



*Committee of the Whole Meeting Summary
July 9, 2014 at 3:45 pm
NCWRC, 5th Floor Commission Room*

Meeting Attendees

• **Commissioners:**

Joe Barker
Wes Seegars
Garry Spence
John Litton Clark
Dell Murphy
Tom Berry
Ray Clifton
Tim Spear

Jim Cogdell
Joe Budd
Neal Hanks
Mark Craig
Tommy Fonville
David Hoyle, Jr.
Neal Hanks

• **Staff:**

Branden Sherrill
Isaac Harrold
Tommy Clark
Gordon Myers
Brad Gunn
Bob Curry
Russell Wong
Chris Dillon

David Sawyer
Erik Christofferson
Betsy Haywood
Mallory Martin
David Cobb
Kate Pipkin
Lisa Hocutt

• **Visitors:**

Henri McClees – NC Sporting Dogs Assoc.
Jim Burnette – NCDA and CS
Carol Bambery – Assoc. of Fish/Wildlife Agencies
John Frampton – Council to Advance Hunting & Shooting Sports

Heather Hillaker
Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation

Chairman Jim Cogdell called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

Presentation by John Frampton – John Frampton of the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports gave a presentation about the Council. The Council is a non-profit organization that is committed to a national strategy for recruitment and retention of hunters and those engaged in shooting sports. The program focuses on recreation, health, military involvement, enforcement, and the importance of hunting and shooting sports on the economy. It is directly linked to the origins of the conservation movement and North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Frampton said that most states have endorsed the program and provide funding to the Council. The average pledge is \$76,000.00. The Committee of the Whole endorsed committing to the program. More information will be presented to the WRC at the August meeting.

Legislative Update - Executive Director Gordon Myers stated that Senate Bill 734 would authorize the Pesticide Board to control moles. He stated that HB1131 allows for no regulation of opossums in Clay County in the days near New Year's Eve. Senate Bill 744, the Appropriations Act, shows a one million dollar reduction to the agency. The Senate bill proposes a joint study to determine which agency is best suited to manage deer farming.

Regulatory Matters – Gordon Myers made the committee aware of resource closures at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The National Park Service closed the beach for protection of the least tern, which has caused controversy during the height of the tourist season. Myers will request that the National Park Service use maximum flexibility in allowing private property use adjacent to the National Seashore.

Myers introduced Jim Burnette, NC Department of Agriculture Pest Control Management. On May 13, 2014 the WRC was asked to reaffirm moles as pests. Two species would be listed as pests, omitting the star-nose mole. At a May 29 public hearing one hundred comments were received, all of them in opposition to declaring moles as pests. Myers stated that if the WRC does not act the bill will pass. He stated that 49 states allow control of moles as pests.

Erik Christofferson reported that a public hearing to gauge local support for the Linville River Tract Shooting Range revealed that half of the respondents were opposed. The proposed site is close to Lake James and there were concerns about sound carrying to neighborhoods. A sound study was conducted at different areas. In all neighborhoods that were studied noise from pistols and shotguns did not register. Additional sound testing will be conducted. Alternative sites for the shooting range will be examined and shelter design and noise dampening methods will be considered.

Gordon Myers reported that a June 19, 2014 public hearing was held about the adoption of coyote hunting rules in the five-county area and the preliminary injunction. More than 3,000 comments were in support of the prohibition against coyote hunting in the area of the red wolf reintroduction program. Many respondents were concerned about the impacts of the red wolf program on private land management and protection.

Motion to Go Into Closed Session – the Commission moved to go into closed session to discuss pending legal matters.

Adjourn - Chairman Cogdell adjourned the open meeting at 5:00 pm.