



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Lansing Community College
West Campus Rooms M119-121
5708 Cornerstone Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48917

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

- Tom Baird, Chair
- Dave Anthony
- David Cozad
- Keith Creagh
- Leslie Love
- David Nyberg
- Carol Moncrieff Rose

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department) and Office of Attorney General

- Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
- Shannon Lott, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Baird called the meeting of the Commission to order at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Baird conducted a roll call of Commissioners and asked the members of the audience to introduce themselves. **Chair Baird** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. **Commissioner Love** made the motion to approve the agenda for June 9, 2022, **Commissioner Nyberg** supported the motion. **Chair Baird** called for discussion. **Chair Baird** called for a vote. The day's agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the May 12, 2022, Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Baird called for a motion to approve May 12, 2022, Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Rose made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Baird** called for additional discussion, there being none, **Chair Baird** called for a vote. The motion passed

unanimously. **Commissioner Nyberg** abstained from the vote – he was not present for the May meeting.

Chair Baird advised of the change in the Fisheries Committee. He appointed **Commissioner Cozad** as the Chair and **Commissioner Rose** will be the third Fisheries Committee member.

Chair Baird also announced the August NRC meeting will be held in Detroit at the Outdoor Adventure Center, and the October meeting will be in Marquette with the facility to be determined.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

Deputy Lott began the report by introducing Mr. and Mrs. Mulder and Andrea Stay, Forest Resources Division. Mr. and Mrs. Mulder received the Partners in Conservation Award for volunteering statewide to restore state forest land, participating in the Adopt-a-Forest program, and preserving Michigan's public land throughout the state.

The Director's report continued with a presentation by Brian Frawley, Wildlife Division.

- i. [2021 Deer Harvest Survey Report](#) (*Brian Frawley, Wildlife Division*)
- ii. [Legislative Report](#) (*Informational Item*)

The meeting continued at 11:13 a.m. with Stacy Welling-Haughey reading the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances. [NRC Public Appearance Guidelines](#)

- a. 5 Minute Comment
 - i. Erick Schnelle, National Deer Association – Harvest Surveys & Data-Based Decision Making
- b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Brad Brunken, MI Pheasant Hunting Initiative – MI Pheasant License
 - ii. Molly Tamulevich, The Human Society of the United States- Trapping
 - iii. Bruce Dawson – Sandhill Cranes Crop Damage
 - iv. Dale Hendershot – Trapping
 - v. Trish Marie – Trapping

Chair Baird adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting and called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 11:44.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Baird noted one item to be approved by **Deputy Lott**. **Chair Baird** asked **Deputy Lott** if she planned to sign the Proposed Oil and Gas Lease and **Deputy Lott** indicated she would sign.

- a. Director Action
 - i. [Proposed June 14, 2022, Oil and Gas Lease Auction](#)

Chair Baird noted there are two land transactions for **Deputy Lott**.

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land
Wildlife Division, Berrien County
Land Transaction Case #20210266](#)
 - ii. [Gift of Easement
Forest Resources Division, Roscommon County
Land Transaction Case #20220068](#)

Deputy Lott indicated she would sign all the land transactions.

Chair Baird noted there are no orders for **Deputy Lott** and NRC up for information this month.

Old Business

Chair Baird noted four orders for **Deputy Lott** under old business. **Deputy Lott** indicated she would sign all four orders.

- a. Director's Orders
 - i. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2022
Designated dark sky preserve, state park lands; allowable conduct](#)
 - ii. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2022
North Higgins Lake State Park and Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center Prohibited
Conduct](#)
 - iii. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2022
State Parks and Recreation Areas, prohibited conduct](#)
 - iv. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 5 of 2022
Boating Access Sites and Harbors Uses](#)

Chair Baird noted there is one order for **Deputy Lott** and NRC under old business this month.

- b. NRC/Director's Orders
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2022
Deer Harvest Reporting](#)

Chair Baird called for a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2022 – Deer Harvest Reporting. **Commissioner Rose** made a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2022; **Commissioner Nyberg** supported the motion. **Chair Baird** asked for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Baird** called the motion to a vote. The motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2022 passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Fisheries Committee: **Commissioner Cozad** stated the Committee received an informative presentation from Gary Whelan, Fisheries Division, regarding fish disease. One of the issues of paramount importance to the success of the work Gary and the Fisheries Division are doing is that it is truly a partnership. The partnership involves a couple of components of Michigan State University, Veterinary Science, and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, as well as other resource management agencies throughout the Great Lakes Basin, all the states, and a province. What we walked away from at the end of the presentation is that Gary is a very conscientious and thorough fisheries manager, and he is very vested in the job. As result, we have a good handle on fish disease in Michigan and hope to sustain that in the future.

- [Fish Disease](#) (*Gary Whelan, Fisheries Division*)

Wildlife Committee: **Commissioner Creagh** stated the cormorants are a complicated issue because of the intersect of wildlife, fisheries, and legal authorities of our federal partners. **Commissioner Creagh** wanted to repeat the one statement he made at the end of the Committee meeting. Anything we can do as a Commission to help support the necessary financial resources to carry out both the non-lethal – lethal methods to control cormorants which would help reduce the negative impact they have on the fisheries population on both native populations and those that are stocked would be a good place to spend some time, energy, and effort. **Commissioner Creagh** thanked Randy for his presentation.

- [Cormorant Control Overview](#) (*Randy Claramunt, Fisheries Division*)

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Anthony – reported he had a busy month. Starting after last month's meeting he toured the Marquette State Fish Hatchery in Harvey put on by Stacy Welling-Haughey. The tour was very informative. After the tour, he attended the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council in Marquette. The meeting was also very informative – the issues that were discussed at the meeting and after the meeting were reflected in today's discussion. He stated he also attended the virtual UP CWD Taskforce which was a very informative meeting. He attended the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance meeting. The meeting was focused on CWD, cormorants, and deer harvest reporting.

Commissioner Cozad – stated he spent some time working with Chair Baird and Chief Dexter scheduling fisheries presentations for the remainder of the year and some for next year. He attended a meeting with stakeholders in Grayling to discuss the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling. More information will be coming soon to the Department's website for the public to view.

Commissioner Creagh – complimented the Department on the Grand Prix event on Belle Isle. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Division and the Law Enforcement for the partnership. They did a great job. They spent a lot of money, time, energy, and effort collaborating with partners to pay attention to the local users of the island to "polish the jewel." They had outstanding attendance.

Commissioner Love – echoed the comment made by **Commissioner Creagh** regarding the Grand Prix. She stated she neglected to report she had been invited by Mike Thorman and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation to their banquet last month. She met with the leaders and even won a raffle. She also attended the Safari Club International wildlife fishing dinner on the Detroit River. After the fishing trip, they had a great conversation where she learned more about what SCI does around funding programs and education. She was very thankful for the opportunity to learn about what they do.

Commissioner Nyberg – apologized for his absence at last month’s meeting. He stated he has been working with the Fisheries Committee as Chair Cozad stated. He also attended the CWD Taskforce meeting. They discussed focused on surveillance and actions made by the Commission. He also had a meeting with a developer to discuss solar development in the UP adjacent to some areas where people hunt. He encouraged the developer to do the outreach and communication to reach people in the area. He stated he’s looking forward to the meeting in Detroit and hosting the Commission in Marquette.

Commissioner Rose – stated she spent some time hunting moles on her property and enjoying the wildflowers while trying to avoid the ticks. She’s looking forward to participating in the Safari Club International Banquet where she’ll be presenting. She thanked the Department for their presentations, everyone for attending the meeting, and for the public comments.

Deputy Lott –reported she had been unsuccessful at turkey hunting and mentored three nephews who were successful. She visited with the Fisheries Division research staff on a fisheries boat in Charlevoix. They have lots of work happening in the Great Lakes. She reported she hosted Team Finland Business Delegation during their tours of the UP, Lansing, and Detroit areas. They focused on the bioeconomy, smart forestry, wood construction, and marine, to advance economic and trade relations. She also attended the meeting with stakeholders in Grayling to discuss the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling. She stated the Department will have information on the proposed expansion on the website which will include background, maps, and FAQs. The public meeting will be held on June 22, 2022, in Grayling.

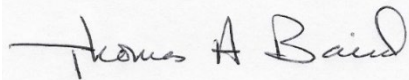
Chair Baird – reported the passing of a real friend of conservation, James “Jim” Schram. He helped create the Anglers of the Au Sable, he also served as director and legal counsel for Fly Fishers International and the Executive Director of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition. Jim will be missed. He’s excited to visit Detroit and Marquette. He thanked the staff for their exemplary presentations. He’s surprised whenever he hears everything the Department is doing in so many different areas in so many ways and doing it so well that they’re a model for the country in many of the programs. It’s very impressive to know what’s going on behind the scenes. He looks forward to the committee meetings in the future.

Adjournment

Chair Baird asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Rose** supported the motion. **Chair Baird** called for discussion. a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, July 14, 2022**, at the **Lansing Community College, West Campus Rooms M119-121, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917**.

Handwritten signature of Tom Baird in blue ink.

Tom Baird, NRC Chair

Handwritten signature of Daniel Eichinger in blue ink.

Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: July 14, 2022