

N.C. Oil and Gas Commission

Minutes of Tuesday, 4 August 2026 Meeting*

The meeting of the Oil and Gas Commission took place at 9:00 A.M. on 4 August 2026 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 John Droz, Jr.** (remote), **Commissioner J. Cody Edwards** (remote), **Commissioner Karen A. Howard** (remote), **Vice-Chair James C. Lister** (remote), Chair Lucey (remote), **Commissioner Rebecca W. Salmon** (remote), **Commissioner Dr. William Vizuite** (remote), and **Commissioner John D. White II** (remote). All eight members of the Commission (there is currently one Commission vacancy) were present, and a quorum was declared.

Chair Lucey moved the discussion to the election of new Commission officers. Commissioner Salmon nominated Commissioner Lister for Commission Chair and seconded by Commissioner Howard. No other nominations were offered. After a unanimous vote, Commissioner Lister is the new Commission Chair. Chair Lister asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Howard nominated Commissioner Lucey for the Vice-Chair position, seconded by Commissioner Salmon. After a unanimous vote, Commissioner Lucey is the new Commission Vice-Chair.

Chair Lister asked for any revision suggestions to the agenda. No revisions were offered. Commissioner Droz made a motion to officially recognize former Commissioner **Stanford Baird** for his years-long service to the Oil and Gas Commission and to the state of North Carolina, seconded by Commissioner Howard. After a unanimous vote, the Commission supported the recognition.

Chair Lister then moved the discussion to approving the minutes from the 2nd quarter Commission meeting. Commissioner Droz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Howard. After a roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Lister moved the discussion to the staff recommendations regarding the designation of “necessary” or “unnecessary” for the 15A NCAC 05C and 05H rulesets. **NCGS Senior Geologist Jim Chapman** and **DOJ Assistant Attorney General Victor Unnone** discussed that these designations are the preliminary step leading to a ruleset readoption process. Also, although the Commission previously completed this process for the 15A NCAC 05C ruleset within the past year when adopting the ruleset from the Mining Commission, it is advantageous to begin the process again for 05C in order for the two rulesets to be on the same 10-year readoption schedule. Commissioner Droz made a motion to approve the DEQ staff recommendations for “necessary” or “unnecessary” determinations for the 15A NCAC 05H rules, seconded by Vice-Chair Lucey. After a roll-call vote, the motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Droz made a motion to approve the DEQ staff

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recommendations for “necessary” or “unnecessary” determinations for the 15A NCAC 05C rules, seconded by Commissioner Edwards. After a roll-call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Jim Chapman reported that there has not been any oil or gas permitting interest inquiries to the DEQ since the last Commission meeting.

Chair Lister moved the discussion to public comments. No comments were offered.

Chair Lister asked for concluding remarks from the Commissioners and Commission Counsel.

Commissioner Salmon expressed gratitude to Vice-Chair Lucey for having served as Commission Chair.

Chair Lister adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT

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