

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

LANSING CENTER
333 E. MICHIGAN
LANSING

DECEMBER 1, 2005

PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSION

Keith Charters, Chairman
Mary Brown
Darnell Earley
Bob Garner, Vice Chair
Jerry Hall
John Madigan

PRESENT FOR STAFF

James Riley, NRC Legal Counsel
Becky Humphries, Director
Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff
Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy
James Ekdahl, UP Field Deputy
Patricia Stewart, Office of Communications
Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison
Other DNR Staff

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chairman Charters called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2005. The Committee of the Whole is a working session of the NRC.

Privately Owned Cervidae Update

Dr. Bill Moritz, Chief, Wildlife Division, presented an update on the 2006 Privately Owned Cervidae (POC) Program activities. One of the activities was to establish an "Operational Standards Workgroup" made up of members from: Michigan United Deer Hunters, Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers Association, National Wildlife Federation, Cervid Farmers of Michigan; Michigan Deer and Elk Marketing Association, Resource Stewards, Whitetails Unlimited, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Farm Bureau, Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association, Safari Club International, Mark Beem (Fence Builder), Mindy Koch-Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Keith Creagh-Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), DNR Law Enforcement Division, DNR Wildlife Division, MDA Animal Industry Division, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services, and State Representative Matthew Gillard and Senator Gerald VanWoerkom.

Dr. Moritz reviewed the revised October, 2005 Draft Operational Standards for Registered Privately Owned Cervidae Facilities. This Draft will also be presented to the Commission of Agriculture. He requested that the NRC endorse the Draft Operational Standards and move them into the regulatory framework.

Keith Creagh, MDA, acknowledged the efforts of **Dr. Steve Halstead, State Veterinarian** and **Dr. Nancy Frank, MDA**, who were present. **Mr. Creagh** noted that the Commission of Agriculture will review the Draft Operation Standards for Registered Privately Owned Cervidae Facilities and will be asked for an endorsement moving the final draft of operational standards into the regulatory framework.

Mr. Creagh introduced members of the Workgroup present: Jason Dinsmore, Rick Sprague, Dennis Knapp, Dr. Steve Halstead, and Dr. Nancy Frank.

Mullett Lake Snowmobile Trail Update

Bill O'Neill, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, reviewed options for a more direct route on the 12 mile stretch of the Cheboygan-to-Gaylord Trail on Mullett Lake and detailed the resource concerns and cost information for the "East Route" recommendation.

Chairman Charters reviewed and commented on several options, as follows:

- 1) Could open the 12 mile Mullett Lake stretch, but neither the NRC nor DNR has the authority to override the decision of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board to designate it non-motorized when purchased;
- 2) Leave it as is and utilize the M-27 unplowed/ungroomed right-of-way where snowmobiles would have to cross over wetlands and questionable areas;
- 3) Build bridges for snowmobile use over I-75, Pigeon and Little Pigeon rivers and crossing over a designated natural river;
- 4) Sell the 12 mile stretch.

Having toured the trail, **Chairman Charters** noted that he doesn't believe there are any viable options. **Commissioner Garner**, who also serves on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, said there is no support by the Board to remove the "no motorized vehicle" restriction on the trail.

Director Humphries said that the NRC had directed staff to review the various options and quantify the concerns. **Mr. O'Neill's** presentation did that. She thanked **Bill O'Neill and Jim Radabaugh, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, for their presentations and said they reaffirmed that a lot of time was spent on consideration of options for an alternate route. Over ten options were thoroughly examined. The DNR has exhausted all viable routes. However, if other options arise, the DNR will review them. As a result, she intends to maintain the 12 mile stretch as non-motorized.

Chairman Charters noted that there are two ways to get from Gaylord to Cheboygan via motorized recreation trail, but they are not as direct.

DNR Legislative Update

Rodney Stokes, Legislative Liaison, noted that the following Legislation was introduced:

Senate Bill 850 exempting water withdrawal from the requirement for a permit; prohibits a person from making a large quantity withdrawal that causes an adverse resource impact to a designated trout stream; requires a person to obtain a water withdrawal permit for withdrawals of more than 2.0 million gallons per day over 90 consecutive days; set a maximum civil fine of \$5000 per day for violations; and exempt withdrawals related to hazardous and solid waste management, environmental remediation, and leaking underground storage tanks.

Senate Bill 851 that would transfer the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council from the Department of Environmental Quality to the DNR; requires the appointment of additional members to the Council; requires the Council to design a water withdrawal assessment tool and submit to the Legislature by July 1, 2007.

House Bill 5192 to reduce the minimum age for a firearm deer, bear, or elk hunting license from 14 years of age to 12 years old. Staff will work with Representative Scott Hummell on this Bill. **Commissioner Hall** expressed concern of whether there will be enough hunter safety instructors if the minimum age is reduced.

Mr. Stokes noted that Senate and House Republicans are expected to introduce a series of bills called the MI-Forests Package to be composed of eight bills that have bi-cameral support and sponsors. While the bills have yet to be introduced and assigned numbers and sponsors, the bills are expected to help increase timber supply, improve management of private and state forest land, reduce fragmentation, and provide recreational opportunities. The bills would offer tax exemptions for managing private forest lands, create forest product renaissance zones, update provisions of the commercial forest program, review and abolish harvest limitations on state forest land, and offer incentives for establishing conservation easements on commercial forest land. The DNR will work with the Department of Treasury on issues of concern. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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Pat Stewart, Office of Communications, announced that students from her Michigan State University, Communications for Fish and Wildlife Professional class, were present.

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The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and the Regular meeting of the NRC convened at 4:45 p.m.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Jennifer Benbow, Representative Gary McDowell's Office
Brian Callaghan, Inland Lake Snowmobile Club
Lillian Hopkins
Tracy Kolb, MSU Student
Katrina Mueller, MSU Student
Ellen Nitz
Walter Nitz
Michelle Rosen, MSU Student
Ed Spinazzola, Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA)
Rick Sprague, Cervid Farmers of Michigan
Jenness Weigand

Ed Spinazzola, QDMA, believes that the proposed QDM guidelines are set up for failure and said there are no real changes from the draft presented less than a year ago. He requested that the guidelines either be eliminated or made to be fair. He does not believe the hunters should be making the decision on QDM guidelines. That decision should be made by the DNR staff and the NRC. Discussion ensued.

Rick Sprague, Cervid Farmers of Michigan, stated that the cooperative efforts on the Operational Standards Workgroup for privately owned cervids were good. He noted that education is very important and supports the training and certification process set out in the Draft Operational Standards. He said he hopes that the NRC and Commission of Agriculture can support the captive cervid industry after the process is complete.

Brian Callaghan, Inland Lake Snowmobile Club, thanked the NRC and Director Humphries for opening the gate to access Grandview Beach Road. He believes there are ways to get to Cheboygan from Gaylord without utilizing the I-75 right-of-way and noted there are private property owners who may be willing to allow usage and access. He asked that the trail go to Topinabee, at least. **Chairman Charters** noted that, if there is a way to travel from Grandview Beach Road to Topinabee and the neighbors are not opposed, this should be looked into.

State Representative Tim Moore submitted a letter to be read into the record regarding his opinion on quality deer management (QDM). He states that QDM proposals are well-intended, but should not be broadly managed where they will cause pitting hunter against hunter in the hunting community. He also expressed concern with the per proposal fee of \$2,000 only paying for a small portion of the surveys, tabulations, public meetings and implementation total cost. At the very least, he recommended that the QDM proposals receive public financing only every five years, deterring multiple publicly-financed proposals from failing each year.

Jennifer Benbow, Legislative Aide to Representative Gary McDowell, whose district includes Emmet and Cheboygan counties, supports opening the 12 mile Mullett Lake stretch of the Cheboygan to Gaylord Trail to snowmobiling.

Michelle Rosen, MSU Student, commended the DNR for its deer patch program. This season she worked a deer check station. Her primary field of study is infectious diseases in animals. She recommended additional bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease testing be done.

Tracy Kolb, MSU Student, supports shooting sports; is a shooter herself; and said that shooting is very meditative.

Lillian Hopkins requested abating noise from the Island Lake Shooting Range and recommended bringing Scott Hansen back for additional sound testing.

Ellen Nitz believes that the DNR has allowed the concessionaire at the Island Lake Shooting Range to operate uncontrollably. Gunfire is heard constantly on the weekends. She believes the sounds from the Range exceed allowable levels. She did not ask that the range be closed, but requested that the sound levels be drastically reduced.

Walter Nitz expressed concern regarding lead and groundwater contamination at the Island Lake Shooting Range.

Jeness Weigand reviewed several documents and noted that no descriptions of sporting clays exist on a master plan for approval.

Katrina Mueller, MSU Student, stated that communications in natural resources programs are very important.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 3, 2005 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Garner, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO 2006 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON DATES AND LICENSE QUOTAS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER AMENDMENT NO. 23 OF 2005

Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commissioner Madigan, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR REGISTERED PRIVATELY OWNED CERVIDAE FACILITIES

In recognition of the update of the privately owned cervidae program accomplishments since the presentation at the October 6, 2005 NRC meeting and in recognition of the status of the Workgroup's draft revision of the Operational Standards for Registered Privately Owned Cervidae Facilities:

Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commissioner Hall, that the NRC support the current Draft Operational Standards for Registered Privately Owned Cervidae Facilities, and that the NRC revisit the progress at its January 12, 2005 meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

**For Information Only – Director’s Action in January
Order to establish a maximum speed limit for snowmobile use on a portion of the
Munising to Marquette Rail Trail, Chocolay Township, Marquette County, Land
Use Orders of the Director, Amendment No. 1 of 2006**

Lynne Boyd, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, stated that there is a great deal of support for setting a maximum speed limit. A public meeting was held in the area on November 30 producing a good turnout.

Director’s Action Items

Director Humphries stated her intent to sign all of the Director’s Action Items on the Agenda **except the Cadillac Forest Management Unit-Wexford County, The Kollmeyer Tracts, Land Transaction Case #20040042**, which will be held over until January.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS

NRC Policy Committee on Land Management

The NRC Policy Committee on Land Management meeting was held on December 1, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lansing Center, Lansing. Meeting minutes are attached.

NRC Policy Committee on Technology, Information, Marketing and Education (T.I.M.E.)

The NRC Policy Committee on T.I.M.E. meeting was held on December 1, 2005 at 12:15 p.m. at the Lansing Center, Lansing.

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

The NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries meeting was held on December 1, 2005 at 1:15 p.m. at the Lansing Center, Lansing.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Madigan attended a legislative update meeting in Escanaba; worked the UP Buck Pole in Bark River; and hunted.

Commissioners Garner and Hall enjoyed the hunting season.

Commissioner Earley thanked Mindy Koch for presenting the Land Consolidation process to his counterparts in Frankenmuth.

Chairman Charters hunted and attended a hearing on habitat management at the St. Helen’s Hunting Club.

Closed Meeting

Commissioner Earley made a motion, supported by Commissioner Garner, to go into a Closed Meeting to discuss a legal matter from 5:46 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

The Regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission reconvened at 6:34 p.m. and the Regular meeting of the NRC immediately adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

MINUTES

NRC Policy Committee on Technology, Information, Marketing and Education

The meeting convened at 12:15 p.m.

Richard Morscheck, Office of Communication, stated that the Office of Communications will be sending out the 59th story in a series that is sent out weekly called “Showcasing the DNR”. These stories total more than 50,000 words and are accompanied by more than 230 photographs taken by DNR photographer, David Kenyon. These stories are about who we are and what we do with an emphasis on the science behind the story, wherever possible. Stories can be found on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr, click on “Showcasing the DNR”.

Showcasing the DNR 2006 Editorial Calendar

Winter

MNRTF 30th Anniversary
Overview of DNR grants program
Net repair at Alpena Fisheries Research Station
Hunter recruitment and retention Report/Recommendations
Shooting sports Part. 2 (different types of shooting)
Ice fishing (overview, safety)
Sturgeon on Black Lake
Snowmobile trails program (overview, development, funding)
Winter PROJECT GO/Free Fishing
Forest management (series of articles)
Wolf management plan finalized (late winter/early spring)
Results of trumpeter swan observation project
Hunter safety for women (BOW)
Bear den research in northeast Michigan

Spring

Spring bird research project at Hoffmaster State Park
DNR tree nursery in Upper Peninsula
State park and fish hatchery interpreters and what they do
New ADA features at parks
Kirtland’s warbler habitat work and census
Archaeology on state lands (elk horn at Hoffmaster SP)
Mentoring children in the outdoors (angle with BBBS, First Gentleman, take a kid fishing)
Conservation officer recruitment or “Day in the Life of a CO”
Fire officers (day in the life, what they do, training, etc.)
Hot spots to bird-watch (state parks, recreation areas, wildlife areas)
Deer population goals (wrap up of meetings, recommendations)
Boating safety (overview, getting boat ready for season)

Summer

Landowner Incentive Program

Exploring Lime Island

Bat festival

Michigan Natural Features Inventory (what it is, why important)

Land consolidation update

Creel clerks and what they do

Invasive plants (what they are, how to control)

Wolf Lake Fish Fest/Overview of hatchery system

Karsts/geology

Adopt-a-Forest update

ORV safety or changes in regulations

Fall

Goose management and hunting at a GMU

Managed waterfowl hunt areas

Platte River weirs/egg take

Wood duck banding (just need photos)

DNR retirees who still work on conservation initiatives/issues

Elk bugling and viewing opportunities (Dave has photos from 2005)

Natural Rivers program (overview, history)

At least two nongame stories per Ray Rustem recommendations

Wildlife disease updates (TB, CWD, EEE)

Safe handling of deer/field dressing/meat processing

Hunting Seasons Preview

Land consolidation update

Osprey relocation to southern Michigan

Story ideas that would cover the next year; this is not necessarily a fixed calendar as other issues or story ideas may arise as the year goes on. Story ideas were given by several individuals attending the meeting, which were documented by Mary Dettloff.

Commissioners present were pleased with the presentation and with the hard work and diligence of the Office of Communications staff. Commissioners also noted a positive reaction from stakeholders in DNR's proactive approach in telling the DNR stories.

Showcasing the DNR Survey results and a list of respondents were distributed.

Mary Dettloff mentioned that the stories get recycled. Once they are published it is not the last time they are seen. The ready-made web content makes it easy to be able to go back to the web library and retrieve for future use.

Patricia Stewart mentioned that the Governor's office uses our information because it is web ready and easy to use.

Proposed Agenda Items for 2006

February – State Explorer Program

April – Conservation Education in Michigan

- Update on DNR outreach programs (e.g., hunter education, archery in the schools, etc.)

June – Publication management

Campground reservation system and retail sales system (listing what and how all our licenses may be purchased and noting any trend changes in point-of-sales purchases)

September (August is out of town) – Web updates

October – Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation/DNR Discount Card Lapsed Angler Program

December – Visitor center programs

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The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

MINUTES
NRC Policy Committee on Land Management
December 1, 2005

Present:

Commissioner Keith Charters, Chair
Commissioner Mary Brown
Commissioner John Madigan
Commissioner Darnell Earley
Rich Bowman, Trout Unlimited
Jerry Crandall, MIRS
Dave Borgeson, Sr., Michigan Resource Stewards
Jeff Comps, Indian River Chamber of Commerce
Kevin Korpi, Michigan Forest Products
Steve Arwood, Heart of the Lakes
Jim DeClerck, Saginaw Field and Stream Club
Greg King, Saginaw Field and Stream Club
Bill Bobier
Director Rebecca Humphries
Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch
Chief Deputy Dennis Fedewa
DNR Staff

Chairman Keith Charters called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

1. Commercial Forest Program – Cara Boucher, FMFM

Cara recapped what the Commercial Forest Program is. It was enacted in 1925 to encourage private land reforestation and long-term forest management. It has been revised a number of times; in the 1960s it was revised to include public hunting and fishing access. The last revision was in 1994, to change the cost of the program.

Landowners pay \$1.10 per acre, and the state pays \$1.20 per acre from the general fund. This has been the cost since 1994. Before that, it was a yield tax on forest products.

The general fund payment for this year is \$2.6 million.

There are 2.2 million acres enrolled in the program; 2.1 million of those acres are in the Upper Peninsula. This comprises about 17,000 landowners.

There are a number of requirements, in addition to public hunting and fishing. The land cannot be used for any other purpose such as farming or grazing, or mineral production. Neighboring states have similar incentive programs. Minnesota has a program called "The Sustainable Forest Incentive Act." The Minnesota program is not a tax reduction program. It is an annual incentive payment to landowners to use in their forest activities. It is run by the Department of Revenue, as opposed to the DNR. They have a minimum of 20 acres, and a minimum eight-year enrollment. There is hunting and fishing/non-motorized access required on ownerships that are larger than 1,920 acres (three sections). During periods of high fire danger, access is denied.

In Wisconsin, the program is called “The Managed Forest Law.” This is a tax reduction program, and the name has been changed several times. The purpose is to encourage forest management on private land. The management plan has to be written by a DNR forester. It is a two-tiered program allowing for either open to hunting and fishing, or closed. If it is open they pay \$1.46 per acre; if it is closed they pay \$7.28 per acre for 2006. There is also a 5 percent yield tax on timber harvest.

There has recently been six bills introduced regarding the Commercial Forest Program. Four of those bills relate to the tax amount, and getting out of the program, because there is no end to ours – if you want to get out you must pay a penalty. The other two are related to the tax rate penalties and access to the properties. It does set the rate for landowners at \$1.10 per acre indefinitely, where now it is allowed to be adjusted.

Chairman Charters asked Kevin Korpi if the Michigan Forest Products Council is supportive of these bills. **Mr. Korpi** stated that they have not had a chance to do a thorough review; they have asked for a week, and will testify next week.

Director Humphries stated that the Department of Treasury will be the lead agency on these bills, so we will provide our comments and concerns to them.

Jim DeClerck asked the Department’s intent? **Director Humphries** stated our intent is to maintain public hunting and fishing access to these lands; our concern is with the timber issues.

Bill Bobier began by stating that he is not representing a client interest – he is representing himself. The access bill is good; the tax factor thing needs some work. He feels the cost to the landowner should be indexed to timber value.

Chairman Charters said the NRC will rely on DNR staff to keep them in the loop on this.

2. **Land Consolidation Update – Scott Whitcomb, Wildlife and Bob Couvreur, OLAF**

The review team recently held six public meetings across the state for the third group of ten counties. Those meetings were completed in October. Some of those meetings had over 50 people in attendance.

The Land Exchange Review Committee has made their recommendations on those ten counties, and they are up for Director Action at the January NRC meeting.

The fourth group of ten counties will be released for field review beginning next week, and presented for Director Action in June 2006.

The order for the remaining counties has been determined, and is posted on the Department’s web site.

FMFM has announced that **Jon Mayes** has accepted the position of Forest Land Administrator, replacing **Steve DeBrabander**, who was promoted to FMFM State Trails Operations.

Kerry Wieber of Parks and Recreation has been named the permanent chair, and **Steve Sutton** the permanent co-chair for the Land Review Team, to maintain continuity in the process.

Commissioner Brown asked what has happened with the original group of ten counties.

Bob Couvreur was next on the agenda to discuss this. We are moving forward with Phase 3, which is the actual disposal of properties. The first step is to get the web site in place, before we start notifying local units of government of what parcels are available for purchase. The web site should be up and running by the end of next week. We will also be sending letters to governmental agencies and land conservancies advising them that we are in Phase 3, and will be starting with Berrien and Dickinson Counties. After we work out the bugs, we will proceed with the other eight counties that were in the first group of ten.

Commissioner Brown asked if the web site will be easier to identify the parcel for sale, for those who aren't very good at legal descriptions. **Bob Couvreur** said there will be legal descriptions, along with maps. **Deputy Koch** said we are still unable to go smaller than the "one quarter of a quarter" level. **Mr. Couvreur** noted that for small lots, if you contact the city or township with the subdivision and lot number, they should be able to provide an address.

Jim DeClerck asked if the Department has backed off disposing any parcels as a result of the public meetings. **Deputy Koch** explained the several steps of the review process, beginning with field review, Eco-unit team review, land transaction review team, and public meetings. Then the recommendations go to the Land Exchange Review Committee, which is a broader-base internal department review. We have changed parcels from dispose to retain, as a result of these reviews.

Bill Bobier asked if governmental units include school districts and conservation districts. **Bob** responded "yes." **Bill** also inquired about sale price. **Bob** noted they will be sold for the appraised value.

Dave Borgeson, Michigan Land Stewards, noted that these really aren't surplus lands, we are recognizing lands that have relatively low public values and high management costs, and the Department will exchange those for lands that have high public values and relatively low costs. He noted the Department should emphasize that, because it will be easier to sell the program to the public.

Deputy Koch emphasized that we will be retaining many isolated parcels based on their natural resource value. Many parcels were changed to retain after listening to constituent groups about a parcel's value.

3. Forest Finance Authority Update

Deputy Koch introduced **Ron Murray** from Forest, Mineral and Fire Management. He has been named the State Forester for the purpose of the Forest Finance Authority.

The initial meeting was held August 24, 2005. All members were present at that meeting. The members are **State Treasurer Jay Rising, DNR Director Humphries,**

DLEG Director David Hollister, Paul Eisele, Sean Hagan, Garrett Johnson, Karen Potter-Woodard, Kalmin Smith, and Warren Sykowski. All of these members were either present or they were represented.

Terry Grady, Assistant Attorney General, made comments about the Authority's administrative procedures and how we should think about organizing ourselves.

There was an election of officers; **Jay Rising** was elected Chair, and **Director Humphries** was elected the Vice Chair.

The law that creates and enables the Authority to function is Public Act 451 of 1994, the Forest Finance Authority Act. The underlying purpose is to spur economic development through the retention, promotion, and development of forestry and forest industries, and to protect the health of the forest resources of the state. The state forester serves as executive director for that purpose.

Lynne Boyd gave an overview of forest certification to the group. The department is anxiously awaiting our certification.

Ron noted the next meeting will be on December 8 in Lansing. The board has expressed that they would like to see more information on the bonding process, global economic trends, how the state manages the resources, and the utilization of current forest resources.

A key question is "What is the Authority's authority?" Following is **Terry Grady's** response.

1. It can accept monies from other sources than bonding.
2. It can only fund projects proposed by the DNR.
3. The DNR should provide an interim procedure or plan to be used, and the DNR should submit a list of the proposed practices for funding on an annual basis.
4. In the event of a pending default on any bonds, the Authority can come to the Department and say you have to give us more timber to create more revenue; however the DNR determines what parcels.

Deputy Koch noted that \$26 million from the Tobacco Settlement Money has been approved for the Forest Finance Authority. This is called a grant in the appropriations bill. We are still sorting out the details of that.

Director Humphries stated that we have been very conservative in our requests, but we are trying to be proactive.

Deputy Koch emphasized that the Department is very fortunate that **Ron Murray and Terry Grady** involved, as they were part of the original Forest Finance Authority, so thanks to them, we were able to hit the ground running with this new effort.

Chairman Charters adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries
Minutes
December 1, 2005

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m.

Brent Rudolph, Wildlife Division, led the meeting.

Rod Clute, Wildlife Division, presented an updated version of the quality deer management proposal guidelines. The Committee was asked to review them and bring comments back to the January 2006 meeting.

Lori Sargent, Wildlife Division, presented information about the Frog and Toad Survey, which celebrated its 10th year of operation in 2005.

Brian Frawley, Wildlife Division, gave a report on the 2004 Small Game Survey, with additional information on hunter recruitment and retention.

Rod Clute gave a preliminary assessment of the 2005 firearm deer season and reported on upcoming deer population goal meetings.

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Approved: _____

Keith J. Charters, Chairman

Rebecca A. Humphries, Director