



## ACTIONS

### N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

August 30, 2012, 9 a.m.

Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Meeting** - *Commission Chairman* David Hoyle, Jr. 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.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation** – Steve Windham led the Pledge of Allegiance. Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

**Mandatory Ethics Inquiry** - Chairman Hoyle read the ethics inquiry mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e). Commissioner Jim Cogdell recused himself from discussion and action on **Exhibit M-5, Texas Plantation LLC tract**.

**Administer Oath of Office to New Commission Members** – The Honorable Douglas Parsons, Superior Court Judge, District 4-A and a former Wildlife Commissioner, administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioner at Large Garry Spence, appointed by President Pro Tempore Phil Berger for a term expiring June 30, 2013, and District 4 Commissioner Ray Clifton, Jr., appointed by Governor Bev Perdue to replace Douglas Parsons for a term expiring June 30, 2013.

**Presentation of the 2012 Thomas L. Quay Award** – *Executive Director* Gordon Myers introduced Dr. Harry Le Grand, Jr., the 2012 winner of the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award, noting his contributions to biodiversity in his 28 years with the Natural Heritage Program. Dr. Le Grand is a member of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. He helps maintain rare listings for the state and conducts conservation planning for wildlife preserves. An expert on butterflies and dragonflies, Dr. Le Grand has written Butterflies of North Carolina and Dragonflies and Damselflies of North Carolina. Director Gordon Myers read a resolution in Le Grand's honor, unanimously adopted and incorporated into the minutes, and presented him with a plaque and framed wildlife print.

**Wildlife Resources Commission Special Presentation** – *Executive Director* Myers recognized former Commissioner and Superior Court Judge Douglas Parsons for his years of service to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Myers read a resolution in Parsons' honor, which was unanimously adopted and presented to Judge Parsons along with a framed wildlife print.

**Presentation of the International Hunter Education Association Hall of Fame Award** - Travis Casper, *Hunter Education Coordinator, Enforcement Division*, presented **Exhibit A**, recognition of Mr. Kim Tavasso, *Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor*. Tavasso was the recipient of the Hall of Fame Award given at the June 2012 annual meeting of the International Hunter Education Association in Kansas City, MO. Mr. Tavasso was not able to attend that meeting to receive his award.

The Commission meeting recessed at 9:25 for 15 minutes so that photographs could be taken.

**Minutes** – the Commission approved the July 12, 2012 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes, presented in **Exhibit B**.

**Notice of Commissioner Appointments** – Chairman David Hoyle received into the minutes **Exhibits C-1 and C-2**, Notice of Appointment by *President Pro Tempore* Phil Berger of Garry Spence for a term ending June 30, 2013; and Notice of Appointment by *Governor* Beverly Perdue of Vernon Ray Clifton, Jr. – District 4, for a term ending on June 30, 2013.

**Evaluation of 2012 Statements of Economic Interest Read into the Minutes** – Pursuant to the requirements of NCGS §138A-15, Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. read into the minutes portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of 2012 Statements of Economic Interest for Vernon Ray Clifton, Jr. and James Garry Spence.

**Financial Status Reports** – the Commission received a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2012, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, presented in **Exhibit D**. The Operating Fund balance is \$22,177,706.67. The Endowment Fund balance is \$91,086,888.60.

Clark then presented a financial status report on the annual interest allocation for the Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2012, presented in **Exhibit E**. The Commission approved the allocation of \$3,972,911.25 to the Sportsmen Funds. The Commission approved \$258,514.49 to be allocated to the Magazine Fund, which represents 100 percent of the interest derived from sales of lifetime magazine subscriptions.

**Big Game Committee Report** – John Litton Clark, *Chairman*, reported that the Big Game Committee met on August 29, 2012. The Committee received an update from staff about the severe outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in deer. Also discussed was an *ad hoc* committee being formed to discuss the Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan and a plan for increased surveillance. The committee will report to the entire Commission in July 2013. Another major topic of discussion was bear management. Many stakeholders attended and participated in discussion or bear management plans across the state.

**Land Use and Access Committee Report** – Jim Cogdell, *Chairman*, reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met on August 29, 2012. The Committee received information about the process for consideration of land acquisitions, including funding sources, net dollar costs to the agency, and potential operating expenses. The committee discussed upcoming exhibits pertaining to easements and rights of way.

## NCWRC Meeting Actions August 30, 2012

3

**Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Report** – Berkley Skinner, *Chairman*, reported that the Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee met on August 29 and discussed the exhibit regarding 2012-2013 waterfowl seasons.

**Executive Committee Report** – Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. reported that the Executive Committee met on August 29. Agency staff presented a financial overview and report about new provisions in the State budget.

**Check Presentation** – Commissioner Tom Berry presented checks totaling \$21,000.00, given by Commissioner Jim Cogdell, the NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the NC Wildlife Habitat Foundation for the acquisition of the Whitaker Tract in Halifax County.

**Agency Spotlight** – the Commission received an update from *Sergeant* Mark Cable and *Master Officer* Robert Wayne, *Wildlife Enforcement*, about the “new” black market - theft and sale of North Carolina reptiles and amphibians. They showed a film about thefts of spotted and box turtles, canebrake and pygmy rattlesnakes, cottonmouth moccasins, frogs and skinks, among other species, from eastern counties for sale on the black market, similar to the drug trade. Collectors of the black market reptiles and amphibians in the US and in other countries purchase them for the pet trade, food, jewelry, and medicinal use. Increased enforcement and prosecution for the illegal take of native species that may be threatened or endangered adds another important dimension to the responsibilities of NC Wildlife Enforcement Officers.

**Inland Fisheries Update** - the Commission received an update from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, about activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. He announced that fish stocking has resumed. A rock arch fish passageway on the Cape Fear River is being constructed. The NC State Fair and Mountain State Fair will highlight the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and feature some of its funded activities. Curry announced that September 22 is National Hunting and Fishing Day. Three lifetime licenses will be given away in drawings at the Centennial Campus for Wildlife Education and one will be given away at the Pechmann Center. Curry announced that the joint Marine Resources Subcommittee will meet on November 29. The committee will be presented with projects for consideration using monies from the sale of Coastal Recreational and Fishing Licenses (CRFL funds.)

**Cape Fear Shiner Augmentation Plan** – the Commission endorsed a cooperative project with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, presented in **Exhibit F** and recommended for approval by the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee, for a draft augmentation plan for the Cape Fear Shiner in the Rocky River in Chatham County. The cooperative project will begin with an outreach and communications plan to allow for local input before fish may be relocated from downstream to upstream of the Woody Mill Dam where the fish are scarce.

**Coastal Habitat Protection Plan 2011-2012 Annual Report** – the Commission received in **Exhibit G** an update of activities and accomplishments by the NCWRC in implementing the goals and actions of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) during 2011-2012.

**Dominion-Roanoke-Gaston Conservation Easements in Halifax, Warren and Northampton Counties** – the Commission approved recommended easements for property designated for riparian habitat enhancement in the Dominion FERC Settlement Agreement, presented in **Exhibit H** by John Barbour, *State Property Office Liaison*.

**Reconsideration of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding, Edgecombe County** – the Commission approved a MOU tabled at the May meeting for further discussion, presented in **Exhibit I** by Isaac Harrold, *Public Lands Section Manager*, to allow the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation to construct a camping platform adjacent to the river on Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County.

**Easement Request, Montgomery County** – the Commission approved the staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit J** to formalize and record a prescriptive easement at the Troy Boating Access Area in Montgomery County.

**Easement Request, Gates County** – the Commission approved a request from Century Link, presented by Isaac Harrold in **Exhibit K**, for an easement across a portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County for the purpose of providing telephone service to adjacent property.

**Easement Request, Beaufort County** – the Commission approved a request from Tideland EMC for a utility easement across a portion of Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort County, for the purpose of providing electrical service to an adjacent subdivision (**Exhibit L**).

**Land Acquisitions** – Isaac Harrold presented **Exhibits M1-M8**, proposals for staff to begin working with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for properties. Commissioner Jim Cogdell recused himself from discussion or consideration of **M-5**, Texas Plantation LLC in Tyrrell County. With Commissioner Cogdell recused the Commission approved M-5. The entire Commission approved initiating development of acquisition plans for the other seven properties: Braun Tract in Ashe County; Carter Sisters Tract in Scotland County; Faircloth Tracts in Bladen County; McFadden Tract in Bladen County; Riverstone LLC Tract in Columbus County; Hiwassee River near Hayesville in Clay County; and Little Tennessee River near Franklin in Macon County.

**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 CDs with information about the public hearings schedule, grouse and quail hunt surveys, and comments about captive cervid facilities, as well as news releases and a copy of the Upland Gazette. Cobb noted that dove season begins on September 1. Cobb mentioned that prior to the District 7 public hearing on September 20, discussion will be held at 6:30 pm pertinent to the outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in the deer population. He announced that a poster in the lobby shows highlights of an alligator location project done in collaboration with NC State University.

**Field Trial Schedule** - the Commission approved the 2012-2013 North Carolina Field Trial Association Running Schedule, presented in **Exhibit N**.

**2012-2013 Waterfowl Seasons-** the Commission received summaries, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibits O-1, O-2, and O-3**, of trends in duck breeding populations from 1955-2012, 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 2012-2013 options for bag limits, shooting hours, and season dates for waterfowl seasons occurring after September 30, presented in **Exhibit O-4**:

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

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

**Youth Waterfowl Days:** February 2 and February 9, 2013 (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 include 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.

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

**Season Length:** 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

**Season Dates:** October 3-6  
November 10 – December 1  
December 15 – January 26  
(Black duck and mottled duck season closed until November 17.)

**Bag Limits:**

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, 4 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black or mottled duck (season closed until November 17), 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. Includes scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks. 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.

***SPECIAL SEA DUCK SEASON (IN SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREAS ONLY)***

**Season Length:** 106 hunting days

**Season Dates:** October 1 – January 31

**Bag Limit:** 7 sea ducks (in special sea duck areas 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.

***GOOSE SEASONS***

**DARK GEESE (*includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese*):**

**RESIDENT (RP) ZONE**

**Season Length:** 78 days

**Season Dates:** October 3– October 13  
November 10 – December 1  
December 15 – February 9

**Bag Limit:** 5 geese per day

**SOUTHERN JAMES BAY (SJB) ZONE**

**Season Length:** 69 days

**Season Dates:** October 3 – October 31  
November 10 - December 31

**Bag Limit:** 5 geese per day

**NORTHEAST HUNT ZONE**

**Season Length:** 7 days

**Season Dates:** January 19 – January 26

**Bag Limit:** 1 goose per day (with valid permit)  
(unlimited permits available – tagging not required)

**NCWRC Meeting Actions  
August 30, 2012**

7

**LIGHT GEESE (*includes snow, blue and Ross' geese*):**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Season Length:</u></b>            | 107 Days   |
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b>             | October 17 – October 20<br>November 10 – March 9                               |
| <b><u>Bag Limit:</u></b>                | 25 birds daily (no possession limit)   |
| <b><u>Expanded hunting methods:</u></b> | allow use of electronic calls and unplugged guns from<br>February 11 – March 9 |

**ATLANTIC BRANT:**

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Season Length:</u></b> | 50 Days  |
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b>  | November 17 - December 1<br>December 15 - January 26 |
| <b><u>Bag Limit:</u></b>     | 2 birds daily  |

**TUNDRA SWAN:**

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Season Length:</u></b> | 71 Days                            |
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b>  | November 10 - January 31           |
| <b><u>Bag Limit:</u></b>     | One per season (with valid permit) |

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

**DOVE**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b> | Oct. 13 - Nov. 17 |
| <b><u>Daily Bag:</u></b>    | 3                 |
| <b><u>Possession:</u></b>   | 6                 |

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

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b> | Nov. 17 – Dec. 22 |
| <b><u>Daily Bag:</u></b>    | 3                 |
| <b><u>Possession:</u></b>   | 6                 |

**GALLINULE AND MOORHENS**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b> | Nov. 17 - Dec. 22 |
| <b><u>Daily Bag:</u></b>    | 3                 |
| <b><u>Possession:</u></b>   | 6                 |

**WOODCOCK**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Season Dates:</u></b> | Nov. 5 – Dec. 8 and<br>Feb. 1 – Feb. 28 |
| <b><u>Daily Bag:</u></b>    | 3                                       |

**Possession:** 6

**DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS (the take of harlequin ducks is prohibited)**

**Season Dates:** Oct. 22 – Nov. 3 and  
Jan. 28 – February 16

**Daily Bag:** 3

**Possession:** 6

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

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.

Falconry hours for all species are from ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.

Falconry is not allowed on Sunday.

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 P** to establish a 2012 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, 2012 through October 20, 2012.
- 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 may 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. A second permit will be available to either a resident or nonresident falconer.
- An individual 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, 2012.

**Swine Trapping Permanent Rules Public Comments and Adoption** – the Commission received one public comment from the Animal Welfare Institute and members in North Carolina, opposing the adoption of permanent rules to allow feral swine trapping with no closed season and no bag limits. The Commission adopted permanent amendments to rules 15A NCAC 10B .0303 – Open Seasons and 15A NCAC 10B .0304 – Bag Limits, presented in **Exhibit Q**.

**Comments by the Chairman** – Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. thanked officers Cagle and Wayne for the interesting spotlight about the reptile and amphibian black market. He announced that a letter of appreciation was received from the organizers of the Cape Fear Youth Day, in which they personally thanked employees of the NCWRC. Hoyle requested that the letter be entered into the Minutes of the meeting.

**Comments by the Executive Director** – Executive Director Gordon Myers mentioned the upcoming public hearings. He asked the Commissioners to notify him if they are interested in coordinating a site visit or visit with a constituent on any of the public hearing dates. Myers stated that the Strategic Recruitment and Retention Initiative planning is underway. He recognized Jenny Harris, Travis Casper, and Deet James for their efforts in planning the event which will be held in Wallace in October 2012. Myers recognized the Boating Access Program, stating that it was about to receive a national award as the best program of its type in the nation. He also congratulated Officer Anthony Sharum for winning the Governor’s Award. Myers then told the assembly that he has been advised by legal counsel that some of the agency’s temporary rules will be challenged, and he asked that any correspondence about the challenges be referred to Norman Young, Agency Counsel.

**Adjournment**- the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hoyle at 11:10 a.m.