

N.C. Oil and Gas Commission

Minutes of the Tuesday, 23 September 2025 Meeting^{*}

The meeting of the Oil and Gas Commission took place at 9:00 A.M. on 23 September 2025 in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Bldg. at 512 N. Salisbury St. in Raleigh, hosted by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Attendance of the meeting was also available via Webex video-conferencing service.

Chair John T. Lucey opened the meeting with a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Lucey read the Elections and Ethics Enforcement Act to the Commission and asked for concerns of potential conflict. None were given.

Staff conducted a roll-call attendance. In attendance: **Commissioner Stanford D. Baird** (remote), **Commissioner J. Cody Edwards** (remote), Chair Lucey (remote), **Vice-Chair James C. Lister** (remote), **Commissioner Rebecca Wyhof Salmon** (remote), **Commissioner Dr. William Vizquete** (remote). **Commissioner John Droz, Jr., Commissioner Karen A. Howard, and Commissioner John D. White II** were absent. Six of nine members of the Commission were present, and a quorum was declared.

Chair Lucey moved the discussion to the election of new Commission officers. **DOJ Assistant Attorney General, Sarah Zambon** reminded the Commission of the Commission's by-laws concerning term eligibility of Commission officers. Commissioner Salmon nominated Commissioner Lucey as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Baird. No other nominations were offered. Counselor Zambon conducted a roll call vote where the re-appointment of Commissioner Lucey as Commission Chair was unanimous. Chair Lucey opened the meeting for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Salmon nominated Commissioner Lister as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Baird. No other nominations were offered. Counselor Zambon conducted a roll call vote where the re-appointment of Commissioner Lister as Commission Vice-Chair was unanimous.

Chair Lucey asked for revisions or additions to the Agenda from the Commission. No revisions were offered. Chair Lucey asked for a motion to approve the 2nd quarter meeting minutes. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Baird. Chair Lucey conducted a roll call vote. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Lucey moved the discussion to a discussion of the final adoption of the 15A NCAC 05C ruleset governing pre-drilling geophysical exploration. Counselor Zambon explained that the Rules Review Commission (RRC) approved the Oil and Gas Commission's final version of the rules readoption revisions and that there is no other action to be taken by the Commission concerning the ruleset.

Chair Lucey moved to discussion to the issue of the Commission's designated Ethics Coordinator. **NCGS Senior Geologist, Jim Chapman** and Counselor Zambon offered an explanation of the role. Chair Lucey made a motion to assign DEQ staff the role of the Commission's Ethics Coordinator, seconded by Commissioner Edwards. After a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

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Chair Lucey moved the discussion to inquiries concerning potential well-drilling activities to the Department. Jim Chapman offered that other than to on-going discussions with the group interested in developing the pre-existing “Butler wells”, no other inquiries have been made. Vice-Chair Lister asked if the group has a registered name. Counselor Zambon explained that nothing has been applied for yet. Only procedural inquiry communication has occurred between the group and the Department thus far, and therefore discussion concerning any particular group may be premature for the Commission.

Chair Lucey moved the discussion to public comments. Ms. Vick (call-in) from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League offered comments concerning the name of the group interested in developing the “Butler wells” in Lee County. It was reiterated that no documentation of any kind, beyond inquiry-communication between a group and the Department has transpired.

Chair Lucey asked for concluding remarks from the Commission and Commission Counsel. Commissioner Salmon thanked Commissioners Lucey and Lister for their willingness to continue serving in the role of Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Counselor Zambon reminded the Commission that by statute this Commission is required to meet at least four times through the year.

Chair Lucey asked for a motion to end the meeting. Commissioner Baird made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Edwards. After Chair Lucey reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting will be 5-November, a roll call vote to end the meeting was unanimously approved.

Chair Lucey adjourned the meeting.

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