

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Meeting Summary - January 7, 2015, 3 pm R.H. Barringer Distributing Co, Greensboro, NC

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Chair Mark Craig called the meeting to order at 3pm.

Attendees

Commissioners

Mark Craig Tom Berry

Staff

Mallory MartinBob CurryCindy CarrDavid CobbShannon DeatonAllen BoyntonTodd EwingChris DillonKate Pipkin

Guests

Ken Bridle Fred Harris Sarah McRae

Staff update on the NC Wildlife Action Plan Revision (Cindy Carr)

- Commissioners heard an update on the Plan's revision process, timeline, and upcoming review/input.
- Staff's presentation reiterated that the Plan is comprehensive and partners have been heavily involved in its development. A stakeholder listsery for the Plan has 800 contacts.
- The last Plan was submitted in 2005. The revised Plan is due to USFWS by September 30, 2015.
- Full commission will hear an update on the Plan at the March 2015 business meeting, including timeline, use of the Plan, and next steps before September 2015.
- Staff anticipates requesting a vote of support from the Commission no later than August 2015.

Staff summary of a Dwarf Wedgemussel Augmentation proposal (Todd Ewing)

- Todd Ewing summarized an augmentation project proposal using hatchery produced Dwarf wedgemussel (mollusks, Neuse and Tar River basins) and placing them within the currently occupied range of the Dwarf wedgemussel in Swift Creek (Neuse basin).
- Staff is approval from the Commission for this project at the request of the USFWS. This approval will allow the FWS and DOT to more fully consider the project as a viable option during consultation. If accepted as an option, then funding for the project will be discussed.
- HNGES will be requested to take action on this proposal at their January 28th Committee meeting.

Updates for State listing (Todd Ewing and Allen Boynton)

- Staff is finalizing a cooperative contract to test the NC Assessment Tool (NCAT) with a final report due June 15, 2015, which will recommend listing status using the same metrics per species.
- Staff is developing species templates as a reference document which will be shared with any recommendations for listing changes.
- Staff anticipates presenting recommendations for state listing updates during Fall/Winter 2015.

Adjourn – Chairman Craig adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.