



3rd Quarter Meeting  
August 20, 2014  
9:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Jones Lake State Park

### Meeting Notes

#### 9:30 am – 10:30 Arch Updates

- Fred Cabbage, NC State: working on Market Based Conservation Initiative that will be presented as part of the agenda
- Ed Ablar & Alex Ablar - part of the Interfaith Power and Light initiative
- Tom Charles, ACOE: fishing pier being constructed at L&D#3; River Watch & community partners to focus on nature trail; new Colonel, Major, and District Attorney at Wilmington District Office, attempting to have ACOE sign MOU;
- Carson Wood, Coastal Plain Conservation Group: now officially a non-profit; working on swallow-tailed kite survey in lower Cape Fear, wood stork surveys on Black; looking at developing new RCW drill; taking on Cape Fear three-tooth work.
- Jim Slye, NCFS: dealing with new fee based management plan for private landowners.
- Jay W, NC State Grad Student: working with WRC on bachman sparrow surveys.
- Tony Doster, RMS: wet conditions have made operations challenging; working on implementing mitigation bank in the Green Swamp; restoring longleaf on lands that make sense.
- Chesley Ward, WRC: been busy with management planning; getting new staff up to speed; implementing restoration projects
- Ken Shugart, WRC.
- Dave Allen, WRC: winding down seasonal field work focused on avian species and turtle work continues.
- Tom Padget, WRC.
- Brad Spivey, WRC: will be presenting on the commission's law enforcement work.
- John Henry Harrelson, WRC: working with private landowners on early successional habitat restoration.
- John Ann Shearer, USFWS: continues work as a private lands biologist, also supporting the Sept 11 NC State-led private landowner workshop focusing on prescribed fire.
- Scott Pohlman, Heritage Program: Prescribed Fire Council meeting went really well.
- Meghan Pritchard, just began new job with TNC in Durham office.

- Bill Pickens, NCFS: works as a conifer silviculturist on the technical side and with private lands and applied forest management.
- Phil Wallace, NCFS: has begun work on Forces project between Lejeune and private landowners.
- Dan Ryan, TNC: Sandhills and Onslow Bight Partnership recently awarded second round of NFWF grants for longleaf restoration and maintenance; Arch will be planning second phase proposal for submittal in early 2015.
- Jessica Pope, NC State Grad Student: working on Market Based Conservation Initiative project.
- Dick Fowler, Soil and Water Association: working on Market Based Conservation Initiative project.
- Michelle Lovejoy, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation: working on Market Based Conservation Initiative project.
- Jeff Hall, WRC: recent Pine Barrens Tree Frog surveys have found populations in Bladen County; working with TNC to close on Brunswick County property for gopher frog habitat.
- Kira Santulli, TNC Burn Crew.
- Jeff Marcus, TNC: there will be a meeting on September 3 highlighting and focusing efforts on wildlife surveys and research projects in Bladen County; the same day will have a meeting regarding private landowner outreach in the Bladen Lakes region.
- Anna Stout, NCFS: coordinating data for longleaf restoration; maintaining NC Coalition website, and building GIS tool for LLP suitability.
- Hans Christian Rohr, NCFS: manages day to day operations of Bladen Lakes State Forest; restoring longleaf where possible on the 33k acres.
- Chad Thomas, WRC: will be presenting on fisheries today
- Maria Dunn, WRC: providing technical assistance to landowners
- Judy Ratcliffe, Heritage Program.
- Lana Carter, Step Forward: coordinates the lower Bladen County organization; worked with ACOE for picnic shelter & fishing pier at L&D#1.
- James Sasser, NC State Parks: active with summer burns; LLP restoration efforts at Lake Waccamaw-280 acres; looking to hire invasive species coordinator/natural areas specialist.
- Kacy Cook, WRC; coordinates Green Growth Toolbox, which has helped Bladen County land use plan, Town of Lake Waccamaw, Navassa, Wilmington MPO. Workshop Sept 26 in Sunset Beach.
- Angie Carl, TNC: October 11 Fire in the Pines will be at Halyburton Park in Wilmington this year.
- Melanie Doyle, NC Aquarium-Fort Fisher: continues work to keep vitex at bay; working with local Wilmington Weed Warriors and starting grassroots efforts elsewhere.
- Jesica Blake, NCCLT: announced update on flytrap legislation that will make poaching a felony will be signed by the governor in the immediate future.
- Sam Marshall, NC Cooperative Extension
- Sabrina, NC Cooperative Extension
- Zach West, TNC Burn Crew

10:30-11:00 **Longleaf Pine Habitat Improvements Project** – Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director, NC

Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation

Market Based Conservation Initiative:

- Overview of Soil and Water Conservation Districts: 96 in NC; est 1937; function at the local county level; acts as bridge between NRCS and private landowner;
- This project will be looking at impacts on multiple species and how to mitigate at an ecosystem level; a scoping project.

- Project comprised of a number of committee that look at policy, economics; enhancing role of conservation districts in being point of contact; objective: provide a supply of conservation credits. Study will also attempt to determine the demand side.
- Primary tool for the supply side scoping is a landowner survey that will determine on average what type, duration and monetary value landowners would be compelled to participate in.

**11:00-11:30 Law enforcement** – Captain Brad Spivey, D4

- NC is divided into nine districts, which have four areas, each area has a unit of law enforcement comprised of folks with different specialties.
- Duties include the good interactions with the public and enforcement of wildlife laws.
- Making an effort to step into the future with marked vehicles and better technology.
- Increasing public exposure to their work through partnering with the media.
- Improving boating safety and sobriety detection.
- Working with other divisions more and more.
- Stepping up munitions with tasers and rifles .
- There is an undercover element to WRC's work as well.
- Landowner Protection Act: have to have written permission from landowner if boundaries are marked.

**11:30-12:00 Inland Fisheries** – Chad Thomas, Coastal Fisheries Supervisor, NCWRC

- Tremendous diversity of fish species in the Arch
- Fisheries Division consists of Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Program (conservation-side) finds guidance from the NC Wildlife Action Plan, which is being revised now. Plan allows for application to state wildlife grants. Goals of wildlife diversity: community/species status;
- Other program within Fisheries is Research, Habitat Protection and Enhancement which has a focus on nongame fish, mussels, crayfish; understanding population trends is vital for management.
- Last program within Fisheries is the Sport Fisheries Restoration Program-funded from fish licenses; focuses on resident fish and migratory fish; creel surveys ground-truth rules and regulations; catfish is #1 sought after fish in Cape Fear; technicians electrofish the Cape Fear River in spring; working with NC State to determine effectiveness of L&D#1 fish passage (50% of shad showing success); moratorium on harvest of striped bass, stocking taking place in Cape Fear (12.5 tons in one year), Neuse and Tar; flow is vital for striped bass larvae; monitoring the stocking effectiveness is mandatory; using genetic marking; genetics are different from Roanoke and Cape Fear; working on understanding the catfish populations

**1:00-1:30 Wildlife Management** – David Cobb, Division Chief, Wildlife Management, NCWRC

- Terrestrial focus: senior staff in Raleigh: Private Lands/Surveys and Research (game species), Wildlife Diversity, Admin/Planning state-wide.
- Around 60 staff (public lands staff are now organized under engineering division).
- There are four elements to their work: biology (technical side), and Sociology, Economics, Politics (adaptive side).
- Between 90-94% of NC is owned by private landowners -WRC provides technical guidance to landowners on habitat management.

- The State's Wildlife Action Plan serves as guidance and sets priorities for the division.
- WRC's Wildlife Diversity Conservation work includes conservation efforts focused on northern flying squirrels and bog turtles.
- Surveys and Research: waterfowl, white-tailed deer, bears, furbearers, small game, wild turkey.
- Social Science: listen to what the public says -incorporating human dimensions is vital.
- Ops and Planning: strategic recruitment and retention initiative for next generation hunters and fisherman.

**1:30-2:00 Game Land Management – Chesley Ward, Management Biologist**

- Emphasis on plan, coordinate, implement, monitor projects.
- Chesley is under the Division of Engineering and Lands Management.
- 2m acres of Game Lands in state; began in 1970s primarily as hunting, fishing and trapping; views on uses are changing.
- # of hunters is reducing, while overall population increases.
- Game Lands are comprised of lands both owned by WRC and other landowners.
- Game Lands management must be based on best available science, must benefit the overall ecosystem, maintain animal numbers at a level we can live with, and balance animal with habitat available.
- Tools of the trade: axe, cow, plow, fire and gun.
- Examples of habitat management activities: opening management (field borders, fallow openings, etc.), plantings (supplemental food), forest management, prescribed fire, impoundment management (end goal: grain, moist soil vegetation, open water, flooded timber).
- End goal for upland pine stands: uneven-aged stands of site suitable vegetation.
- Other Management: boundary marking, roads/trails, and other infrastructure.
- Special considerations: natural heritage dedications, CURE program.
- Surveys & Monitoring: black bear, deer.
- Disabled Sportsman Program is an option for the general population.
- Challenges: weather, manpower needs, equipment.
- Game Lands Management Plans: provide a foundation for management and use of WRC-owned game lands

**2:00-2:30 Timber Management in the Southern Coastal Plain Ecoregion - Ken Shugart, Forester**

- Techniques of timber management:
  - Thinnings: open canopy, releases remaining trees, removes undesirable trees;
  - Final Harvest: remove undesirable species, LLP restoration and salvage damaged timber;
  - Prescribed fire: controls vegetation, reduces fuel loads, promotes herbaceous understory & fire adapted species ;
  - Reforestation: 800 acres of longleaf planted thus far in the Cape Fear region;
  - Herbicide application: site prep, midstory hardwood control;
  - Timber Stand Improvement: remove hardwoods, loblolly and slash pine;
  - Understory Restoration: wiregrass plugs (survivor rate is great/more expensive), native grass seed
    - Experimenting with restoring plugs and llp.