



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Lansing Community College

West Campus Rooms M119-121

5708 Cornerstone Drive

Lansing, MI 48917

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

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

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department) Staff

- Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
- Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director
- Ed Golder, DNR, Public Information Officer
- Trevor VanDyke, DNR Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Rose called the meeting of the Commission to order at 9:32 a.m. **Chair Rose** opened the meeting requesting everyone to mute all cell phones.

Chair Rose conducted a roll call of Commissioners. All Commissioners were present. **Chair Rose** requested everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Once the introductions were complete, **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. **Commissioner Cozad** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Baird** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the February 10, 2022, Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve February 10, 2022, Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Nyberg 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 February 10, 2022, closed session Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Baird** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. **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 opened his report welcoming everyone to the meeting then began his report with a Partners in Conservation Award and introduced Kerry Heckman, Forestry Division.

Partners in Conservation Award – Thomas Schupbach (*Kerry Heckman, Forestry Division*)

Chair Rose requested a break following the award presentation to take photos with the recipient.

The Director's Report continued with presentations.

[Lake Trout Harvest and Regulations Northern Lake Huron](#) (*Seth Herbst, Fisheries Division*)

[Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2022 Modification](#) (*Adam Bump, Wildlife Division*)

[Elk Regulations](#) (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)

[Bear Population Trend Analysis Update](#) (*Cody Norton, Wildlife Division*)

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances. [NRC Public Appearance Guidelines](#)

a. 5 Minute Comment

- i. Nancy Hudson, UPBHA – Bears
- ii. Joe Hudson, UPBHA – Bears
- iii. Mike Thorman, MHDF – Bears
- iv. Michael Schippa – Furbearer regulations
- v. Molly Tamulevich – Bobcats
- vi. Dale Hendershot – Furbearer issues

b. 3 Minute Comment

- i. Mark Jones – Sandhill Cranes
- ii. Mary Rossell Jones – Sandhill Cranes
- iii. Mark Janeczko – Bobcat Hunting
- iv. Greg McTaggart – Deer and Pheasants
- v. Trish Marie – Bobcats
- vi. Tom Progar – Bobcats
- vii. Joyce Janicki – Bobcats
- viii. Chase Deback – Animals in general
- ix. Nick Green, MUCC – Hunting Support
- x. Mike Riepen, MI Deer Trackers – Deer Tracking

Chair Rose adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting at 12:01 p.m. at that time the Commission took a break for lunch.

Chair Rose called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 1:04 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Rose noted there is one order for the Director this month.

- a. Director's Order
 - i. [January 18, 2022 Oil and Gas Lease Auction Results](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign the oil and gas lease auction results.

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

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Sale of Restrictive Covenant on DNR-Managed Land Forest Resources Division, Kalkaska County Land Transaction Case #20210180](#)
 - ii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land Metro District, Wayne County Land Transaction Case #20210236](#)
 - iii. [Conveyance of Easement on DNR-Managed Land Parks and Recreation Division, Kent County Land Transaction Case #20210276](#)

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. 3 of 2022 Elk Regulations](#)

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 are two orders for the Director and NRC under old business this month.

- b. NRC/Director's Orders
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2022 Furbearer Regulations](#)
 - **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2022 – Furbearer Regulations. **Commissioner Cozad** made

a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No 1 of 2022 – Furbearer Regulation; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** asked for discussion. After comments by the Commission and additional questions for Furbearer Specialist, Adam Bump, **Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order No. 1 of 2022 passed unanimously.

- ii. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2022 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations](#)
 - **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2022 – Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season and Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations. **Commissioner Love** made a motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2022 – Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season and Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations; supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. **Chair Rose** asked for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order No. 2 of 2022 passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Anthony – reported he met with several groups through the last month and had many great conversations. He was pleasantly surprised by the advocacy groups who are very concerned about sustainability and the resources they are working with on behalf of their memberships and have a vision for the future. He stated it's been very pleasant getting to know all the stakeholder groups.

Commissioner Baird – reported the smelt fishing is picking up. He had a good time fishing on a small lake that shall remain nameless. He reiterated **Commissioner Love's** previous statement and thanked the public that attend to make a public comment as well as those who send emails and call. Although the Commission receives many communications, they each read and listen to all the input and try their best with what is provided.

Commissioner Cozad – thanked the Department staff for all the presentations. Some information was previously presented and some new. All the information was presented particularly well. The Commission appreciates all the thoughtful and ongoing work. He also thanked the members of the public for not only attending in person but also for all the emails and phone calls. He reported the members of the Fisheries Committee have been busy over the last month doing a variety of things including talking and participating with the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee about the walleye regulation change that will be implemented in 2023. He has also been talking with groups regarding the steelhead regulations that were passed and will be enforced in the following week. He stated that work continues with the AuSable Resilience and Sustainability Project. He reported he also attended the Michigan Bear Hunters Association Convention in Bellaire. He echoed comments earlier that everyone's opinion matters, and they are open to everyone's ideas, thoughts, and opinions. He also thanked everyone for their comments in person and through email. He stated once again that without grassroots involvement natural resource conservation wouldn't be but a fraction of what it is in

Michigan and around the world. It all starts at the ground level and works its way up and he can't thank folks nearly enough for all they do.

Commissioner Creagh – stated it was good to be back to a meeting and apologized for missing the last couple of meetings. He reported he attended the Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Reception, the UP Bear Houndsmen Association Banquet where Cody Norton, DNR, gave a very good presentation and captured the attention of the participants. He also spent some time with the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. He reported he received a call regarding hunter safety and asked if it's appropriate to have a refresher on hunter safety for information only at a future meeting.

Commissioner Love – reported she attended her fourth Michigan Bear Hunters Association Convention in Bellaire. She had a unique opportunity to spend several hours with Amy Trotter, MUCC, on the drive to the convention. She thanked Ms. Trotter for sharing her knowledge and the time spent together. She also stated she appreciates the many organizations that have been nurturing in the way of educating and sharing their experience. She thanked the Department staff for helping her and for sharing their knowledge and answering her many questions.

Commissioner Nyberg – thanked **Commissioner Love** for her comments. It's important to expand the reach, partnership, as the Director says – conservation is a team sport, along with the need to extend a willing hand to work together with organizations that may not have been as involved with the Commission. He thanked the UP Whitetails of Marquette County for their invitation to attend their banquet in Marquette. He appreciates the opportunity to attend. He apologized he was not able to attend other banquets, but he looks forward to attending in the future. He stated the Fisheries Committee has been actively talking about agenda topics and preparing for their next meeting.

Director Eichinger – stated he had the opportunity to spend a couple of days in the UP. He saw **Commissioner Nyberg**, in both his role as Commissioner and his day job in a couple of different venues. He also met with some stakeholders and partners and had a good conversation. He stated It was good to resume the in-person conversations. He also spent some time at the mParks Conference and Trade Show in Traverse City. He appreciated the chance to attend and the partnership. He'll attend the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Washington. He stated it's a fantastic opportunity for fish and wildlife professionals from across the country to get together and work on the national conservation agenda as well as the regional conservation. Department staff will also be attending in different formats. He stated turkey season is right around the corner and the opening day of trout season will follow a couple of weeks after.

Chair Rose – thanked everyone for their participation in the meetings, including the research professionals and the conservation officers. She appreciates everything they do for everyone in the state. She reported she also attended the Michigan Bear Hunters Association Convention in Bellaire. She also attended the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC) meeting at Treetops along with **Commissioner Baird**. She listened to the Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Committee, participated in a bovine TB workgroup, and is looking forward to listening to a number of citizens advisory committees, and the fisheries coffee and conversations then attending the next WMAC meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. She thanked everyone for what they do and for advocating for the resources.

Closed Session

Chair Rose moved that the Commission meets in closed session as permitted under section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Specifically, to consult with counsel regarding a memorandum provided to the Commission which falls under the attorney-client privilege exemption in section 13(1)(g) of the FOIA. The motion was supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**.

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 2:40 p.m.

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



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: April 14, 2022