AGENDA

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
February 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman David Hoyle, Jr.

This meeting is being recorded as a public record and will be available at www.ncwildlife.org. As a courtesy to others please silence cell phones and other electronic devices during the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Tommy Fonville

INVOCATION - Commissioner John Stone

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – Chairman David Hoyle

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY - North Carolina General Statute §138A-15 mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquires as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. Chairman David Hoyle

NOTICE OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENT - Receive Notice of Appointment by Governor Roy Cooper of James M. Ruffin – District 7, for term ending June 30, 2025 (EXHIBIT A)
RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMISSIONER JAMES M. RUFFIN - Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), any actual or potential conflict of interest by a public servant sitting on a board and cited by the Ethics Commission under NCGS 138A-24(e) is required to be read into the minutes of the applicable board. Read into the Minutes relevant portions of the evaluation by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the Statement of Economic Interest for James M. Ruffin, Governor Appointee – Betsy Haywood, Ethics Liaison

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW COMMISSIONER – Administer the Oath of Office to Governor appointee James M. Ruffin – The Honorable Rueben Young, Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals

Break for Photographs

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Take action on the December 5, 2019 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (EXHIBIT B)

ADMINISTRATION


COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elk and Alligator Management Committee Report, February 25, 2020 – Steve Windham, Chair
Boating Safety Committee Report – Ray Clifton, Vice Chair
Finance Committee Report – Landon Zimmer, Chair
Small Game Committee Report – John Stone, Chair
Land Acquisitions and Property Report – Tom Berry, Chair
Fisheries Committee Report – Tommy Fonville, Chair
Committee of the Whole Report – Chairman David Hoyle

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – A Look Back at Recent WRC Construction Projects – Dean Barbee, Construction Projects Manager, and Brad Kleinmaier, Capital Projects Coordinator

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Wildlife Management Division Update – Receive an update on the activities of the Wildlife Management Division – Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief

Public Comments and Rulemaking for 2020-2021 Wildlife Management Rules – Receive public comments on proposed changes to wildlife management Rules received from statewide public hearings, internet portal, and correspondence. Review and consider for adoption proposed changes to the 2020-2021 wildlife management Rules – Brad Howard (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2)
INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division Update - Receive an update on activities of the Inland Fisheries Division – Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief

Public Comments and Rulemaking for 2020 – 2021 Inland Fishing Rules – Receive public comments on proposed changes to inland fishing Rules received from statewide public hearings, internet portal, and correspondence. Review and consider for adoption proposed changes to the 2020-2021 inland fishing Rules – Christian Waters (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2)

LAND AND WATER ACCESS DIVISION

Land and Water Access Division Update - Receive an update on the activities of the Land and Water Access Section – Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Division Chief

Public Comments and Rulemaking for 2020-2021 Game Land Rules – Receive summary of public comments on proposed changes to game lands management regulations received from statewide public hearings, the WRC internet portal, and correspondence. Review and consider adoption of proposed changes in the 2019-2020 game land management regulations – Brian McRae (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisitions of the following properties – Jessie Birckhead, Land Acquisition and Grants Manager (EXHIBITS G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, G-5)
  - Sparta Wetland BRC Tract – Alleghany County (G-1)
  - Lawrence Tract – Scotland County (G-2)
  - Staples Tract – Camden County (G-3)
  - Russell Tract – Wilkes County (G-4)
  - Mt. Holly Depot Tract – Lincoln County (G-5)

Property Dispositions

Marion Aquaculture Building Disposition – Consider request from staff to demolish existing structure at Marion Fish Hatchery to make room for a new facility – Jessie Birckhead (EXHIBIT H-1)

Gibson Fox Trial Facility Disposition – Consider request from staff to dispose of the Gibson Fox Trial Facility property in Scotland County – Jessie Birckhead (EXHIBIT H-2)
WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Review Comments and Consider Final Adoption - 15A NCAC 10F .0327 – Montgomery County – Review public comments (none) and consider final adoption of an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0327 requested by Montgomery County, for a restricted swim area on Badin Lake at Pinehaven Village in New London - Betsy Haywood, No-Wake Zone Coordinator (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)

Review Comments and Consider Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0340 – Currituck County – Review public comments and consider final adoption with changes to 15A NCAC 10F .0340 for a no-wake zone within the canals at Carova Beach in Currituck County – Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)

Temporary Rulemaking – 15A NCAC 10F .0317 – Stanly County and 15A NCAC 10F .0327 - Montgomery County - Consider action to propose text on the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) website, for a temporary rule for a no-wake zone on Lake Tillery in Stanly County, within 50 yards of the fuel docks at the Boathouse and Marina at 712 Berry Hill Drive in Norwood; and a temporary rule 85 yards north and 85 yards south of the NC Hwy 24/27/73 James B. Garrison bridge eastbound and westbound spans in Stanly County (EXHIBIT K-1); and on Lake Tillery in Montgomery County, 85 yards north and 85 yards south of the NC Hwy 24/27/73 James B. Garrison Bridge eastbound and westbound spans, to mitigate water safety hazards during an NC DOT bridge construction project (EXHIBIT K-2) – Betsy Haywood

OTHER RULEMAKING

Approval of Fiscal Note and Proposed Notice of Text - Wildlife Conservation Land Program – 15A NCAC 10L .0100 Wildlife Reserve – Consider approval of the fiscal note and consider approval to publish Notice of Text in the NC Register and open the public comment period with one public hearing, for proposed permanent rules addressing the activities required for land to qualify for present-use value taxation as wildlife conservation land that creates and is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities – Michael Smallwood, JD, Policy Analyst (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)

Proposed Notice of Text - Totally Disabled Lifetime Licenses – 15A NCAC 10G .0601 - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register and open the public comment period with public hearing for proposed amendments to 10G .0601, to provide an alternative method for certification of a qualifying disability – Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT M)

Proposed Notice of Text - Dog Training and Field Trials – 15A NCAC 10B .0114 – Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register and open the public comment period with one public hearing for proposed amendments to 10B .0114, to provide for the issuance of Field Trial Permits via online portal at www.ncwildlife.org – Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT N)
Proposed Notice of Text - Taxidermist Records and Reporting Requirements – 15A NCAC 10H .1003 - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register and open the public comment period with one public hearing, for proposed amendments to 10H .1003 to institute taxidermy reporting requirements pursuant to the taxidermy cervid certification – Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT O)

Temporary Rulemaking - Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves – 15A NCAC 10H - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text on the OAH website for temporary rules for the licensing and regulation of controlled rabbit hunting preserves as provided for in SL 2018-204 – Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT P)

CONSIDER LOCATION CHANGE FOR APRIL 22-23, 2020 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS – Gordon Myers, Executive Director

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN – Chairman David Hoyle

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Gordon Myers

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