

**MINUTES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**LANSING CENTER  
333 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE  
LANSING**

**AUGUST 11, 2005**

**PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSION**

Bob Garner, Acting Chair  
Mary Brown  
Darnell Earley  
John Madigan  
Frank Wheatlake

**ABSENT**

Keith Charters, Chair  
Jerry Hall

**PRESENT FOR STAFF**

Mark Matus, Assistant Attorney General  
Becky Humphries, Director  
Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy  
Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy  
James Ekdahl, UP Field Deputy  
Other DNR Staff

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Vice-Chairman Garner** called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2005. The Committee of the Whole is a working session of the NRC.

**Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group Report**

In January 2005, the Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group was established with a charge to identify three to five priority recommendations to retain and increase hunters in Michigan. The Work Group has met five times. Four subgroups were established: 1) Education, Public Relations and Outreach; 2) Access and Supply of Hunting Opportunity; 3) Companion and Mentor Networks; and 4) Regulations and Enforcement. These subgroups were to develop recommendations for submittal to the Work Group based on the following criteria: 1) Overall feasibility; 2) Cost; 3) Impact; 4) What type of action

would be required, i.e, NRC action, Director's Action, Legislation, etc. 5) How easy or difficult would it be to evaluate; 6) Is there possibility of a social support system; 7) Accountability; and 8) Does it fulfill the DNR's mission. **Pat Stewart, Office of Communications**, introduced members of the Work Group: Rob Anderson-Michigan Farm Bureau; Maury DeYoung-Kelloggsville Church Sportspersons Club; Jason Dinsmore-MUCC; Jerry Hall-Commissioner; Ed Ingvarsen-Ionia; Jerry Keck-Michigan Bow Hunters; Alan Marble and Bill Moritz-DNR; Dave Noble-Ducks Unlimited; Tom Oliver-DNR; Mike Parker-Pheasants Forever; Ben Peyton-MSU; Dan Potter-National Wild Turkey Federation; Rod Stokes-DNR; John Wencley-Troy Public Schools; Gary Williams-MSU Extension Service; and Steve Wyckoff-Ducks Unlimited. She then introduced **Chuck Nelson, Work Group Facilitator** from Michigan State University, who reviewed the three top recommendations: 1) Provide additional public hunting on private southern Michigan lands; 2) Provide opportunity for a wider spectrum of society to participate in hunting; and 3) Create and expand opportunities to infuse hunting and related outdoor recreation into existing and emerging mentoring programs. Discussion ensued. The Director and Commission commended the Committee on its efforts.

### **Forest Certification Update**

**Lynne Boyd, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, reported that the Forest Certification Audit will take place the last two weeks of September. Staff has worked cooperatively on this project, and it has been a good effort. **Ms. Boyd** recapped that forest certification is review of the on-ground forest practices against standards that address environmental, social and economic issues. It provides for an independent, third party review of how effectively these practices are carried out; and a periodic re-verification and recertification after the initial certification. Once certified, audits will be continual. The Legislature requires Michigan to be certified by one independent auditing group. **Governor Granholm** committed for dual certification. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) will be utilized for certification. She stated that SFI is an industry driven standard that originated in the United States and looks at forest management practices. The FSC was an international standard that originated in the third-world countries looking more at social aspects of managing forest and land.

**Ms. Boyd** reviewed some of the internal audit issues identified in 2004. Staff is working on corrective actions on these issues and are preparing materials for the upcoming audit.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** is concerned that the forest certification process will eliminate the DNR's right to manage State forests according to policies set by the DNR. If this occurs, he will advocate getting out of the process. **Ms. Boyd** noted that the DNR has worked very hard to have as few non-conformances as possible so the DNR is managing rather than the SFI or FSC.

**Director Humphries** commented that this truly was a DNR-wide effort and is pleased with the efforts.

### **Forest Fire Update**

**Scott Heather, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, said State fire fighters have responded to 456 fires encompassing 4150 acres so far this year. In the past two weeks, the Upper Peninsula experienced 25 fires burning approximately 460 acres. Currently, there are areas of concern in the UP where significant drought conditions exist. He reported that areas of deep burning of organic layers is occurring causing larger logs to dry out and burn more easily. Lightening has also contributed to the number of fires occurring.

**Mr. Heather** reported that the DNR currently employs 84 firefighters and has 16 vacancies. The shortage of firefighters creates critical issues in a heavy fire season such as: officers work more hours increasing fatigue and overtime costs; creating additional challenges for prescribed burns; and less ability to fulfill requests from other states or provinces to aid in firefighting.

**Lynne Boyd, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, noted that the number of fires has doubled from 2004 which has created a \$500,000 budget deficit for designated fire fighting. The DNR has requested a supplemental appropriation from the Legislature to cover the deficit. However, additional funding will be needed, assuming the drought conditions continue.

### **“Project GO-Get Outdoors” Highlights**

**Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division**, reported that a total of 99 locations held events all across Michigan for Project GO – Get Outdoors on July 23, 2005. More than 15,122 people attended various events held at DNR locations across the state.

The DNR’s challenge for future events will be getting ALL visitors participating in these events. He reported that it is estimated that more than 130,000 visitors were at a state parks, recreation areas, or harbors on July 23, and we want them all to join our events and continue to grow the events and awareness of Michigan’s superior outdoor recreation facilities.

Some highlights are as follows:

- The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Visitor Center that day had 700 people come through for a visit, a record attendance.

- Island Lake Recreation Area hosted 130 people who came for fishing clinics and kayak and canoe demonstrations. Most of these visitors said they'd never been to the park before and definitely planned to return.
- Mears State Park hosted about 90 people who participated in a film canister rocket launch and sand sculpture competition. About 40 of these folks were from the community and came specifically to participate in the events.
- Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor held a fishing tournament with 16 participants and an outdoor aerobics class with Michigan's Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom.
- Wilson State Park hosted a fly-tying and fly-fish casting clinic for kids that was a big hit.
- The Triple Trail Challenge opened up parts of the Pinckney-Waterloo Trail to mountain bikers that are not usually available to this type of recreation.
- The Bond Falls Scenic Site held a grand opening of a new boardwalk and viewing platforms that make this location universally accessible.

Approximately 40,000 free stickers and 4,000 GO Passes were handed out that allowed the recipient to redeem the pass for a free visit between July 24 and December 31, 2005.

Response from the communities has been overwhelming. Local businesses donated literally thousands of dollars in prizes and giveaways. From the \$200 Darton Compound Bow donated for a raffle at the Rifle River Recreation Area to the free ice that was donated to the Traverse City State Park, we could not have accomplished this large event without this generous support. Mr. Olson signed more than 50 letters acknowledging these donations.

We had the support of the Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom who participated in outdoor aerobics at Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor. Our partner organizations included the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, the Mackinac State Historic Parks, and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

**Commissioner Garner** suggested doing Project GO events during winter free-fishing weekend.

### **Federal Legislation Update**

**Director Humphries** reviewed the current Federal legislation activity report from Carol Bambery. She noted that the *Federal Transportation Bill* passed, which included a provision to put all of the 18.3 cents per gallon gasoline excise tax from outboard motors and small engines into the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. This Fund supports fishing and boating programs such as boating access and safety and sport fish restoration.

**Director Humphries** reported that Michigan has joined a lawsuit challenging *EPA's mercury rule* which allows cap and trade rule on mercury pollution allowing a certain amount of mercury in some states. Michigan is concerned with this rule due to the importance of maintaining a clean environment for fish and wildlife species and the waters of the state.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** commented on the importance of the forest industry in Michigan and that the state needs to perpetuate paper plants to stay in business in the state.

**Director Humphries** noted that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has commented some on the state forest plans, and looks forward to providing additional comments and involvement.

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The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. and the Regular Meeting of the NRC convened at 4:35 p.m.

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**Vice-Chairman Garner** recognized **Dr. Gordon Guyer**, former DNR Director and Commissioner, as well as former Michigan State University President and former Michigan Department of Agriculture Director. **Dr. Guyer** complimented Director Humphries and DNR staff for doing a great job and said he was glad to see everyone.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Bud Dankers, Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)  
Dean Hall, former president Michigan Bow Hunters  
Jerry Keck, United Sportsmens Alliance  
Ed Spinazzola, Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA)  
John Stears  
Sam Washington, MUCC

**Bud Dankers, Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)**, supported proposed Waterfowl Regulations, Option 1. **Vice-Chairman Garner** thanked Mr. Dankers and the CWAC for their work in developing the Waterfowl Regulations.

**Ed Spinazzola, QDMA**, recommended having deer management units (DMUs) with similar environments but different antler requirements to determine the best hunting regulations for each area. He believes this process would provide the best scientific management for the various DMUs in the State.

**Sam Washington, MUCC**, does not believe Michigan is being vigilant or acting decisively in protecting the wild deer herd from chronic wasting disease (CWD), and asked the NRC to be a political buffer between lawmakers and resource managers and decision makers. He strongly recommended that the DNR's Captive Cervid Audit Report recommendations be implemented immediately. He also strongly recommended that the licensing of captive cervid facilities remain within the DNR and animal health remain in the Michigan Department of Agriculture. He believes that, once CWD is detected, it is too late to protect the herd. Therefore, preventive action is a must.

**Jerry Keck, United Sportsmens Alliance**, supported the MUCC resolution to phase out captive cervid facilities in Michigan.

**John Stears** attended the ORV Advisory Board meeting where he spoke to DNR employees about concerns he had with the State trails system. He believes staff are heading in the right direction to resolve some of the issues. He thanked **Jim Radabaugh (Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division)**, **Creig Grey (Law Enforcement Division)** and **Lynne Boyd (Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Chief)** for working with him on citizens involvement in future ORV Advisory Board meetings. **Mr. Stears** does not believe the DNR will be able to sustain volunteer trails maintenance, and requested that ORV trails be widened to accommodate modern vehicles for safety purposes. **Director Humphries** said that staff and the Commission hope his comments and issues have been addressed.

**Dean Hall, former president of Michigan Bow Hunters**, stated that the Michigan Bow Hunters will work with the DNR and NRC to keep chronic wasting disease out of Michigan. **Commissioner Wheatlake** noted that he believes the people have the right to farm animals in Michigan, but supports strong rules to protect the deer herd and the industry from disease.

## **PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

**Director Humphries** said that managing the natural resources of the State is done by many both inside and outside the DNR. The Partners in Conservation

Awards presentation is an opportunity to recognize those partners who have contributed to the natural resources in the State.

Following are the presentations:

### **Jim Delaney**

This Partners in Conservation Award goes to an individual in southeast Lower Michigan who has volunteered as a hunter safety instructor for the Department of Natural Resources for nearly four decades.

Mr. Jim Delaney is an avid sportsperson, hunter and fisherman and is a member of several natural resource and sportsmen's organizations.

An active member of the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress since 1951, Mr. Delaney also serves as a standing member of the Michigan United Conservation Club's Hunter Education Committee, dedicated to the improvement of hunter education programs across the State of Michigan.

Since the construction of the ranges at the State Fair in Detroit, Mr. Delaney has volunteered as a facilitator, working as a range master and proctor. He is a certified National Rifle Association Counselor and a 1984 recipient of the Harold Glassen Award from MUCC for excellence and dedication in hunter education. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Jim Delaney with this Partners in Conservation Award.

He has been a true partner to the DNR in helping educate thousands of students and introducing thousands of children to firearms safety, and in helping more Michigan residents and visitors to get outside and enjoy our great outdoors.

### **Pheasants Forever**

Pheasants Forever has been a strong partner with the DNR in the enhancement, restoration, and conservation of Michigan's wildlife resources and grassland habitats.

Since 1985, your group of volunteers has established over 275,000 acres of wildlife habitat on public and private lands in Michigan. You have played an active role developing wildlife-friendly practices within Federal and State Farm Bill programs.

Because of your involvement, people in Michigan have a better understanding of the importance of grassland and natural resource management in our state.

For your contributions of time, energy, and dollars, the Department of Natural Resources would like to recognize Pheasants Forever for the major role you play in wildlife habitat management and conservation.

**Dr. Charles Mehne**

Dr. Chuck Mehne owns and operates a general veterinary animal clinic in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and has over 15 years of volunteer service with the Department

Chuck's activities include the collection of bald eagles, owls, and great blue herons as part of a PCB bioaccumulations survey on the Kalamazoo River.

He has volunteered on numerous stream habitat improvement projects in southwest Michigan including projects on Portage, Silver, and Huff creeks to name a few.

Chuck is a major collaborator with the Natural Heritage Program with hacking of osprey chicks on his property adjacent to the Barry State Game Area.

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**Commissioner Darnell Earley** arrived at 5:30 p.m.

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**SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL – MICHIGAN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

**Vice-Chair Garner** stated that representatives of Safari Club International, Michigan Involvement Committee, are here to present awards to the 2005 Michigan Conservation Officer and 2005 Wildlife Biologist of the Year. Also, they will present prizes to hunters who were timely in their response to the 2004 deer seasons mail survey.

Safari Club International has provided supplemental funding and support to many Wildlife Division programs. Its support of research on moose, bear, bobcat, wolves, and deer has been instrumental in advancing our understanding of wildlife so that wildlife management is firmly grounded in scientific information.

The Committee has also helped provide incentives to encourage the timely collection of hunter harvest and effort information. To qualify for these incentives, a hunter had to respond to the mail survey within two weeks. The winner was randomly drawn from the group of those eligible. As a result of the incentive program, hunters responded sooner, and the Wildlife Division was able to save time and money in the collection of this valuable information.

He thanked the Michigan Chapters of Safari Club International for its support of the Wildlife Division's programs and introduced Mr. Bruce Eavenson, Chairman of the Michigan Involvement Committee, who made presentations.

The **Conservation Officer of the Year Award** was presented to Christopher Simpson.

The **Biologist of the Year Award** was presented to Julie Oakes.

The **muzzleloader** was presented to John Jackson.

The **bow** was presented to Gerald Funk.

The **rifle** was presented to Douglas Bonnom.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 7, 2005 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Earley, for approval. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **WATERFOWL AND OTHER MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR 2005-2006, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER, AMENDMENT NO. 16 OF 2005**

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, to approve proposed Option 1.

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, to amend Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 16 of 2005, Option 1, to include: Hunting dates for Allegan State Game Area - November 24 to 27 and December 24 to January 13; one bird Nov. 24 to Dec. 31 and two birds the remainder. Motion to amend carried 5-0.

Motion to support Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 16 of 2005, as amended, carried 5-0.

#### **HOFFMASTER STATE PARK, HUNTING, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER, AMENDMENT NO. 17 OF 2005**

Action on Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 17 of 2005, was postponed until September 8, 2005.

### **NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration – Meeting Report**

The NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration meeting was held on August 11, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. in Lansing. Minutes are attached.

### **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries – Meeting Report**

The NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met on August 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in Lansing. Minutes are attached.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Wheatlake** boated in Lake Ontario; and received several calls regarding DNR matters.

**Commissioner Brown** enjoyed spending time on State trails; and enjoyed fishing in Lake Missaukee.

**Commissioner Madigan** chaired a meeting of the UP Habitat Workgroup on Saturday, August 20; visited Big Springs State Park in Manistique; fished in Lake Superior; and received several phone calls regarding DNR matters.

**Commissioner Garner** fished; attended various meetings where DNR issues were discussed; and received several phone calls regarding DNR matters.

### **DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS**

**Director Humphries** stated her intent to approve all Director's Action Items on the Agenda.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** asked what the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund commitment was for the Kamehamaha property. Staff replied approximately \$16 million.

**Commissioner Madigan** questioned what the benefit to the DNR in acquiring State Forest Land near to the Newberry Field Office. **Jim Ekdahl** responded that this property is adjacent to a shooting range utilized for Conservation Officer training and that it also would be a good site to relocate the Newberry Field Office.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

## **NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

### **MINUTES**

Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan  
Lansing

August 11, 2005

The meeting convened at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Garner (Committee Chair), Madigan, Brown and Wheatlake were present.

#### **Fisheries Regulations**

**Christian LaSage, Fisheries Division**, reviewed the Fisheries Division internal timeline for fisheries order. Two orders were submitted "For Information Only" at this meeting and will be set for action by Director Humphries at the September 8, 2005 NRC meeting. The remainder of the orders will be submitted "For Information Only" in September, and will likely be slated for action by the Director at the October 6, 2005 NRC meeting.

#### **2005 Elk Drawing**

**Mike Bailey, Wildlife Division**, reviewed the results of the 2005 elk drawing. From a total of 38,623 eligible applicants, 155 were successful. Successful applicants included 24 Bull-only and 131 Bull or Antlerless.

#### **Waterfowl Regulations**

**Dave Luukkonen, Wildlife Division**, reviewed the proposed waterfowl regulations as proposed. Two options were provided for consideration. The Committee concurred that Option 1 was the preferred option with a slight modification to include hunting dates for Allegan State Game Area to be November 24 to 27 and December 24 to January 13; one bird November 24 to December 31 and two birds the remainder.

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

Staff reviewed the CREP which is a United State Department of Agriculture program that works with state and private organizations to address habitat and water quality. CREP focuses on three watersheds: Saginaw Bay, River Raisin and Lake Macatawa. CREP provides enhanced financial incentives to farmers to provide wildlife-friendly vegetation in lieu of crops for a 15 year contract period.

**Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)**

Staff reviewed the LIP which is a private land program for species at risk. It was established to enhance, restore or protect habitat. Funding is derived from a state/federal match with the program duration tied to funds available. Federal funds are awarded based on competitive nationwide grant applications.

**2005 Hunting and Trapping Guide Review**

Staff reviewed the development timelines for the Guide noting that several DNR Divisions and Offices as well as Departments of Agriculture and Community Health are involved in its development. Changes from the 2004 guide were reviewed.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## **NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan  
Lansing

August 11, 2005

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners Wheatlake (Committee Chair), Madigan and Brown were present for the Commission.

### **Citizen's Committee On Finance And Administration – Short-Term Finance Committee Report**

**Murdock Jemerson, City of Lansing, Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, Short-term Finance Subcommittee**, introduced Chuck Nelson, Michigan State University and Michael McDonald, also on the Committee.

**Mr. Nelson** reviewed a resolution of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks addressing the short-term (FY 2005-2006) financial shortages for parks and recreation areas in Michigan. The resolution strives to bring reservation fees to parity. Following are the proposed recommendations to “break even”:

1. Increase per night cap fees by \$4.00 at high occupancy parks;
2. Increase the reservation fee by \$6.00 per transaction;
3. Increase the reservation cancellation fee by \$5.00;
4. Institute a registration fee of \$5.00 for walk-in campers at all parks;
5. Institute a \$5.00 transfer fee for campers wishing to move to another; camp site within the same campground at some point during their stay.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** questioned if it is expected that the DNR would lose customers as a result of the fee increases. **Mr. Nelson** responded he did not believe so because fees were higher this year than last and usage was also up.

**Ron Olsen, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division**, said these proposed fees are only a short-term fix to repair structural problems. Long-term solutions will also be addressed to provide additional improvements to the state parks system. Demand will be utilized to regulate pricing. The proposal will be presented for action at the September 8, 2005 Natural Resources Commission.

**Mr. Jemerson** said the long-term strategy to establish sustainable funding will be developed for a 10 year period of time. Questions such as how big should the parks system be and should the DNR purchase more parks areas, will be addressed. Discussion ensued.

### **Investment Strategy Update**

**Mark Haas and Paul Nelson, Michigan Department of Treasury**, provided an investment strategy update. The value of the Natural Resources related funds increased \$37.6 million in value to nearly \$649 million as of June 30, 2005. Treasury is managing investments for six Natural Resources related trust funds: Game and Fish Protection Fund, Game and Fish Trust Fund, Michigan Civilian Conservation Corp Endowment Fund, Natural Resources Trust Fund, Park Endowment Fund, and Non-Game Trust Fund. **Mr. Haas** reviewed the status of investments and stated that current equity and fixed income investments are near the asset allocation targets set in September 2004. Additional investment strategies are being reviewed. It was noted that investment strategies are different from fund-to-fund because statutory requirements vary.

### **Budget Update**

**Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy**, provided an update on the 2006 budget noting that it remains on hold in the Legislature. Revenue scheduling conferences and target setting sessions should occur next month.

Due to the extreme fire season this year, a request for a supplemental has been submitted to the Legislature to cover the current deficit in the fire-fighting line item. If the high-fire season continues, an additional supplemental will be requested.

### **Audit Update**

**Tom Benson, Internal Audit**, reported on the status of audits (internal and external) in progress:

- Federal Audit: Field work has been completed and a field exit meeting has been held. **Dennis Fedewa and the Federal Auditors** commended Mr. Benson and all affiliated staff on the manner in which they handled this audit.
- Office of Internal Audit-Fisheries Audit: Field work has been completed and the DNR is awaiting the draft report.
- Law Enforcement Division: Lein/warrant management system audit field work is complete and a draft report is being prepared.
- Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division-Timber Sales Performance Audit: Field work is ongoing.

### **Optimum Budget Development**

The DNR divisions have been preparing optimal budget strategies for submittal on August 15. An update will likely be provided to the NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration in October.

All administrative staff is working with the divisions to develop programmatic needs in the DNR. There are some other smaller restricted funds that have structural deficits that need to be addressed. An update will be given at next meeting of the NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration.

### **Capital Investment Opportunities and Working Forest Conservation**

**Garrett Johnson, The Nature Conservancy**, provided an update on Capital Investment Opportunities and Working Forest Conservation. They are looking at ways to leverage trust funds and investment partners. Project related investments could create opportunities for linking investment strategies with rights in land, and could secure working forest conservation easements. Under this proposal, the Conservancy would work closely with partners called timber investment management organizations (TIMOs). The Nature Conservancy wants to be proactive in these strategies to protect lands.

**Lynne Boyd** noted that International Paper (IP) is divesting land for timber management. **Mindy Koch** said she applauds IP for this process.

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