



JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

March 13, 2018

Room Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources met on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 1:00 PM. The meeting was held at the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores. Members present were: Rep. Pat McElraft, Rep. Steinburg, Rep. Ross, Rep. McGrady, and Rep. Hall. Senators who attended were Jackson, Sanderson, and Cook.

Rep. Pat McElraft presided.

The day started at 10:30 with a tour of the Pine Knolls Shores Aquarium, where we viewed the behind the scenes facility of all the attractions that the public gets to enjoy. Wayne Johnson did a superb job of explaining all the exhibits to us.

The committee meeting started at 1:00 PM with a welcome from David Griffin, Director of North Carolina Aquariums. Rep. Pat McElraft welcomed the members and sergeants-at-arm, David Leighton, and Jim Moran, plus staff and visitors for attending.

The minutes of the December 12, 2017 Committee meeting were voted on and accepted.

Our first speaker for the day was Phil Feagan, General Counsel for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. His topic was Roanoke Island Commission/Roanoke Island Historical Association Update. He spoke a little about the Lost Colony and the recently executed Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the Roanoke Island Historical Association. (See Attachment # 1)

Our next speaker was Steve Murphy, Division of Marine Fisheries, and Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Murphy spoke on Implementation of S.B. 410, the Marine Aquaculture Development Act. (See Attachment # 2).

Mr. Murphy also spoke on Oyster/Shellfish Rehabilitation and Lease Programs. (See Attachment #3).

Third speaker of the day was Dr. Ami Wilbur, Ph.D., Director of Shellfish Research Hatchery, University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She spoke to help us understand a little of the Hatchery's research, including Oyster distribution, growth, survival and recruitment. Other topics



mentioned were the role of disease, ecosystem impacts of oysters and oyster restoration. (See Attachment # 4)

Fourth speaker was Walter Clark, Executive Director, Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Department of natural and cultural resources. He spoke on CWMTF Military Buffers. His focus was protecting and restoring the State's land and water resources. (See attachment #5)

Fifth speaker was Dewitt Hardee, Director of Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He showed us maps and spoke on agriculture and agribusiness and how it is North Carolina's top industry, accounting for nearly one-sixth of the state's income and employees. (See attachment #6)

Sixth speaker was Ron Fish, Assistant Director of Agriculture Development, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He spoke on the corner store initiative update and how funds were used. (See attachment #7)

Our last speaker of the day was Ashton Godwin, Legislative Liaison of the Wildlife Resources Commission. He spoke on the Commission's ongoing efforts to preserve and repurpose the Mattamuskeet Lodge. (See attachment #8)

Some of the members had questions concerning different topics and were answered by the speakers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Presiding

Nancy Fox, Committee Clerk