



**Executive Committee Meeting Summary  
March 5, 2012 5:00 – 6:00 pm  
Fifth floor conference room,  
Centennial Campus, Raleigh**

**Meeting Attendees**

**Visitors:**

Dr. Tom Ray	NCDA Veterinary Division
Scott Brown	Zootastic Park of Lake Norman
Millie Bowling	RISENC.org
Jo Henderson	RISENC.org
Larry Ricks	deer farmer
Tommy Hall	deer farmer
Jon Charles	River Oaks Wildlife Management
Fred Harris	NCWF
Norman Young	NCDOJ
Martha Waggoner	AP

**Agency Staff:**

Geoff Cantrell  
David Cobb  
Todd Kennedy  
Dale Caveny  
Chris Dillon  
Mallory Martin  
Bob Curry  
Gordon Myers  
Betsy Foard

**Committee Members:**

John Clark  
Joe Barker  
Durwood Laughinghouse  
Doug Parsons  
Steve Windham  
Ray White  
Tom Berry  
David Hoyle, Jr.

*Call to Order and Comments* - Welcome by Committee Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. Hoyle made introductory comments about the sole purpose of the Executive Committee meeting, which is to receive comments from Ms. Jo Henderson and a group of interested constituents regarding issues with cervids held in captivity.

*Comments from Jo Henderson, Randolph County* – the Committee received comments from Jo Henderson who expressed her negative opinion of the deer seizure made on September 20, 2011; and her support of deer farming in North Carolina. Ms. Henderson stated that fallow deer do not carry CWD and should not be subject to testing.

*Comments from Tommy Hall, Deer Farmer* - the Committee received comments from Tommy Hall, a deer farmer and taxidermist. Mr. Hall expressed his opinions that CWD may have been spread from infected mule deer, improper handling of deer carcasses, or bacteria that he believes may trigger the prions in CWD. Mr. Hall voiced his support of herd certification and wants more funding for research. He noted what he says are the positive economic impacts of deer farming. He feels that deer farming could genetically improve wild deer populations.

*Comments from Larry Ricks* – the Committee received comments from Larry Ricks, a former tobacco farmer who used the buyout to invest in becoming a deer farmer. He told the Committee that he feels that EHD is a worse threat to deer herds than CWD. He believes that deer inbreeding is a major factor in the spread of CWD.

*Comments from Jon Charles, River Oaks Wildlife Management* – the Committee received comments from Jon Charles, a biologist who works with River Oaks Wildlife Management. Mr. Charles videotaped the meeting. Charles spoke about free range and captive deer herds and stated that better management practices are needed with both. He mentioned management practices used by Duke University as a positive example. He noted that the skewed buck/doe ratio in eastern North Carolina and resulting inbreeding, as well as deer baiting may contribute to health problems in the free ranging herds. Charles supports deer farming because he said it offers research opportunities. He supports increased education about transport of captive cervids, medicines, health and physiology. He wants inspections of fencing for captive herds to be managed by the NCWRC but wants farming to be managed by the Department of Agriculture.

*Comments from Scotty Brown, Iredell County* – the Commission received comments from Scotty Brown who has raised captive deer since 1979. Mr. Brown told the Committee that he is frustrated because one of his captive deer lost a tag, which was classified as a federal offense. He stated that because of the lost tag he cannot move his captive deer 1/8 mile to his Zootastic Park at Lake Norman where he says they would be much safer. Mr. Brown asked the Commission for equal treatment. Commissioner Doug Parsons requested that Director Myers look into this situation and report back to the committee.

*Brief Comments by Director Myers* – Gordon Myers thanked everyone for attending and expressing their opinions to the Executive Committee. Myers said that the Commission is working on rules now to create new opportunities for cervid farming. The potential costs to the public for providing adequate fencing to protect captive cervids are under evaluation as part of the fiscal note requirements for rulemaking under the Regulatory Reform Act passed by the Legislature in 2011. Myers told the group that further discussion of deer management and cervid farming will be discussed at the Big Game Committee meeting on March 7, 2012.

*Adjournment* – Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 6 pm.