



Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Meeting Summary

**May 22, 2014, 11:30 am
Centennial Campus, Raleigh**

Meeting Attendees

Commissioners

Mark Craig
Tom Berry

Visitors

Ann Somers – Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee	Karen Beck - NWAC
Ken Bridle – NWAC	Fred Harris – NWAC/NCWF
Alvin Braswell – NWAC	Wilson Laney – NWAC/USFWS
Scott Fletcher – NWAC/Duke Energy	Harry LeGrand –NC Nature Heritage
John Crutchfield – NWAC/Duke Energy	

Commissioner Mark Craig called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award – 2014

- Shannon Deaton provided an update on the selection of the 2014 award recipient.
- Commissioner Craig indicated that staff should alter the selection timeline:
 - Recommendation from NWAC ready for HNGES then full Commission vote July 2014
 - Recipient presented the 2104 award at the August 2014 Commission meeting

Nongame License Plate Art Contest nominees

- Ann Somers provided HNGES with an update a UNC-G undergraduate project promoting a new design of the nongame license plate.
- UNC-G received 38 art applications featuring nongame species to help promote the Wildlife Diversity Program.
- UNC-G students and NWAC have recently voted on their top 5 art designs for the HNGES to consider for further action at their next meeting.
- Shannon Deaton indicated that staff will review the forming General Statute for the plate to determine if there are any law changes needed to change to full plate; also explore the possibility of multiple images for customers to choose from for their plate.
- Ann Somers indicated that the submissions can be slightly altered if needed, such as shifting images, changing background, or other similar edits. Somers indicated that the NWAC votes may have changed if a solid color background was used on some entries. Shannon Deaton noted that she would determine if the entries could be digitally altered to give options.
- Shannon Deaton will plan to report out at the next NWAC meeting on each of the requested items.

Summary of NWAC Resolution Discussion

- Ken Bridle provided HNGES with a report out on the NWAC discussion.
- The General Statute referring to NWAC almost entirely references the state listing process. Statutory language “to advise” needs clarification when considering resolution.
- The NWAC forming resolution covers more NWAC functions.
- Ken noted that the conservation plans for state listed species are useful in the process for developing state listings.

Other Business

Action Items from Chairman Mark Craig:

1. Update NWAC forming resolution – Staff asked to prepare a draft updated resolution to share with HNGES at a July 2014 meeting. The final should be voted on by HNGES Committee and full Commission in August. The draft July version should incorporate NWAC and staff review and comments. This updated resolution will need to define how NWAC is a liaison, such as scientific community, public in general, conservation community, etc.
2. State Listing – At the July 2014 HNGES meeting staff will supply a draft of a more “Commissioner-friendly” format (just a template) for proposing updates to the state listing. This template should include species information such as photo, range, extent of occurrence in NC and US, rationale for listing change, comments from staff and tangible positive and negative economic impact notes. Economic note could include per species, for each status change overall, vicinity of public lands, sister agency rules/permitting.
3. WAP revision – This final revision is due October 2015. Staff requested to provide HNGES Committee with updates on timeline status at Committee meetings.

Additional Discussion

- Commissioner Craig indicated interest in developing a link between NWAC and the Land Use and Access Committee to inform land acquisition decisions that benefit nongame. Commissioner Berry supported this effort and noted that Commissioners are interested in understanding how land acquisition relates to priority species and the WAP implementation. Shannon Deaton shared 4 full

packets of all Land Use and Access Exhibits from their May 21 meeting and requested that Ken Bridle ask for NWAC volunteers for an advisory subcommittee on Lands.

- Ken Bridle mentioned that NWAC has several vacancies and pending re-appointments that require Commission final vote. Nominees have been voted on by NWAC and are pending with the Commission.
 - **Action:** Commissioner Craig noted that NWAC should have all seats filled as soon as possible. He asked staff to present NWAC vacancy and re-appointments to HNGES at the July 2014 meeting. He expressed a desire for HNGES to react to any change in NWAC membership with the next expiring terms once the NWAC resolution is finalized.

Committee meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.