



**Joint Meeting of the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species and Big Game Committee
Summary
January 28, 2015 1:00 pm
Commission Room, Raleigh NC**

Mark Craig, *HNGES Committee Chairman*, called the joint meeting to order at 1:00 pm on January 28, 2015.

Attendees

Committee Members

Mark Craig, HNGES Chair

Ray Clifton – Big Game

David Hoyle, Jr. – Big Game Chair

Richard Edwards – Big Game

Tommy Fonville – Big Game

Wes Seegars – HNGES and Big Game

John Litton Clark – Big Game

Tom Berry – Big Game

Brian White – Big Game

Commissioners

Jim Cogdell

Joe Budd

Joe Barker

Staff

Gordon Myers

Betsy Haywood

Allen Boynton

Geoff Cantrell

Isaac Harrold

David Sawyer

Brad Howard

Rachael Hoch

Merril Cook

Jodie Owen

Matt Long

Steve Chase

Alison Nolker

Shannon Deaton

David Cobb

Carolina Medina

Brad Gunn

Christian Waters

Chris Dillon

Evin Stanford

Kerry Linehan

Kyle Briggs

Michael Hatley

Todd Radabaugh

Erik Christofferson

Todd Ewing

Guests

Katherine Heller – RTI International

Hal Atkinson

Jason Ashe – Central Carolina Dog Hunting Assn.

Shane Carter – CCDHA

William Newton – NCBA

Todd Purvis – Weyerhaeuser

Steve Williams – NCSU Coop. Res. Unit

Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation

Tommy Kimball – NC Bowhunters Assn.

Henri McClees – NC Sporting Dog Assn.

Don Williamson – NCBA

Terry Morris

Tom Ray, D.V.M.

Dr. Marion Deerhake – RTI International

Dwarf Wedgemussel Augmentation

The committees received a summary of a Dwarf Wedgemussel Augmentation proposal for the Neuse watershed. The dwarf wedgemussel is a national and state endangered species. The Committee authorized staff to proceed with the proposal.

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, announced that Rachael Hoch will present a spotlight at the meeting on Thursday about propagation of freshwater mussels at the Marion Fish Hatchery Conservation Aquaculture Center to strengthen declining populations.

Shannon Deaton reminded the HNGES Committee that the Thomas L. Quay Award nominations will be forthcoming for action.

Updates and Final Report on Elk Studies

Dr. David Cobb reported that Elk Studies have included a two-year management strategy, study of habitat suitability for elk, attitudes and opinions of western North Carolina landowners, and economics and sustainability of elk in western North Carolina. Kerry Linehan, *Human Dimensions Biologist*, surveyed landowner views in western North Carolina regarding the presence of elk. Ninety percent of land in three geographic mountain regions is privately owned. Seventy-five percent of private landowners hold fewer than fifteen acres.

RTI International presented a summary of the final report for the Evaluation of the Feasibility of Establishing a Hunttable Elk Population in North Carolina, prepared for the Commission by RTI International.

Big Game Chairman David Hoyle adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.