

AGENDA N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION April 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m. 1751 Varsity Drive NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Monty Crump

This electronic meeting is being streamed live for the public to attend and recorded as a public record. The recording of the meeting will be available at <u>www.ncwildlife.org</u>.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Haislip

INVOCATION – Commissioner Alexander

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison

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 Monty Crump*

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the February 24, 2022 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT – Receive Financial Status Report on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund. – *Dr. DP Singla, Chief Financial Officer* (EXHIBIT B)

ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENDABLE INCOME ALLOCATION – Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2021 Investment Income Allocation – *Dr. DP Singla* (EXHIBIT C)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2020 SPORT FISH RESTORATION AWARD – Present the 2020 Sport Fish Restoration Award for Research and Surveys to the Inland Fisheries Division for the project "Characterization of the Population Genetics and Phylogeography of North Carolina's Brook Trout." – *Lynn Quattro, President-Elect, American Fisheries Society, Fisheries Administration Section*

2021 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE – Present the 2021 Governor's Award of Excellence for Safety and Heroism to Anthony "Tony" Wait, Conservation Technician, Land and Water Access Division. – *Cameron Ingram, Executive Director*

2021 RICHARD CASWELL AWARD – Present Gary Dail, Coastal Region Construction Supervisor, Engineering Services Division, with the Richard Caswell Award for 45 years of public service to the State of North Carolina. – *Cameron Ingram*

BREAK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – April 7, 2022 – Jim Ruffin, Chair Committee of the Whole Report – April 7, 2022 – Monty Crump, Chair Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee Report – April 13, 2022 – Landon Zimmer, Chair Rules Committee Report – April 13, 2022 – Wes Seegars, Chair Land Acquisition and Property Committee Report – April 13, 2022 – Tom Berry, Chair Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Report – April 13, 2022 – Wes Seegars, Vice Chair Fisheries Committee Report – April 13, 2022 – John Stone, Chair Committee of the Whole Report – April 13, 2022 – Monty Crump, Chair

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Prescribed Fire and Red-Cockaded Woodpecker 1947-2022 A Land Management Success Story – Chris Jordan, Game Lands/Forest Resources Manager and Brady Beck, Southern Piedmont Management Biologist

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager* (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3)

- Bridgewater Recreational Lands Burke County (D-1)
- TCI Timber Tract Bladen Counties (D-2)
- Crawford Tract Gates County (D-3)

Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following easement requests - *Ben Solomon* (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4)

• Request for Right of Way Easement – Consider a request from the landowner for a prescriptive ROW easement at R.Wayne Bailey Game Land. In return, the landowners have granted NCWRC staff deeded administrative access across their parcel (E-1)

- Request for Easements NC DOT requests a Permanent Right of Way Easement, Permanent Drainage Easement, and Temporary Construction Easement as part of a bridge replacement on Juniper Creek Game Land (E-2)
- Request for Easements NC DOT requests a Permanent Right of Way Easement, Permanent Utility Easement, and Temporary Construction Easement as part of a bridge replacement on the Falkland Boating Access Area (E-3)
- Request for Easements Verizon Wireless requests an Access and Utility Easement at Sandhills Game Land (E-4)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2022-2023 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons – Review U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks, receive public comments, and select the 2021-2022 season dates and bag limits for webless migratory birds, resident Canada geese, extended falconry, and waterfowl – Dr. Sara Schweitzer, Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2, F-3b, F-4)

2022 Migrant Peregrine Falconry – Consider staff recommendations to establish a season for taking up to 5 migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry in 2022 – *Dr. Sara Schweitzer* (EXHIBIT G)

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan – Consider staff recommendations on preferred management options for Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief* (EXHIBIT H)

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – Inland Fishing Regulations – Review public comments and consider request to Adopt, Readopt, and amend various 10C .0100, .0300, .0400, .0700, and .0800 rules for inland, joint and coastal fishing waters to provide clarity on inland game fish regulations. – *Christian Waters* (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2b)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10H .1510 Wildlife Control Technician Certification and Eligibility Requirements – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed adoption of 10H .1510 Wildlife Control Technician Certification and Eligibility requirements as laid out in session law. Review and consider approval of fiscal note for proposed rule. – *Ashley Pekrul, Regulatory Analyst* (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10B .0101 Importation of Wild Animals and Birds – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed changes to 10B .0101 Importation of Wild Animals and Birds to provide clarity on the importation of domestically raised game birds, chukars, and Hungarian partridges. – *Ashley Pekrul* **(EXHIBIT K)** **Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text** – 10A .1502 Replacement Costs of Wildlife – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed adoption of 10A .1502 Replacement Costs. Review and consider approval of fiscal note for proposed rule. – *Ashley Pekrul* (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0208 Spawning Areas – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed changes to 10C .0208 Spawning Areas, to remove specific prohibitions on the Linville River and Cape Fear River and prohibit fishing in the sloughs from Match through May. Review and consider approval of fiscal notes for proposed rule. – *Ashley Pekrul* (EXHIBITS M-1, M-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10B Wildlife Management – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed readoption of various 10B Wildlife Management rules as part of the periodic review. – *Ashley Pekrul* (EXHIBIT N)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C Inland Fishing – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed readoption of various 10C Inland Fishing rules as part of the periodic review. – *Ashley Pekrul* (EXHIBIT O)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – Water Safety Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt proposed changes to 15A NCAC 10F .0312 Henderson County (repeal); 10F .0317 Stanly County; 10F .0318 Warren County (repeal); 10F .0323 Burke County; 10F .0327 Montgomery County; 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston counties; 10F .0336 Northampton and Warren counties; 10F .0354 Pitt County; 10F .0378 Halifax County – *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator* **(Exhibits P-1, P-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – **15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County** – Consider approval to publish Notice of Text in the NC Register, hold one public hearing, and open the public comment period for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0310, for an extension of the no-wake zone in Mill Creek to include a portion of Pamlico Sound in Avon. Review and consider approval of fiscal notes for proposed rule changes. – *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS Q-1, Q-2)

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10C .0500 Wildlife Disease Management – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed temporary rules to address Chronic Wasting Disease – *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator* (EXHIBIT R)

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Ingram*

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