



ACTIONS

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

March 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters
Raleigh, North Carolina

Meeting - *Commission Chairman* Steve Windham 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 Windham read the ethics inquiry mandated in North Carolina General Statute §138A-15(e) and asked any Commissioner who has a conflict of interest or appearance of any conflict of interest in matters before the Commission to notify the Chair. Commissioner Joe Barker indicated that he and some other Commissioners are receiving the *North Carolina Bowhunter* magazine, are not members of that organization, and have not solicited the receipt of the magazine. Commissioner Nat Harris is a member of NCBA and wishes to receive the magazine. Chairman Windham directed Betsy Foard, *Ethics Liaison*, to send a letter to the NCBA notifying the organization that under NCGS §138A-32 (d)- Gifts: public servants shall not accept gifts from anyone seeking to do business with or engaged in activities regulated by the Wildlife Resources Commission. The NCBA will be asked to check their membership rolls and remove the name of any Commissioner who is not a member from the magazine mailing list. Commissioner Eugene Price indicated that he has been invited to a banquet as a guest of the North Carolina Bowhunters Association, and has received clearance from the North Carolina Ethics Commission to attend that function.

Minutes – the Commission approved the February 10, 2010 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

Financial Status Report – the Commission received a financial status report as of January 31, 2010 for the Wildlife Operating Fund, which has a balance of \$21,899,448.06, and the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which has a balance of \$73,156,790.27, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, presented in **Exhibit B**.

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Presentation of the 2009 Lawrence G. Diedrick Award - Individual and Organization Categories – Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief* and Commissioner Bobby Purcell, *Small Game Committee Chairman*, presented the 2009 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award in the individual category to John Bishop for his efforts in creating quail and small game habitat at his farm in Anson County; and to Steve Henson and Steve Evans of the Southern Appalachian Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society in the organization category, for that organization's efforts with young forest early successional habitats. Award winners were presented with plaques, drip torches, and the Aldo Leopold book A Sand County Almanac.

Special Recognition Honoring Ed Mays, President, North Carolina Handicapped Sportsmen - Chairman Steve Windham presented a resolution honoring Ed Mays, President and founder of the North Carolina Handicapped Sportsmen, for his efforts in promoting access and opportunities for handicapped sportsmen and women to enjoy hunting and fishing across the state. Chairman Windham stated that Mr. Mays has assisted the Wildlife Resources Commission in creating a standing Disabled Sportsmen committee to address issues of handicapped access and stewardship by the agency of special hunting opportunities. Windham announced that Mays received the prestigious 2009 Safari Club International Pathfinder of the Year Award for his work with handicapped sportsmen and women.

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

- Smith Creek Tract – Granville County
- Brown's Island Tract – Carteret County

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

Waterfowl Field Sanctuary Program - the Commission voted to continue the Waterfowl Field Sanctuary Program at the Black Rock Farm in Bertie County, for one more year at a cost of \$7200. At that time the Commission will reconsider the effectiveness of continuing this property as a waterfowl field sanctuary.

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Changes in the 2010-2011 Hunting and Trapping Rules – the Commission took action on the following proposed changes in the 2010-2011 hunting and trapping regulations presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit F**.

The Commission adopted the following proposals subject to further review by the Rules Review Commission. Upon RRC approval and codification in the North Carolina Administrative Code, the effective date of the rules will be August 1, 2010:

- H1) Increase the December segment of the bear season in Hertford County from three days to two weeks using the same opening and closing dates as adjoining Gates and Bertie counties.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear
- H2) Remove state tagging requirements for otter and bobcats when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service repeals federal tagging requirements for these species.
Amend the following rules:
15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredation or Accidentally
15A NCAC 10B .0118 Sale of Wildlife
15A NCAC 10B .0402 Tagging Furs
15A NCAC 10B .0403 Application for Tags
15A NCAC 10B .0404 Trappers and Hunters
15A NCAC 10B .0405 Fur Dealers
15A NCAC 10B .0406 Misuse of Tags
- H3) Allow armadillos to be hunted all year and trapped during the regular furbearer trapping season.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0302
Adopt the following rule: 15A NCAC 10B .0222
- H4) Open squirrel season on the Monday on or nearest to October 15 and close on the last day of February.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B.0206
- H5) Exclude the Eurasian collared dove from the definition of wild birds.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B.0121
- H7) Provide the same access privileges to Disabled Sportsmen Program participants (as defined in G.S. 113-296) as the commission does to Disabled Access Permit holders.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0102

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- H8) Increase access for Disabled Sportsmen Program participants and Disabled Access Permit holders by allowing them to ride all-terrain vehicles on roads posted for vehicular travel, except those roads maintained by the Department of Transportation. Apply this increased access only to game lands designated as Disabled Access Permit game lands.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0102

- H10) Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Brunswick County Game Land.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

The Commission adopted H10 in response to the request by the landowner, Resource Management Services.

- H12) Increase the either-sex deer season on Jordan Game Land from the current moderate season to the maximum season.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

- H13) Allow limited quail and woodcock hunting by permit only on CURE areas within R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell and Sandhills game lands.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

- H14) Establish primitive campgrounds on Juniper Creek and Chowan Swamp game lands to be open from September 1 through the last day of February and again from April 7 through May 14.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

- H15) Increase the bear season on an 8,000 acre portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County from the first three days of the December season segment (the current open season) to the full 12 day bear season allowed in the rest of Gates County during the month of December. The rest of Chowan Swamp Game Land would retain the first three days of the December season segment as its December bear season.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

- H16) Restrict dove hunting to permit-only during the first four days of the open dove season on Sandy Mush Game Land.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

- H17) Establish an Introductory either-sex deer season on Sandy Mush Game Land.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D.0103

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- H18) Place the Morton Tract on White Oak Game Land under the same restrictions as the Huggins Tract: a restrictive firearms zone; access on Sloan Farm road by permit only; hunting by permit only; and no hunting for deer with dogs.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0103
- H19) Create Pond Mountain in Ashe County as a six day per week game land with a conservative either-sex season and horseback riding on designated trails May 16-Aug. 31.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0103
- H20) Create the Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen County as a permit-only game land.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0103
- H21) Prohibit the release of domesticated or feral animals on game lands, except for hunting dogs and raptors where allowed. The game land rule already prohibits the release of pen-raised animals, wild animals or birds and hatchery-reared fish.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0102
- H22) Prohibit the release of all animals, including domesticated or feral animals, on wildlife conservation areas without prior written authorization of the Commission, except for hunting dogs and raptors where allowed.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10J.0102
- H24) Require municipalities requesting a depredation permit for deer to fill out a form supplied by the Commission which will ask, among other questions, whether the municipality has participated in the Urban Archery Season and if not, why not.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B.0106
- H25) Remove the requirement that waterfowl imported into North Carolina be tested for avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease. In lieu of that requirement, imported waterfowl must be from a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certified facility or else tested using NPIP standards.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B. 0101
- H26) Remove the avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease testing requirements for game bird propagators and controlled hunting preserve operators.
Amend the following rules:
15A NCAC 10H .0104
15A NCAC 10H .0904
- H27) Require controlled hunting preserve operators to report the number of birds and counties where released before receiving a renewed license.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10H.0101

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H28) Allow governmental or non-profit entities conducting organized hunting events to obtain from the Commission, subject to the discretion of the Executive Director or his designee, exemptions that allow all participants in the events to hunt without first obtaining hunting licenses.

*Adopt the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B.0126*

H29) Amend big game harvest rule to remove language that states the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card shall provided to license-exempt hunters free of cost. Legislation passed in the 2009 session established a \$10.00 fee for these report cards for all hunters.

*Amend the following rule:
15 A NCAC 10B .0113*

Proposals Disapproved by Commission - H6; H9; and H11

H6) Remove elk (*Cervus elaphus*) from the state's list of special concern species.

*Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10I.0105*

The Commission voted in favor of disapproving the proposal to remove elk from the state's list of special concern species.

H9) Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Brinkleyville Game Land.

*Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0103*

The motion to prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County was defeated.

H11) Prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Embro Game Land.

*Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10D.0103*

The motion to prohibit the use of dogs for hunting deer on Embro Game Land in Warren and Halifax counties was defeated.

Modified Proposal Approved by Commission

H23) Prohibit the release and feeding of all animals, including domesticated or feral animals, on boating or fishing access areas without prior written authorization of the Commission, except for pets under the ~~direct~~ control of the owner, raptors and hunting dogs where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes.

Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10E.0104

The Commission voted to adopt H23 with the modification that the word “direct” be removed from the rule text.

Spotlight- Aquatic Outreach and Fishing Programs at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center – the Commission received an update about the activities at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville from Kris Smith, *Center Director*. Smith highlighted the interactive center exhibits, the Conservationist Walkway where memorial brick pavers are purchased and placed, and the pond bank stabilization project with capped bulkheads to secure the banks from erosion. In 2009 there were 72 Fish for Fun events, reaching 6700 young people. Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Center, as have Ducks Unlimited, Fayetteville State University, Boy Scouts, the Disney Store, and others. In addition to the volunteers, Smith thanked the Pechmann family for their support and the WRC staff, and he noted that in-kind donations totaling \$48,000 qualify for state match funding.

Inland Fisheries Activity Update – the Commission received an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry directed the Commissioners to handouts and news releases at their places. He mentioned a workshop May 5 and 6 on incorporating climate change and North Carolina’s Wildlife Action Plan. Curry announced that the Warm Water Fisheries and Cold Water Fisheries Committees will meet the Tuesday before the May Commission meeting.

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Changes in the 2010-2011 Fishing Rule Proposals- the Commission took action on the following proposed changes in 2010-2011 Fishing Rules presented by Bob Curry in **Exhibit G:**

The Commission adopted the following proposals subject to further review by the Rules Review Commission. Upon RRC approval and codification in the North Carolina Administrative Code, the effective date of the rules will be August 1, 2010:

- F1) Administrative correction – Deletes text stating that unclassified tributaries to Hatchery Supported Trout Waters default to Wild Trout Waters regulations.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F2) Crab Creek (Alleghany County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F3) Laurel Branch (Alleghany County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F4) Wildcat Lake (Avery County) – Classify as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F5) Mineral Creek (Buncombe County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F6) Wilson Creek (Caldwell County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Public Mountain Trout Waters as the game lands portion downstream of Lost Cove Creek.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F7) Thorps Creek (Caldwell County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F8) Yadkin River (Caldwell County) – Classify 2.0 miles as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F9) Fires Creek (Clay County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area footbridge.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

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- F10) Bluff Branch (Clay County) – Reclassify 1.4 miles from Hatchery Supported to Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F11) Franks Creek (Graham County) – Reclassify from Hatchery Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F12) Sawyer Creek (Graham County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F13) West Fork Pigeon River (Haywood County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as Tom Creek.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F14) Rocky (Broad) River (Henderson County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as Rocky River Lane.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F15) Cartoogechaye Creek (Macon County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as the downstream US 64 bridge.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F16) Spring Creek (Madison County) – Identify the downstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as USFS Road 223.
Amend the following rules:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS
- F17) North Fork Pacolet River (Polk County) – Identify the upstream boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as Joels Creek.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F18) Fork Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F19) Big Fall Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F20) Elk Hollow Branch (Avery County) – Classify as Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

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- F21) Taking non-trout species – Allow non-trout species to be taken and possessed when fishing by rod and reel on Catch and Release/Artificial Lure Only and Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F22) Lower Creek (Yancey County) – Reclassify from Catch and Release/Artificial Lures to Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F23) Upper Creek (Yancey County) – Reclassify the Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only section to Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F24) South Toe River (Yancey County) – Reclassify the Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only section to Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F25) South Toe River (Yancey County) – Reclassify the headwaters section from Wild Trout Waters to Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F26) Tellico River (Cherokee County) – Reclassify the Wild Trout/Natural Bait section to Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS
- F27) Nantahala River and tributaries (Clay and Macon counties) – Remove the exception that allows fishing during the closed season on Hatchery Supported Trout Waters upstream of Nantahala Lake.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F28) Striped bass in Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Lake – Allow striped bass of any size to be harvested from June 1 through September 30 within the four fish daily creel limit.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F29) Largemouth bass in B. Everett Jordan and Falls of Neuse reservoirs – Establish a 14- inch minimum size limit with a five fish daily creel limit, including two which may be less than 14 inches long.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

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- F30) Spotted bass in Lake Norman – Establish a 14-inch minimum size limit with a five fish daily creel limit, including two which may be less than 14 inches long.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F31) Muskellunge – Establish a statewide 42-inch minimum size limit and a one fish daily creel limit.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F32) Muskellunge in French Broad River – Eliminate the current 46-inch size limit which will be replaced by the proposed 42-inch statewide minimum size limit.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F33) American shad in John H. Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir – Prohibit possession of American shad.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F34) Roanoke and rock bass – Establish an 8-inch minimum size limit and two fish daily creel limit for these species in combination east of Interstate 77.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 OPEN SEASONS: CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS
- F35) Grass carp in Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir – Prohibit the take and possession of grass carp, except with a permit issued by the Commission.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE
- F36) Blue crabs – Allow the recreational take of blue crabs using a single, multiple bait line not to exceed 100 feet in length that is under the immediate control and attendance and is limited to one per person and no more than one per vessel.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION
- F37) Posting of regulations – Include Community Fishing Program and other cooperatively managed waters among those that fish size and creel limits that differ from statewide regulations are posted.
Amend the following rules:
15A NCAC 10E .0101 DEFINITION
15A NCAC 10E .0102 REGULATIONS POSTED

Executive Director Gordon Myers noted that in order for the Regulations Digest to include those rules that were upheld for legislative review during this legislative session, the earliest effective date of this cycle's rule proposals is August 1, 2010. The Regulations Digest will be available on August 1 and will include the rules that pass legislative review.

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No Wake Zone Rule and Technical Correction – Alexander County – the Commission adopted an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0332, presented in **Exhibit H** by Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, to establish a no wake zone within 50 yards of the Lakeside Marina on Lake Hickory in Alexander County. The Commission approved a technical correction to the names of two marinas, Rink Dam Marina and R&N Marina, referenced by other names in that rule.

No Wake Zone Rule – McDowell County – the Commission adopted an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0339, presented by Erik Christofferson in **Exhibit I**, to establish a no wake zone on Lake James in McDowell County in the cove bounded by Waterglyn Subdivision, Lakeview Shores Subdivision, and North Shores Subdivision.

Authority Vested in the Executive Director and Executive Committee to Modify Rule Text Under Certain Circumstances – the Commission voted to give authority to the Executive Director and Executive Committee of the Commission to modify rule text adopted by the WRC but not yet codified, for the purpose of making technical corrections/changes only. The authority will expedite the codification process by obviating the need for another vote by the WRC to make technical changes to a rule.

Big Game Committee Report – David Hoyle, Jr., *Big Game Committee Chairman*, reported that members of Quality Deer Management Association attended the Big Game Committee on Tuesday, March 2. The Big Game Committee agreed that the Wildlife Resources Commission will not manage deer for antler quality and a representative from QDMA concurred that QDMA's primary mission is education.

The Committee discussed Chronic Wasting Disease, which has been found now in Missouri as well as in Virginia.

Management of North Carolina's elk was discussed, with the understanding that there are many stakeholder groups with different interests in the management of the elk herd. Chairman Steve Windham asked David Hoyle; Chuck Bennett, *Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Chair*; and Martin Lewis, *District 9 Commissioner* to choose three additional members for an *ad hoc* committee. That committee was tasked with providing a report to the Commission at the May meeting on challenges and possible solutions to managing the elk herd.

Chairman Hoyle reported that the Big Game Committee again discussed bear hunting with dogs and baiting issues, and noted that any change would require a change in statutes. John Bowers of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will come to the May WRC meeting to discuss management of dog hunting in Georgia.

Habitat, Nongame, and Endangered Species Committee Report – Chuck Bennett, *Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Chairman*, reported that the committee received a report on the action plan for white-nosed syndrome in bats. The Commission voted to adopt the White-Nosed Syndrome Action Plan.

The Commission voted to approve the re-appointment of four incumbent members of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee for three-year terms: Kevin O'Kane, Scott Fletcher, Tom Massie, and John Crutchfield.

The Commission voted to approve the recommendation of the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee for the recipient of the 2010 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award.

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Conservation Education/Marketing Committee Report – Dell Murphy, *Conservation Education Committee Chairman*, thanked WRC staff for their presentation to the committee about the Conservation Education Division.

Comments by Executive Director – Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, gave an update on the two-day meeting February 17 and 18 facilitated by the Management Assistance Team of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. In keeping with the Strategic Plan adopted by the WRC in December 2009, the participants discussed organizational effectiveness and whether the agency has the right systems in place to fulfill its mission and goals. The second day of the MATTEAM meeting highlighted the processes and organizational structure of the Conservation Education Division. Myers announced that the MATTEAM will return on April 5 and 6 to meet with all of the Conservation Education Division at an off-site retreat.

Myers announced that Sarah Clapp, *Legislative Liaison*, suggested a Legislative Day on May 25 for Commissioners to meet their District legislators, members of the Sportsmen’s Caucus, and other committees to provide awareness of WRC programs and to garner support. Most Commissioners indicated that they will be able to attend on May 25.

Comments by the Chairman – Chairman Windham thanked the committees for their outstanding efforts throughout this regulatory cycle.

Adjournment- Chairman Windham adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.