

EXHIBIT A
February 24, 2022



MINUTES
December 9, 2021
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the December 9, 2021 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency’s headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.org.

Commissioner David Hoyle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Hayden Rogers and Mike Alford were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Thomas Fonville	Kelly Davis	John Coley	John Stone
David Hoyle	Jim Ruffin	Steve Windham	Tom Haislip	
Brad Stanback	Wes Seegars	J.C. Cole	Tom Berry	
John Alexander	Mark Craig	Landon Zimmer	Ray Clifton	

VISITORS

Robert Smith NC Chapter, NWTF
Tim Draughon, NC Chapter, NWTF
Brent Philips, NC Chapter, NWTF
Zac Morton NWTF Mid-Atlantic Director of Development
Tim Gestwicki. NCWF CEO
Dr. Bob Brown, NCWF Board Member
Dr. Wilson Laney, NCWF Board Member
Ann Somers, NCWF Board Member
Family of Natalie Bell
Family of Officer Nathan Cox
Family of Officer Jenrette Springs

NOTICES OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Receive Notices of Appointments by Governor Roy Cooper of Hayden A. Rogers, At-Large (**EXHIBIT A-1**); and J. Carlton Cole, At-Large (**EXHIBIT A-2**), for terms ending June 30, 2025; and Appointments of Michael K. Alford, District 2 (**EXHIBIT A-3**); Thomas M. Haislip, Jr., District 5 (**EXHIBIT A-4**); and David Hoyle, Jr., District 8 (**EXHIBIT A-5**); for terms ending June 30, 2027.

Exhibits A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, and A-5 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2021 MEETING

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by John Coley, the Minutes of the October 28, 2021 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

Exhibit B is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. DP Singla, Chief Financial Officer, presented a status report in **EXHIBIT C** on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

Exhibit C is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – 2021 NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM (NASP) NATIONAL FEMALE CHAMPION – Executive Director Cameron Ingram recognized Natalie Bell the 2021 NASP National Female Champion.

2020 NORTH CAROLINA WILD TURKEY FEDERATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

AWARD – Brent Philips, Robert Smith, and Tim Draughon of the NC State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with Zac Morton, NWTF Director of Development Mid-Atlantic, presented the 2020 North Carolina Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year Award to Master Officer Nathan Cox.

2021 NORTH CAROLINA WILD TURKEY FEDERATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR –

Brent Philips, Robert Smith, and Tim Draughon of the NC State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with Zac Morton, NWTF Director of Development Mid-Atlantic, presented the 2021 North Carolina Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year Award to Senior Officer Jenrette Springs.

2021 NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION CONSERVATIONIST OF THE

YEAR AWARD –NC Wildlife Federation CEO Tim Gestwicki along with board members Dr. Bob Brown, Dr. Wilson Laney, and Ann Somers presented the 2021 North Carolina Wildlife Federation Conservationist of The Year Award to Dr. Matthew Godfrey.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Boating Safety Committee Report – December 8, 2021 – *John Coley, Chair*, reported the Boating Safety Committee met on December 8th, 2021. Betsy Haywood, *Water Safety Rules Coordinator*, explained that staff accepts applications from local units of government for consideration by the Commission for boating safety rules. The agency continues to review existing rules to make sure that they are necessary, within the Commission’s statutory authority, clear and unambiguous, place no undue burden on the regulated public, and meet the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. She also reviewed requests for water safety rule amendments and technical changes to clarify and correct text, from the agency and local units of government in six counties – Morrow Mountain State Park in Stanly County; Lake James State Park in Burke County; City of Greenville in Pitt County; Montgomery County; Lake Wylie Marine Commission; and Northampton and Warren counties. A new Rule proposal for Halifax County was reviewed. Two requests for rulemaking were reviewed to repeal the water safety Rule for Warren County on Lake Gaston and combine those amendments into the Rule for Northampton and Warren counties; and to repeal the Rule for Henderson County at Lake Summit. Fiscal notes were reviewed for Stanly, Burke, Pitt, and Halifax counties. The Boating Safety Committee had no objections and recommended adoption of these Rules and Fiscal Notes at today’s meeting. Ben Meyer, *Major of Administration*, updated the Committee about correspondence from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. The Lake Wylie Marine Commission requests the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to adopt an amendment requiring no-wake speed within 50 yards of any boat launching ramp, dock, pier, marina, boat storage structure or boat service area on Lake Wylie. Chairman Crump tasked staff with preparing a response and noted that such a request exceeds the authority or necessity for rulemaking by the WRC.

Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Report –December 8, 2021– *John Coley, Chair*, reported the Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee met on December 8, 2021. The first topic of discussion involved the North Carolina State Waterfowl Print. Brad Howard, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, briefly discussed the history of the State Waterfowl Print and advised Commissioners that 2022 would be the 40th year of the print. Staff identified a significant decrease in sales and interest in the stamp and provided the suggestion that we considered ending the print program with the 40th and final year. The

Committee agreed and further discussion will be had with regard to the species on the stamp, artist, and other details. Next, Doug Howell, *Migratory Bird Coordinator*, gave an update and review of the Migratory Bird Regulation Process along with an update on several upcoming changes to the duck and goose seasons during the next cycle, including some changes to the northeast goose zone. With no further business, the Committee adjourned.

Big Game Committee Report – December 8, 2021 – *David Hoyle, Chair*, reported the Big Game Committee met on December 8, 2021. The Committee received presentations from Colleen Olfenbuttel *Black Bear/Furbearer Biologist*, Moriah Boggess, *Deer Biologist*, and Brad Howard, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. Colleen gave the committee an overview of the current bear management plan and highlighted the many ways in which the Commission has accomplished significant objectives from our current plan. She then briefly discussed the plans to move forward with the genetic mark/recapture population estimate in the Coastal Bear Management Unit. The current bear management plan is up for revision however staff asked that given the very specific and informative data expected from this population estimation work that we continue to work under the current plan and begin creation of a new plan once this estimation is complete. Following the presentation, a discussion was had regarding site specific needs for some areas of high bear density and potential options or programs to address those issues. A discussion was also had relative to guide/outfitters and the need to examine and address the growing trends in that service, especially related to bear hunting and potential impacts that might have on the population and bear hunting opportunities. Brad Howard followed the bear discussion with a brief discussion about the interest from Graham County with regard to translocating elk into the County. After reviewing the discussion from 2016 relative to the same topic the Committee indicated that the position has not changed, and the Commission does not intend to translocate or reintroduce elk in Graham County. Moriah Boggess the new deer biologist gave a brief update on the disease monitoring efforts of our deer herds including CWD sampling updates and some information regarding COVID and white-tailed deer. Finally, Chief Howard gave a quick update of the deer and bear harvest, deer harvest is up statewide and bear harvest remains relatively stable across all management units and zones. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Land Acquisitions and Property Committee Report – December 8, 2021 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported the Land Acquisitions and Property Committee met on December 8, 2021. Director Ingram welcomed Katherine Skinner with The Nature Conservancy to the committee meeting. Katherine highlighted the long-standing partnership and collaboration between our two groups as well as upcoming opportunities with the Land and Water Fund. Chairman Berry thanked her for her commitment and her work towards land conservation and that we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future. The Committee reviewed and endorsed five Phase I and one Phase II land acquisition projects and briefly reviewed the need for an out-of-cycle joint committee meeting in January with the Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the next steps in relation to the Small Game Focal Area concept. The Committee also discussed the idea for a recognition lunch or gathering in February with the relevant conservation partners to celebrate the Tuckertown acquisition.

Fisheries Committee Report – December 8, 2021 – *John Stone, Chair*, reported the Fisheries Committee met on December 8th, 2021. Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented maps showing

nine proposed changes to boundaries for Inland and Coastal Fishing Waters: 5 changes in the Albemarle Sound area, 2 changes in the Neuse River area, and 2 changes in the Cape Fear River area. The Committee voted to endorse the proposed changes and asked staff to identify the associated impacts and to initiate the preparation of a fiscal note. Next, Christian presented 4 different designs for signs incorporating the recent statutory change allowing veterans to fish in Mountain Heritage Trout Waters without having a fishing license. The Committee indicated their preference for the design with a U.S. flag watermark. Doug Besler, *Mountain Region Fishery Supervisor*, presented water temperature data collected at 16 sites across western North Carolina as part of an evaluation of catch and release stocked trout angling opportunities. Temperature loggers were deployed over the summer in 2020 and 2021, and only 4 of the 16 streams were considered viable options based on a water temperature threshold of 70°F. Additional management and production considerations were shared, and it was noted that any expansion of the trout program using stocked fish will not be possible until the Setzer State Fish Hatchery is renovated. The Committee expressed interest in continuing to explore a year-round catch and release stocked trout fishery and asked staff to continue to examine the feasibility of Hiwassee River as a potential site, the additional numbers of trout needed to stock a year-round catch and release stream or streams, and a list of other locations where the expanded capacity at our hatcheries could be utilized. Jeremy McCargo, *Anadromous Research Coordinator*, provided an update on the NC Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 currently being developed. The plan development team, which includes DMF and WRC staff, is in the final stages of drafting the Amendment, and the final recommendations of the plan will be shared with the Committee in early 2022. Jeremy also reviewed management of Striped Bass in the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River management areas. Temporary rule has established a daily creel limit of one fish per day to avoid exceeding the total allowable landings. The 2022 Harvest Season and the 2021 total allowable landings (TAL) overages will be addressed at subsequent meetings. In addition, stocking juvenile Striped Bass is under consideration for 2022 to address poor recruitment over the past 4 years.

Committee of the Whole Report – December 8, 2021 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Committee of the Whole Committee met on December 8th, 2021. The Committee reviewed proposed adoption of controlled rabbit hunting preserves rules, re-adoption of hunting and trapping rules presented by Brad Howard. Christian Waters presented proposed re-adoption of general rules for inland fishing. He went through proposed joint rules and other rules for notice of text that reaffirm the Commission’s authority and removes confusion that may exist in inland, joint, and coastal waters. Ashley Pekrul, *Regulatory Analyst*, briefly went through an introduction of the delineations and joint rules that will be presented in full at the Rules Committee in February, including the proposed amendment to the replacement costs for wildlife. NC dam prioritization update presentation was postponed to a later meeting.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – GAME LAND MANAGEMENT – *Chris Jordan, Game Lands and Forest Resources Manager* presented a spotlight on NCWRC Management of Game Lands. The presentation covered the specific objectives that govern game land management, current staffing levels, current lands enrolled in the Game Land Program, aspects of land management, aspects of infrastructure management, and current efforts to increase hunting opportunities on game lands for sportsmen with disabilities. Brian McRae, Chief, Land and Water Access Division, then discussed the changes that have occurred over the past 10 years in relation to land acquisition and infrastructure. Brian indicated that a major reorganization occurred within the Agency in 2012 to gain effectiveness and efficiency. However, since 2012, the Agency has acquired 61,710 acres in game lands, opened 22 new boating access areas, 44 new public fishing areas,

and installed 286 navigational aids. Further, with the increased budget to the Land and Water Fund, it is highly likely that more lands will be acquired by the Agency in coming years. These are great additions for wildlife, natural resources, and the citizens of North Carolina. However, these lands and infrastructure add more responsibly to a staff that has not change significantly since the reorganization in 2012.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisitions – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the acquisition of the following property – *Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Division (EXHIBIT D)*

- Rash Tract – Ashe County **(EXHIBIT D)**

Exhibit D is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10H .1601 – Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves – The Commission reviewed public comments **(EXHIBIT E-1)** and, on a motion by Wes Seegars and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission adopted rules for Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves **(EXHIBIT E-2)** presented by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

Exhibits E-1, E-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Readoption – Hunting & Trapping – The Commission reviewed public comments **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and, on a motion by Steve Windham and second by Tom Berry, the Commission readopted 10B .0100, .0200, .0300, and .0400 rules **(EXHIBIT F-2)** presented by *Brad Howard*

Exhibits F-1, F-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Readoption – Inland Fishing General Regulations – The Commission reviewed public comments **(EXHIBIT G-1)** and, on a motion by David Hoyle and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission readopted 10C .0200 rules **(EXHIBIT G-2)** presented by *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

Exhibits G-1, G-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – Inland Fishing Regulations – On a motion by Steve Windham and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the Fiscal Notes and publishing Notice of Text with an open comment period and virtual public hearing for proposed changes to joint 10C .0100 rules, 10C .0300 and 10C .0400 rules for inland waters and adopt new 10C .0700 and 10C .0800 rules to provide

clarity on inland game fish and hook and line fishing in joint and coastal waters presented by *Christian Waters* (EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, H-3)

Exhibits H-1, H-2, H-3 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

On a motion by John Coley and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission approved the following water safety rules in (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2, J-1, J-2, K-1, K-2, L-1, L-2, M, N, O, P, Q)

Rulemaking Fiscal Note and Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0317 Stanly County–, the Commission approved the Fiscal Note and publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0317, for a no-wake zone within 50 yards of the shoreline at Morrow Mountain State Park on Lake Tillery and technical changes to clarify text and itemize names and locations of Boating Access Areas on Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, and Tuckertown Reservoir presented by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator* (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0323 Burke County – the Commission approved the Fiscal Note and publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0323, for a no-wake zone within 50 yards on both sides of the Cove pedestrian bridge at Lake James State Park; and to codify the Paddy’s Creek Swim Area at Lake James State Park; and technical changes to clarify rule text and descriptions presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0354 Pitt County – the Commission approved the Fiscal Note and publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0354, for a no-wake zone at Barber Lake at Wildwood Park in the City of Greenville presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0378 Halifax County – The Commission approved the Fiscal Note and publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for a new Rule under 15A NCAC 10F .0378, for a no-wake zone at Roanoke Rapids Lake in Roanoke Rapids and itemization of Boating Access Area names and locations on Roanoke Rapids Lake, Roanoke River, and Lake Gaston in Halifax County presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0327 Montgomery County – the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for an amendment to remove a no-wake zone at a cove on Badin Lake at Lakeshore Drive; technical changes to clarify text and itemize and describe locations of Boating Access Areas on Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, and Tuckertown Reservoir presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBIT M)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Lake Wylie – the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing

for a proposed amendment for a no-wake zone in a portion of Brown's Cove on Lake Wylie in Mecklenburg County presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBIT N)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0336 Northampton and Warren counties – the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments that incorporate Warren County no-wake zones on Lake Gaston from Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0318 into this Rule; and technical changes to clarify text and itemize names and locations of Boating Access Areas in Northampton and Warren counties on Lake Gaston and Roanoke River presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBIT O)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0318 Warren County – the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing to repeal 15A NCAC 10F .0318 presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBIT P)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0312 Henderson County, Summit Lake – the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open comment period and public hearing to repeal 15A NCAC 10F .0312 presented by *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBIT Q)

EXHIBITS I-1, I-2, J-1, J-2, K-1, K-2, L-1, L-2, M, N, O, P, Q are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump announced as of yesterday afternoon the new Half Price 50+ Lifetime License sales hit one million dollars in revenue, and he explained Commissioners have received positive feedback from the public about this license opportunity. Crump expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that contributed to 2021 being a productive year. In closing, Crump stated “On behalf of the Wildlife Resources Commission he wishes all a Happy Holiday and New Year.”

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Executive Director Ingram opened his comments with sharing the sad news of the passing of Professor Thomas J. Kwak. Tom's work contributed greatly to our understanding of North Carolina's fisheries resources, including Catfish ecology, movement of stocked trout, effects of water quality on fish, and nongame fish and mussel conservation. Next, he thanked Commissioner Seegars, Lisa Hocutt, and the Communication and Marketing Team for their collaboration and hard work on the Agency Overview. Commissioner Seegars and the Communication and Marketing Team spent countless hours updating the existing speaker's guide, so it can function as a resource for not only Commissioners but staff as well. In closing, Ingram reemphasized his appreciation for staff's dedication and professionalism each and every day supporting the mission of NCWRC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

NCWRC Meeting
December 9, 2021
Minutes


Monty Crump, Chairman

February 24, 2022

Date


Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

February 24, 2022

Date
