



## ACTIONS

### N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

August 25, 2010, 9 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).

**Report of Evaluations of 2010 Statements of Economic Interest** – Chairman Windham read into the minutes the evaluations by the North Carolina Ethics Commission of the 2010 Statements of Economic Interest for Commissioners Berkley Skinner, Douglas Parsons, Randolph Allen, Stephen Windham, and Martin Lewis.

**Minutes** – the Commission approved the July 7, 2010 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes, presented in **Exhibit A**, with one correction, adding Commissioner Martin Lewis’s name to the list of attendees at the July meeting.

**Financial Status Report** – the Commission received a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2010, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, presented in **Exhibit B**. The Operating Fund balance is \$23,459,611.18. The Endowment Fund balance is \$75,659,284.31. Clark then presented a financial status report on the annual interest allocation for the Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2010, presented in **Exhibit C**. The Commission approved the allocation of \$3,315,811.27 to the Sportsmen Funds. The Commission approved \$179,485.07 to be allocated to the Magazine Fund, which represents 100 percent of the interest derived from sales of lifetime magazine subscriptions.

**Remarks by Dee Freeman, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR)** – the Commission received remarks from Secretary Dee Freeman of NCDENR, about collaborative efforts between the NCWRC and NCDENR in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the WRC Strategic Plan.

**Presentation of the 2010 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)** – the Commission received an overview of the 2010 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan from Jimmy Johnson, *Eastern Regional Field Officer with the NCDENR Office of Conservation and Community Affairs*. The CHPP is developed as a guidance document for the partnership among the WRC, Division of Marine Fisheries, Division of Coastal Management, Division of Water Quality and their commissions. WRC Commissioners Ray White and Bobby Purcell serve on the CHPP Steering Committee. Johnson explained that every five years the commissions that report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture are required to review and endorse the CHPP.

**Commission Approval to Forward the CHPP to the NCDENR Secretary and Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture** – the Commission approved a motion by Ray White, *Chairman of the Warm Water Fisheries Committee*, to send the revised 2010 CHPP to the Secretary and the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture.

**Wildlife Management Spotlight** – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Edenton Wildlife Management Crew from Paul Williams, *Wildlife Technician III, Edenton Wildlife Management Depot*. Williams' crew maintains 106,000 acres, including 800 acres of waterfowl impoundments. Planting for dove fields and waterfowl impoundments, prescribed burning, boundary posting, providing access to properties, maintaining bridges and shooting blinds, and meeting challenges with wildlife such as beavers, bears, and waterfowl are some of the responsibilities of the Edenton crew.

**Wildlife Management Update** – the Commission received an update about the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. He provided copies of the 2010 Regulations Digest, the 2010 Public Hearings brochure, and Game Lands Map Book. Dr. Cobb reminded the assembly to register for the Climate Change Workshop September 1 and 2, 2010. The Wildlife Management Division is working on revisions to the Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan.

**Property Acquisitions** - the Commission approved staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit D** by Dr. David Cobb to acquire the following properties for inclusion into the game lands program:

- Silbert Tract, Green River Game Land - Polk County
- Joe Carpenter Tract, Sandhills Game Land – Scotland County
- Richlands Mountain Tract, South Mountains Game Land – Rutherford County
- Mosteller Tract, Three Top Mountain Game Land – Ashe County

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

**Field Trial Schedule** - the Commission approved the 2010-2011 North Carolina Field Trial Association Running Schedule, presented in **Exhibit F**.

**Hunting Heritage Program Update** - the Commission received an update from Dr. Cobb about the Hunting Heritage Program for 2009-2010, presented in **Exhibit G**. Cobb said that the Hunting Heritage Program is an agency effort with contributions from every division. The program impacts thousands of sportsmen and women.

**2010-2011 Waterfowl Seasons-** the Commission received summaries, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibits H-1, H-2, and H-3**, of trends in duck breeding populations from 1955-2010, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks for hunting seasons for waterfowl and certain migratory game birds, and summaries of internet comments about waterfowl seasons. The Commission approved the 2010-2011 options for bag limits, shooting hours, and season dates for waterfowl seasons occurring after September 30, presented in **Exhibit H-4**:

**Note: Possession limits are twice the daily bag for all seasons unless otherwise noted.**

**BAG LIMIT: DAILY BAG LIMITS:** (note: items underlined represent changes from last year)

a) Conventional bag: 6 ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black or mottled duck (season closed until December 1), 1 canvasback, or 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. (Possession limits are twice the daily bag unless otherwise noted.)

**b) Other bag limits:**

- 25 light geese (includes snow and blue geese and Ross' geese), no possession limit
- 2 brant
- 5 mergansers (2 hooded mergansers)
- 7 sea ducks (**In special sea duck area only**). In other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit. No more than 4 scoters per day may be taken in either season.
- 15 coots
- 5 dark geese (includes Canada geese and White-fronted geese) in the Resident Hunt Zone, 5 in the Southern James Bay Zone and 1 in the Northeast Hunt Zone.

**HOURS:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

***GENERAL DUCK SEASON (includes coots and mergansers)***

**Season Length:** 60 hunting days; plus 1 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day

**Season Dates:** October 6-9  
November 13 – December 4  
December 18 – January 29  
(Black duck and mottled duck season closed until Dec. 1.)

**Youth Waterfowl Day:** February 5, 2011 (youth must be age 15 or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult. The adult cannot duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.)  
Species includes ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and tundra swans. The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a Canada goose (NE Hunt Zone only) or a tundra swan.

**SPECIAL SEA DUCK SEASON (IN SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREAS ONLY)****Season Length:** 105 hunting days**Season Dates:** October 1 – January 31**GOOSE SEASONS****DARK GEESE (includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese):****RESIDENT (RP) ZONE****Season Length:** 72 days**Season Dates:** October 6 – October 16  
November 13 – December 4  
December 18 – February 5**Bag Limit:** 5 geese per day**SOUTHERN JAMES BAY (SJB) ZONE****Season Length:** 70 days**Season Dates:** October 6 – November 6  
November 13 - December 31**Bag Limit:** 5 geese per day**NORTHEAST HUNT UNIT****Season Length:** 7 days**Season Dates:** January 22 – January 29**Bag Limit:** 1 goose per day (with valid permit)  
(unlimited permits available – tagging not required)**LIGHT GEESE (includes snow, blue and Ross' geese):****Season Length:** 107 Days**Season Dates:** October 16 – October 23  
November 13 – March 9**Bag Limit:** 25 birds daily (no possession limit)**Expanded hunting methods:** allow use of electronic calls and unplugged guns from  
February 7 – March 9

**ATLANTIC BRANT:**

**Season Length:** 50 Days

**Season Dates:** November 20 - December 4  
December 18 - January 29

**Bag Limit:** 2 birds daily

**TUNDRA SWAN:**

**Season Length:** 68 Days

**Season Dates:** November 13 - January 31

**Bag Limit:** One per season (with valid permit)

***EXTENDED FALCONRY (ducks and coots only):***

**Season Length:** 106 total hawking days (includes 60 days of gun season plus 16 days of special teal season)

**Season Dates:** Oct. 25 – Nov. 6  
Jan. 31 – February 19

**Bag Limit:** 3 migratory game birds daily

***EXTENDED FALCONRY (migratory game birds):*****DOVE**

**Season Dates:** Oct. 16 - Nov. 20

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Possession:** 6

**KING, CLAPPER, SORA AND VIRGINIA RAILS**

**Season Dates:** Nov. 20 – Dec. 25

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Possession:** 6

**GALLINULE AND MOORHENS**

**Season Dates:** Nov. 20 – Dec. 25

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Possession:** 6

**WOODCOCK**

**Season Dates:** Nov. 13 – Dec. 30 and  
Jan. 31 – Feb. 26

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Possession:** 6

Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons. Daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 6, respectively, apply while hunting during the gun season and extended falconry seasons.

With the following exception, falconry hours for all species are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset. For doves on September 4 (gun season), falconry hours are from noon until sunset.

Daily bag and possession limits are for all species singly or in the aggregate. For example, if the applicable season(s) are open, a daily bag may consist of 3 doves or 1 dove, 1 duck and 1 woodcock for a total of 3 migratory game birds.

**Adoption of a Season to Allow the Take of Migrant Peregrine Falcons** – the Commission adopted the proposal presented in **Exhibit I** to establish a 2010 season for the take of two live migrant juvenile peregrine falcons for use in falconry, with the following stipulations:

- Total allowable take is 2 birds during the period from September 20, 2010 through October 20, 2010.
- All birds taken must be juveniles.
- Take would be allowed only by permit from the WRC and only east of US Highway 17.
- No banded birds could be taken. Any banded birds captured must be immediately released at the site of capture.
- Permits will be issued through our special hunts permitting system (random).
- One permit will be issued to N.C. residents only; 1 permit will be open to residents or non-residents.
- All individuals issued a permit must have the proper state and federal falconry licenses/permits.
- Each person receiving a permit must complete a post-season survey provided by DWM staff and submit that survey no later than December 15, 2010.

**Inland Fisheries Update** - the Commission received an update from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, about activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. National Hunting and Fishing Day is September 25. There will be state-wide family oriented events. Twenty-six project proposals, including three boating access proposals and two fishing proposals, have been received for consideration using \$4.4 million in Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) funds. Curry announced that the Climate Change Workshop will be held September 1-2. Curry mentioned the recent kill of approximately 7000 striped bass in Lake Norman due to anoxic conditions.

**Property Acquisition, Granville County** – the Commission approved staff recommendation presented by Bob Curry in **Exhibit J** to purchase a one-story, pre-engineered metal building and adjacent 4.5-acre parcel located in Granville County near Creedmoor, to replace the existing Falls Lake Office and Depot.

**Conservation Education Update** – the Commission received an update from Will Sutton, *Conservation Education Division Chief*, about the activities and programs of the Conservation Education Division. Sutton announced intra-agency efforts involving Conservation Education as the agency hub for activities and programs including among others publication of the Regulations Digest, work on the public hearings, hunting heritage education, media responses, Youth Conservation Day and National Hunting and Fishing day. Sutton introduced Geoff Cantrell and Dan Ellis, who worked with the Enforcement Division on a media presentation about the Enforcement Academy. Cantrell and Ellis showed a brief video that highlights the accomplishments of graduates of the Enforcement Academy.

**Big Game Committee Report** - the Commission received a report from David Hoyle, Jr., *Chairman*. The Big Game Committee was updated on the work of a 14-member committee that is evaluating deer season regulations. Hoyle announced that the presentation will be made to the entire Commission in October. Hoyle stated that he anticipates a lengthy Big Game Committee meeting prior to the October WRC meeting.

**Executive Committee Report** – the Commission received a report from Chairman Steve Windham. Windham announced that the Executive Committee looked at aging equipment that is owned by licensing agents across the state. As a cost-saving measure the Commission adopted a motion from the Executive Committee for the Wildlife Resources Commission to discontinue providing computers and computer support to new agents immediately; to discontinue providing support of existing agent-owned equipment on December 31, 2011; to discontinue internet dial-up service on January 1, 2011; and to discontinue high-speed internet service as soon as possible following adoption of appropriate rule changes. Commissioner David Hoyle, Jr. recused himself from consideration of and vote on this motion.

**Comments by the Executive Director** – Executive Director Gordon Myers expressed his appreciation for the outstanding presentation made to the Big Game Committee by Chris Kreh, District 7 Wildlife Biologist, on a proposed process for evaluating deer season regulations. He thanked Col. Dale Caveny for updating the Executive Committee on the future direction of the Law Enforcement Division. The ideas and processes are closely aligned with the agency's Strategic Plan adopted by the Commission last December. Myers reminded the assembly that the state-wide public hearings begin in two weeks. Since the list of rule proposals is short this year, the agency will provide updates on the activities of the WRC, share information about importance of reporting the harvest, talk briefly about the license fee restructuring process, and will clarify the rules that became law in August, and respond to questions from the public about requirements for wearing blaze orange and the requirement for a handgun permit for use with a crossbow. Myers announced that Governor Bev Perdue issued a proclamation in recognition of National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 25, 2010, and read the proclamation into the minutes of the meeting.

**Adjournment**- the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Windham at 11:15 a.m.