiwassee River (Clay County) - Classify 13 miles of this river as Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

****The Commission voted to disapprove this proposal.****

F8) South Toe River (Yancey County) – Reclassify 2.5 miles from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only to Wild Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 1-0C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

****The Commission voted to disapprove this proposal.****

Conservation Education/Marketing Committee Report – Eugene Price, *Conservation Education Committee Chairman*, reported that the joint committees met the day before to discuss declining revenues from the *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine and possible solutions. Price thanked Ginger Williams, *Conservation Education Division Chief*, for presenting an impressive approach to conducting an in-house study for improvements in the success of the magazine's revenues and circulation. Price noted the savings to the agency in having the study conducted without having to hire outside consultants.

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Big Game Committee Report – David Hoyle, Jr., *Big Game Committee Chairman*, thanked his committee and especially the agency staff for their outstanding efforts during the past year and culminating in today’s consideration of many proposals before the Commission. He acknowledged appreciation for the assistance of Lisa Hocutt, Customer Service manager, to the Committee regarding the proposal to require use of physical tags on big game harvested. Hoyle stated that the Commission needs to emphasize opportunities for young people to enjoy hunting and apologized for not stressing that every day is “Youth Day” in North Carolina. Hoyle added that providing opportunities for youth will continue to be a top priority with the Big Game Committee and the Commission.

Committee of the Whole Committee Report – Chairman Wes Seegars stated that the Committee of the Whole meeting was short and productive. Seegars is pleased with the success of using the Committee structure to expedite Commission business.

Comments by Executive Director – the Commission received a Legislative update from Gordon Myers. Myers reported that meetings with Senator Swindell are being conducted to work on agency bills. There have been many fiscal research requests as Governor Perdue seeks to balance the budget. Myers emphasized stressing the economic importance to North Carolina of the five million dollars spent daily on hunting and fishing activities. Meetings will be arranged with the Commission to discuss Senator Snow’s proposed bill granting authority to Wildlife Enforcement Officers to conduct traffic stops in the interest of public safety.

Comments by the Chairman – Chairman Seegars reminded the Commission that they are about to start a new regulatory cycle and in his opinion the one ending with today’s voting has been the most painful cycle during his time on the Commission. He accepted responsibility for not clearly articulating proposals and the reasoning behind them to the constituents. He stated that he opened Committee meetings to the public, to the detriment of the Commission, when incorrect information and hurtful accusations were disseminated, state-wide, by some individuals and groups. The Commission had no vehicle to articulate its positions but Seegars announced that plans are being made to provide constituents with correct information in a timely manner. Seegars stated he is proud of the accomplishments of the Commission, that Commissioners value constructive input, and that we will continue to work together for enhancement of wildlife, their habitats, and enjoyment of hunters, anglers, and outdoors enthusiasts.

Adjournment- Chairman Wes Seegars adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.