

<p style="text-align: center;">Transportation/Natural and Economic Resources Governmental Operations Subcommittee Report – January 20, 2004</p>

The Transportation/NER Subcommittee heard 5 agenda items.

Reports

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

In accordance with G.S. 113-145.6A, the Director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund presented the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Annual Report. In addition to hearing about the fund's activities, the Subcommittee discussed the transfer of \$12 million from the CWMTF to settle the DuPont State Forest dispute. The Subcommittee questioned the procedure that the Office of State Budget and Management followed when the funds were transferred without CWMTF Board approval. The Subcommittee accepted the report without objection.

In accordance with G.S. 113-77.9, the Office of Conservation and Community Affairs presented the Natural Heritage Trust Fund Annual Report. During FY 02-03, the NHTF awarded 20 grants totaling \$9.65 million, which contributed to the protection of 16,686 acres. The Subcommittee accepted the report without objection.

North Carolina Biotechnology Center

In accordance with S.L. 2003-284, Section 12.10(c), the Biotechnology Center presented its annual report of program activities. The Subcommittee learned about the Center's activities related to strengthening NC's academic and industrial biotech research capabilities and fostering industrial development in the state. The Subcommittee accepted the report without objection.

General Assembly Oversight of Agency Fees (G.S. 12-3.1)

Department of Transportation

The Subcommittee heard details of three Department of Transportation fee increases. The first item establishes a toll of \$2.00 for a new ferry service from the Currituck terminal of the Currituck-Knotts Island ferry to Corolla on or before May 1, 2004. The toll shall not apply to Currituck County school children and staff. The second item proposed replacing a complex menu of fees for the logo sign program with a flat annual fee of \$300 per each mainline, ramp, and trailblazer business panel. The final item proposed simplifying the Tourist-Oriented Directional Sign fee schedule to require an annual fee of \$200 per sign. No other fees apply. The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on these fee increases to the Full Commission.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Subcommittee heard details of one fee increase by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center. The fee increases will be effective January 1, 2005. The fee changes will be as follows:

	<u>Current Fee:</u>	<u><i>Proposed Fee:</i></u>
Coliseum	\$800.00	<i>\$900.00</i>
Covered Ring n/a		<i>\$100.00 w/coliseum rental</i>
		<i>\$450.00 stand alone</i>
Warm-Up Rings	\$200.00	<i>N/A - Delete</i>
Stalls		
1 day	\$10.00	<i>\$15.00</i>
2 day	\$20.00	<i>\$22.00</i>
3 day	\$25.00	<i>\$30.00</i>
4 day	\$30.00	<i>\$35.00</i>
5 day	\$35.00	<i>\$38.00</i>

The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on these fee increases to the Full Commission.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The Subcommittee heard details of one fee increase by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which proposed increasing the aquarium admission fees at the Roanoke Island and Fort Fisher Aquariums by \$1. Although the proposal did not include a fee increase at Pine Knolls Shore, which is currently closed for renovation, the subcommittee supported including a \$3 fee increase for this aquarium as well. Once the Pine Knoll Shore aquarium reopens, all three aquariums will have the following fee schedule: adults-\$7, seniors and military-\$6, children-\$5. The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on this fee increase as amended.

New Receipt-Supported Positions/Consultation Requirement (G.S. 143-34.1)

The departments reported on their proposed receipt-supported positions in the following divisions:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Total of 10

- Emergency Programs Division – 6
- Food and Drug Protection Division – 1
- Food Distribution Division – 1
- Marketing Division – 1
- Plant Industry Division – 1

Department of Commerce – Total of 2

- Industrial Commission – 2

Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Total of 10

- Division of Marine Fisheries – 2
- Ecosystem Enhancement Program – 8

The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on these receipt-supported positions to the Full Commission.