



ACTIONS

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

December 2, 2009 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).

Minutes - the Commission approved the October 7, 2009 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

Financial Status Report - the Commission received a financial status report as of September 30, 2009 on the Wildlife Operating Fund, which has a balance of \$25,356,151.26, and the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which has a balance of \$70,753,478.52, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, in **Exhibit B**.

Spotlight- Human Dimensions Research Surveys Update - the Commission received an update on recent Human Dimensions research surveys about trout angling, the impact of trout fishing on North Carolina's economy, and deer management from Dain Palmer, *Wildlife Management* and Kerry Linehan, *Inland Fisheries*. Applicability of human dimensions research to fish and wildlife, wildlife habitats, and human populations was shown in PowerPoint presentations.

Wildlife Management Division Update - the Commission received an update on the activities of the Wildlife Management Division from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. Dr. Cobb reminded the Commissioners of the public hearings concerning rules governing captive cervids, scheduled for December 8, 2009 in Statesville, December 10, 2009 in Elizabethtown, and December 14, 2009 in Raleigh.

Property Acquisition, Bladen County - the Commission approved the staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit C** by Dr. David Cobb to begin the process for ultimately seeking grant funding for the purchase of the Crosshairs Investment Tract in Bladen County on the Cape Fear River. Dr. Cobb explained that due to budgetary constraints, pursuit of funding for this tract may not occur until the 2010 or 2011 cycle.

Land Acquisition Update - the Commission received a report on the status of land acquisition projects in **Exhibit D** from Dr. Cobb.

Inland Fisheries Update - the Commission received an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry provided Commissioners with recent news releases and reminded the assembly that nominations are open until the end of January 2010 for the Thomas Quay Award. Curry announced that the WRC and DMF Joint Marine Resources Committee approved 23 projects from an available \$3.7 million in Coastal Recreational Fishing License funds, subject to approval by the Marine Fisheries Commission. Thirty per cent of the approved projects pertain to fishing and boating access projects.

Boating Access Area Land Lease, Person County – the Commission approved renewal of the Boating Access Area land lease at the Triple Springs Boating Access Area on Mayo Lake in Person County, presented in **Exhibit E** by Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*.

Boating Access Area Land Acquisition, Brunswick County – the Commission adopted staff recommendation, presented by Erik Christofferson in **Exhibit F**, to work with the State Property Office for the acquisition of land adjacent to the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area in Brunswick County, at a cost of \$11,000. The land will be used for vehicle parking at the Boating Access Area.

Engineering Services Construction Schedule – the Commission received an update from Erik Christofferson regarding twenty maintenance and capital improvement construction projects that are underway in 2009 and 2010. Christofferson noted that the unprecedented numbers of projects are funded through WAMI funds, CRFL grants, and increased motorboat registration fees. The projects will provide a large increase in parking spaces state-wide at boating access areas.

2010 Commission Meeting Schedule - the Commission adopted in **Exhibit G** the following schedule of 2010 WRC meetings, all to be held in Raleigh due to budgetary constraints:

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Adoption of the Agency Strategic Plan – the Commission adopted the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Strategic Plan, presented by Gordon Myers, *Executive Director* and Mallory Martin, *Chief Deputy Director*, in **Exhibit H**.

Executive Committee Report – Steve Windham, *Chairman*, announced that the Executive Committee held its first meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2009. Among topics of discussion were a legislative update, request for a staff study for handling donations to the Wildlife Resources Commission, study of fee restructuring, and discussion of navigable waters and loss of public access to trout streams in the mountains.

Regulations Committee Report – Steve Windham, *Chairman*, announced that the Regulations Committee met on November 12, 2009. The Committee reviewed the rulemaking calendar, discussed upcoming state-wide public hearings, reviewed a draft of the Public Hearings booklet which shows the rule text and the summary and justification of each proposed rule, and discussed a rulemaking training session for Commissioners, to be presented by the Office of Administrative Hearings. The rulemaking training session will be held on February 9, 2010 at 3 p.m. in the Commission Room.

Small Game Committee Report – Bobby Purcell, *Chairman*, gave a report about the Small Game Committee meeting held on December 1, 2009. The Lawrence Diedrick Small Game Award nominations are being evaluated. In 2010 the public will be invited to nominate recipients of this prestigious award as well. Purcell said that Dr. Cobb has had a plaque made showing each year's award winner.

Education, Marketing and Outreach Committee Report – Dell Murphy, *Chairman*, gave a report on the meeting of the Education, Marketing and Outreach Committee, held on December 1, 2009. Murphy thanked *Wildlife in North Carolina* editor Greg Jenkins and Dain Palmer and Kerry Linehan for their presentation to the committee of the study about the WINC magazine, and discussions about the goals of the magazine, production costs, and target audience.

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, then updated the Commission on the search for an Education, Marketing and Outreach Division Chief. Myers announced that the agency is working with the Office of State Personnel to reclassify the position as a "core chief" position. The position will be reposted in January 2010.

Land Use and Access Committee Report – the Commission received a report about the Land Use and Access Committee meeting from Doug Parsons, *Chairman*.

The Commission adopted a motion from the Land Use and Access Committee to place a cairn and naming plaque at the wetland project at Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen County and to name it the Don Broadwell Wetland Project.

The Commission also adopted a motion from the Land Use and Access Committee to write a letter of intent to Caldwell County in support of day uses for a portion of the Lutz Tract. The letter of intent is not binding on the WRC but shows support for multiple uses for certain WRC owned lands such as the Lutz Tract.

Chairman Parsons gave an update about plans by Currituck County to partner with the Wildlife Resources Commission to find an acceptable location for a bathhouse on 30 contiguous acres owned by the WRC from ocean to sound at Corolla.

Comments by Executive Director - Executive Director Myers thanked the Commission for its adoption of the agency Strategic Plan. Myers said that the divisions will complete their own strategic planning in January, at which time the agency will look at its organizational structure and relevance to the Strategic Plan, with the assistance of an outside consultant. Myers reminded everyone of the state-wide public hearings that will be held in January 2010. He closed by thanking staff for doing more with less during tight budgetary times.

Comments by Chairman - Chairman Windham thanked commissioners for taking time from their businesses to serve on the WRC with enthusiasm and passion.

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