

# N.C. Oil and Gas Commission

## Minutes of the Tuesday, 9 August 2022 Meeting\*

The meeting of the Oil and Gas Commission took place at 1:00 P.M. on 9 August 2022 in the ground-floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Bldg. in Raleigh, hosted by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The meeting was also available via WebEx videoconferencing service.

00:00:05 – **Chair James K. Womack, Jr.** opened the meeting with a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

00:00:20 – Chair Womack read the Ethics Reminder from the Elections and Ethics Enforcement Act, then asked the members to identify any conflicts of interest. No conflicts were identified.

00:00:35 – Chair Womack conducted a roll-call attendance. In attendance: **Commissioner Rebecca Wyhof Salmon** (remote), **Commissioner Stanford D. Baird** (remote), **Commissioner John D. White II** (remote), **Commissioner Dr. William Vizuete** (in-person), **Vice-Chair James C. Lister** (remote), **Commissioner John Lucey** (remote), and Chair Womack (in-person). A quorum was declared. **Commissioner Karen A. Howard** (remote) and **Commissioner John Droz, Jr.** (remote) were unable to connect remotely at first but were eventually able to join the meeting.

00:01:10 – Chair Womack asked if there were any additions or revisions to the meeting agenda. Vice-Chair Lister made a motion to add the election of new officers to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Vizuete.

00:03:40 – Chair Womack asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2022 meeting. Vice-Chair Lister made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wyhof Salmon. The minutes were approved by the Commission with a unanimous voice vote.

00:04:35 – Chair Womack turned the gavel over to Vice-Chair Lister (as Chair of the Rules Review Committee (RRC)) to discuss the progress made by the RRC since the last Commission meeting. Vice-Chair Lister explained that the RRC addressed the rules identified with “simple” changes needed (“simple” being the rules with grammatical issues and the like, not subject to public scrutiny). With slides of the rules of interests, **North Carolina Geological Survey Senior Geologist, Jim Chapman** explained the proposed changes to the individual rules. In addition, Vice-Chair Lister proposed that identified references to, the now non-existent, “Department of Environment and Natural Resources” be changed to the current “Department of Environmental Quality”. As the RRC Chair, Vice-Chair Lister made a motion to vote on the proposed rules changes. Chair Womack conducted a roll-call vote. The Commission vote was unanimous for making the proposed rules changes. Chair Womack enjoined the RRC to: (1) conduct an exhaustive review of the rules to identify non-active url links and other inaccurate citations and (2) identify where the rules could be revised for more up-to-date standards and practices, especially regarding technological advances in the industry.

00:25:20 – Chair Womack asked if the Geological Survey has had any inquiries since the last Commission meeting. Jim Chapman responded that there have not been any inquiries.

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00:25:55 – Chair Womack moved the discussion to rules concerning exploration and geophysical surveys. Vice-Chair Lister explained that the way the rules are currently written, if an oil and gas or geophysical exploration company wants to conduct seismic exploration there is little in the way of instruction from the rules. The Vibroseis technique, which is very common in the industry, Vice-Chair Lister explained, is never mentioned. Further, Vice-Chair Lister continued, rules for this type of exploration are governed by the North Carolina Mining Commission. Vice-Chair Lister recommended that either the Oil and Gas Commission revise the rules in conjunction with the Mining Commission or that the rules governing geophysical exploration be re-assigned to fall under the purview of the Oil and Gas Commission. Vice-Chair Lister explained that there are many other common geophysical exploration methods that are not mentioned in the current rules. Chair Womack explained that rules governing geophysical surveys should not be inserted if the technique is non-invasive. Vice-Chair Lister moved the discussion to his second concern, the API vs the US Well Numbering System. After looking at other states, Vice-Chair Lister explained that many other states have not changed their well numbering to the US Well Numbering System. Chair Womack asked **State Geologist and North Carolina Geological Survey Chief, Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor** to remind the Commission what the well numbering recommendation is. Dr. Taylor explained that the API system cannot accommodate additional identification for well bores radiating from the same well pad, however the US Well Numbering System can, as that is in part what it was designed for.

00:44:02 – Chair Womack moved to the discussion to the election of new Commission officers. Chair Womack turned the gavel over to **North Carolina DOJ Assistant Attorney General, Sarah Zambon** to open the floor for nominations for the election of a new Oil and Gas Commission Chair. Chair Womack nominated Vice-Chair Lister for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Lucey. There were no other nominations. Chair Womack moved to close nominations. Counselor Zambon conducted a roll-call vote. The vote was unanimous to elect Vice-Chair Lister as the new Chair. Counselor Zambon turned the gavel over to **Chair Lister** to conduct the voting procedure for Vice-Chair. **Commissioner Womack** nominated Commissioner Lucey for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Baird. There were no other nominations. Chair Lister closed nominations and moved for a vote. Counselor Zambon conducted a roll-call vote. The vote was unanimous for Commissioner Lucey to be the new Vice-Chair.

00:49:45 – Chair Lister opened the floor to public comments.

#### **Public Comments:**

No public comments were offered.

00:40:45 – Chair Lister opened the meeting for Commissioners’ concluding remarks.

#### **Commissioners’ Concluding Remarks:**

00:50:50 – Commissioner Womack offered his thanks to the rest of the Commissioners and explained that the meeting in November 2022 would be his last meeting as a member of the Commission, as his time is expiring on the Commission.

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00:54:30 – Chair Lister reminded the Commission of the next Commission meeting on Tuesday, 01 November 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

00:56:02 – Chair Lister adjourned the meeting.

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