



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 12, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Crystal Mountain
12500 Crystal Mountain Drive
Hudson Bay Room
Thompsonville, MI 49683

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

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

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department)

Daniel Eichinger, Director

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Rose called the meeting of the Commission to order at 10:45 a.m. **Chair Rose** opened the meeting requesting everyone to mute all cell phones.

Chair Rose conducted a roll call of Commissioners. **Commissioner Nyberg** was absent. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. **Commissioner Creagh** made the motion to approve the agenda for May 12, 2022, **Commissioner Love** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion. **Commissioner Baird** asked to amend the agenda to remove VIII, b., i. bullet point - Baird Amendment from the agenda. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, after hearing none, a vote was taken. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the April 14, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve April 14, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, **Chair Rose** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the April 14, 2022, closed session

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

Director Eichinger welcomed everyone to the meeting and then began the report with the recognition of past Natural Resource Commissioners Vicki Pontz, Christopher Tracy, and John Walters. The Director thanked the past Commissioners for all the hours of service they committed to the state's natural resources and the people of Michigan.

Next, the Director introduced Mark Spencer, President, and Dale Hendershot, of the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association to recognize Trappers College Award recipients, Jon Wood, Law Enforcement Division, and Angela Herban, Wildlife Division. Ms. Herban was not present for the award. After the awards, the Commission took a break to take photos with the award recipients.

The Director's report continued with a presentation by Nicole Hunt, Parks and Recreation Division, and Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division.

- i. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment Nos. 2-5](#) (*Nicole Hunt, Parks and Recreation Division*)
- ii. [Deer Harvest Reporting](#) (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)
- iii. [Legislative Report](#) (*Informational Item*)

The meeting continued at 1:00 p.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 – Deer Regulations and – CWD Management
 - ii. Alan Havens – Deer Regulations
 - iii. Arnold Harrison – Deer Regulations
 - iv. Richard P. Smith, Deer Hunters for Responsible UP Deer Management – UP Deer Harvest Regulations
- b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Dale Hendershot, Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association, Trappers College
 - ii. Jim Sweeney – CWD Sampling

Chair Rose adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting and called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 1:30.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Rose noted two items have been approved by the Director. The Director's Letter to discount private and public antlerless deer licenses in DMU 487, and an Interim Order of the Director. In addition, there is one Director action item, the Group 4 State Land Review Recommendations, and four Land Use Orders for information only.

- a. Director's Orders
 - i. [Director's Letter – Discounted Private and Public Land Antlerless Deer Licenses in Deer Management Unit 487](#)
 - ii. [Interim Order of the Director Amendment No. 1 of 2022 Field Dog Trials and Dog Training Using Captive-raised Birds at the Ionia Recreation Area Prohibited](#)
 - iii. [State Land Review Recommendations Group 4 – FOR ACTION](#)
 - iv. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2022 Designated dark sky preserve, state park lands; allowable conduct](#)
 - v. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2022 North Higgins Lake State Park and Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center Prohibited Conduct](#)
 - vi. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2022 State Parks and Recreation Areas, prohibited conduct](#)
 - vii. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 5 of 2022 Boating Access Sites and Harbors Uses](#)

Chair Rose noted there are five land transactions for the Director.

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land Forest Resources Division, Chippewa County Land Transaction Case #20210284](#)
 - ii. [Conveyance of DNR-Managed Land for Public Use Forest Resources Division, Antrim County Land Transaction Case #20220010](#)
 - iii. [Exchange of State Parks and Recreation Land Wildlife Division, Saginaw County Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Land Exchange Land Transaction Case #20190015](#)
 - iv. [Exchange of State Parks and Recreation Land Parks and Recreation Division, Ionia County City of Belding Land Exchange Land Transaction Case #20210258](#)
 - v. [Acquisition of State Managed Land](#)

[Wildlife Division, Saginaw County](#)
[The Demand Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210230](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign all the land transactions.

Chair Rose noted there is one order for the Director and NRC up for information this month.

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

Old Business

Chair Rose noted are no orders for the Director under old business this month.

- a. Director's Orders – None

Chair Rose noted there is one order for the Director and NRC under old business this month.

- b. NRC/Director's Orders
 - i. [Fisheries Order 253.22A Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order Amendment 253.22A – Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters. **Commissioner Baird** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order Amendment 253.22A – Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters; supported by **Commissioner Anthony**. **Chair Rose** asked for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to approve Fisheries Order Amendment 253.22A – Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters passed unanimously.

Committee Report: **Commissioner Creagh** thanked the Department for the presentations provided during the Wildlife Committee.

- o [MSU Research Update](#) (*Dwayne Etter, Wildlife Division & Dr. David Williams, Michigan State University*)
- o [Utilizing Dog Trackers for Deer](#) (*Captain David Malloch, Law Enforcement Division*)

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Anthony – reported he met with several sporting groups discussing deer issues. He attended the Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Committee (EUPCAC) meeting virtually. He stated the EUPCAC virtual meetings are run very well. He recommended if you haven't been to one it's worth attending. They provide a good background of Department staff and participation from user groups to get a good handle on the issues of concern. He also participated in a virtual

Habitat Workgroup meeting run by Jim Hammill. The meeting focused on habitat for species and the implementation of habitat with wildlife. He stated he also had a meeting with the president of the UP Sportsmen's Alliance and had a very thorough briefing on issues of concern for the group.

Commissioner Baird – congratulated the former Commissioners. He stated he's attended various advisory committee meetings along with the Platte River Fish Hatchery and in every case, it's extremely impressive to see not only the amount of work but the quality of work that staff are completing. He stated it's exemplary and that's why we're one of the top conservation organizations in the world. He reported he and his wife have visited Arizona, South Carolina, and Tennessee. They enjoyed every bit of it, but it was so nice to get back to Michigan. Other than 14,000-foot mountains Michigan has it all! It's good to be back and good to be back with the Commission.

Commissioner Cozad – congratulated the former Commissioners. Stated it was good to see the continued enthusiasm they continue to have for the Natural Resources Commission and the work that's undertaken and that of the Department. He attended the final round of the Michigan Sea Grant workshops held virtually in April and early May. He also participated with the Lake Huron Citizens Fisheries Advisory Committee. He echoed the statement made by **Commissioner Baird** about the quality of staff and the work completed by the Department. In addition to participating in yesterday's tour of the Platte River State Fish Hatchery, he and Commissioner Baird toured the spring steelhead egg take operation last month at the Little Manistee River Weir which was hosted by Mark Tonello and Scott Heintzelman. The operation was impressive and was run very efficiently.

Commissioner Creagh – reported he spent some time fishing on the rivers, and in Florida. He did hear from the dog trackers and discussed some of their issues. He thanked staff from the Platte River Fish Hatchery for the tour.

Commissioner Love. No report.

Director Eichinger – stated it's a busy time with the Department. The Department is looking for seasonal workers to get the state parks and the campgrounds ready for summer. He also stated the Department is looking forward to the budget being finalized and will provide an update to the Commission. Some pretty important transformational investments were included in the Governors recommendation for the Department's budget. He thanked the Commissioners for giving us two days of their time for the Platte River Fisheries Hatchery and the team for providing the tour.

Chair Rose – reported she has attended several citizens advisory committees and sea-grant workshops over the past month. All the meetings were very efficiently handled. She also attended a Sturgeon for Tomorrow celebration in Onaway. It was a wonderful event with great participation. She stated the Governor will be sending an announcement later in the day to announce the name of the next Chair of the Natural Resources Commission, which will be **Commissioner Tom Baird.**

Adjournment

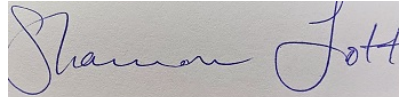
Chair Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Cozad** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, June 9, 2022**, at the **Lansing Community College, West Campus Rooms M119-121, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917**.



Tom Baird, NRC Chair



for

Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: June 9, 2022