

N.C. Oil and Gas Commission

Notes Taken by Staff at the February 11, 2020 Meeting¹

The Meeting of the Oil and Gas Commission was scheduled for 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, February 11, 2020 in the Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room at 512 N. Salisbury Street in Raleigh.

The absence of **Geological Survey Chief/State Geologist Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor** due to an unavoidable personal issue is recognized. After waiting for a few minutes after 10:00 A.M., **Commission Chairman James C. Lister** was informed by **Commission Counsel Phillip Reynolds** that there would not be enough Commissioners in attendance to meet a quorum. Commissioners in attendance: James C. Lister; **Rebecca W. Salmon**; **Stanford D. Baird** (phone-in); and **John Droz, Jr.** (phone-in). Five Commissioners are needed to meet quorum for the nine-member body. Chairman Lister attempted to contact **Vice-Chair James K. Womack** from his personal phone without success. At least one member of the public phoned-in during the interim time.

00:10:40 – Lister asked Droz if he has been sworn-in. It was determined that Droz has not been sworn-in. Reynolds explains the process for a Commissioner to be sworn-in without coming to Raleigh for the process.

00:15:15 – **Geological Survey Senior Geologist for Oil and Gas Regulation -- Jim Chapman** introduced the new **Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR) Acting-Director Brian Wrenn** and the new **Geological Survey Senior Geologist for Energy and Minerals -- Dwain Veach**.

00:17:58 – Chairman Lister read aloud both NC General Statute 143B-13(b) (attendance requirements for Commission members) and Executive Order 34 (Governor's Commission member appointment attendance requirements).

00:21:55 – Lister expressed an interest in changing the second quarter Commission May meeting to a day in June to give the Legislature additional time to confirm the currently unconfirmed, but already appointed, Commission members. Chairman Lister asked what could be determined regarding a Commission meeting change outside of an official meeting. Reynolds informed Lister that it is his right as the Chair to schedule a meeting time as he sees fit within the confines of appropriate notice. Lister asked **Senior Policy Advisor Jennifer Mundt** if she would look to rescheduling the second quarter Commission meeting date to sometime in June (currently scheduled for Tuesday, 5 May).

00:23:55 – Lister listed what the Commission had planned to take up for the current meeting, including the annual report the Commission is to submit to the General Assembly. Lister asked Mundt about the timing of the report submittal. Mundt responded that after Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) senior staff reviews the report for technical mistakes, and the Commission approves the report, the DEQ submits the report to the two General Assembly committees. Mundt further added that she anticipates that it should not take more than a few days after the Commission's approval for the report to be submitted to the General Assembly committees.

¹ This is a summary of what was recorded for the gathering – this was NOT an official meeting of the OGC. Audio recording of all Oil and Gas Commission meetings are posted on the OGC website.

00:27:50 - Lister asked Reynolds how a committee within the Oil and Gas Commission is formed. Reynolds responded that it is within the Chair's purview to appoint members to a committee after a committee has been approved by the Commission at-large.

00:32:16 – Lister informed the Geological Survey staff that he would like to see a report at each meeting, going forward, regarding well permit inquiries, since the previous Commission meeting.

00:35:10 - Chapman gave a presentation regarding well permit inquiry to the Geological Survey and a status report of the two existing wells in the Deep River sub-basin (Lee County).

00:43:45 – There was discussion as to who oversees, i.e. is legally responsible for- the two existing wells.

00:52:30 – Lister announced that the end of the planned agenda discussion topics has been reached.

Public Comments:

Because this was not an official Commission meeting, the opportunity for comments from the public is not offered.

Commissioners Comments:

No commissioners had final comments.

00:53:45 – Chairman Lister noted that since the meeting was not able to be opened he could not adjourn the meeting, so he closed the discussion.

Discussion ended at 10:51 AM.