



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Northern Michigan University

NC Peninsula II

1401 Presque Isle Avenue

Marquette, MI 49855-5301

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
- Daniel Eichinger, Director, DNR

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Baird called the meeting of the Commission to order at 10:16 a.m.

Chair Baird conducted a roll call of Commissioners, the Director, and the Office of the Attorney General. All were present.

Chair Baird called for a motion to amend the day's agenda to add Senator McBroom to the Director's Report after the Hunter Education Service Award. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve the day's agenda with the amendment. **Commissioner Nyberg** supported the motion to approve the October 13, 2022, agenda. **Chair Baird** called for discussion, there being none, **Chair Baird** called for a vote. The day's agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the September 8, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. **Chair Baird** called for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Rose**.

Chair Baird called for additional discussion, there being none, **Chair Baird** called for a vote. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

Director Eichinger began the report with a recognition of former Commissioner JR Richardson for his many years of service to the Commission. He also recognized John Madigan and John Matonich, seated in the audience, for their contributions to the Commission.

Chair Baird presented the DNR White Pine plaque and offered his thanks to JR.

Director Eichinger continued his report by introducing David Shaw, Chief, Law Enforcement Division.

- Hunter Education 40 Years of Service Award (David Shaw, Chief, Law Enforcement Division)
John Zappala

After a short break for photos, the Director's Report continued with remarks from Senator McBroom. State Senator McBroom discussed four critical issues brought forward by his constituents.

- CWD
- Harvest Reporting
- Bear Tag Quotas
- Antlerless Tags for bow season in Ontonagon

Senator McBroom introduced State Representative Cambensy. Representative Cambensy brought forward issues brought forward by her constituents.

- Harvest Reporting
- Mining – Buffalo Reef

The Director's Report continued with a presentation by Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Field Deputy)

- [DNR Upper Peninsula Public Outdoor Shooting Range](#) (Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Field Deputy & Lori Burford, DNR Shooting Range and Facilities Specialist)
- [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 8 of 2022](#) (Nicole Hunt, Parks and Recreation Division)
- [Wolf Management Plan Timeline Update](#) (Jared Duquette, Chief, Wildlife Division)
- [Spring Turkey Regulations](#) (Adam Bump, Wildlife Division)

- [Preliminary Elk Season Results Update](#) (Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division)
- [Legislative Report](#) (Informational Item)

The meeting continued, at 1:30 after a lunch break, 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. Molly Tamulevich, Michigan State Director, Humane Society of the United States – Wolves
 - ii. Steve Dey – Wolf Management Plan
 - iii. Gary Gorniak – Wolf Management Plan
 - iv. Vince Jeevar – Wolf Management and Conservation
 - v. George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette – Wolf Management
 - vi. Justin Tomei, MUCC – Turkeys and Wolves
 - vii. Teresa Pitts, Michigan Anishinabek Caucus – Wolf Management Plan
 - viii. Olivia Lubig – Wolf Hunting
- b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Rich Schwenke - Predators
 - ii. Chauncey Moran – MI Natural Resources
 - iii. Dr. Martin Reinhardt - Wolves
 - iv. John Frye – Renewable Energy on Recreation Lands
 - v. Elise Matz, Vice President of Public Affairs Circle Power – Renewable Energy
 - vi. Paul Hannukseta – Blue Berry Ridge Erosion
 - vii. Gary Charles – Restructuring Bear Permits
 - viii. Bryan Reynolds - Deer
 - ix. Dick Zook – APRs and Deer Management
 - x. Dave Dainton – K-9 Deer Tracking

Chair Baird adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting and called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 2:20 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Baird noted there are three orders for the Director. Two for action and one for Information Only.

- a. Director Action
 - i. [Proposed October 25, 2022, Oil and Gas Lease Auction](#) – FOR ACTION
 - ii. [State Land Review Recommendations Group 5](#) – FOR ACTION
 - iii. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 8 of 2022 Parks and Recreation Division Management of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum](#) – FOR INFORMATION

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign the Proposed October 25, 2022, Oil and Gas Lease Auction and the State Land Review Recommendation Group 5.

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

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Gift of Ingress and Egress Easement](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Dickinson County](#)
[The Quick Living Trust Easement Gift](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220088](#)
 - ii. [Exchange of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Baraga and Houghton Counties](#)
[The Acciaccia Properties LLC Land Exchange](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220001](#)
 - iii. [Acquisition of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Cheboygan County](#)
[The Robiadek Tract Acquisition](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220126](#)
 - iv. [Acquisition of State Wildlife Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Lenawee County](#)
[The Sidener Tract Acquisition](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220047](#)
 - v. [Acquisition of State Wildlife Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Barry County](#)
[The Palmatier Tract Acquisition](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220123](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign all land transactions.

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

- c. NRC/Director's Orders
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2022](#)

[Spring Turkey Regulations](#)

Old Business

Chair Baird noted there are two land use orders under Old Business for the Director this month.

- a. Director's Orders
 - i. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 6 of 2022](#)
[Crystal Waters State Game Area Designation and Rules](#)
 - ii. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 7 of 2022](#)

Chair Baird noted there were four orders for the Director and NRC under old business this month.

b. NRC/Director's Orders

i. [Fisheries Order 200.23](#)

[Inland Rivers and Streams – Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)

Chair Baird called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 200.23 – Inland Rivers Streams – Trout and Salmon Regulations. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order 200.23; supported by **Commissioner Rose**. **Chair Baird** asked for a discussion. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to amend Fisheries Order 200.23 - [Commissioner Cozad Amendment – Update definition of artificial flies](#). **Commissioner Creagh** supported the amendment. **Chair Baird** called for a vote on the amendment only. The motion to amend Fisheries Order 200.23 – Inland Rivers Streams – Trout and Salmon Regulations passed unanimously. **Chair Baird** called for a discussion on the amended order. After discussion, **Chair Baird** called for a vote on Fisheries Order 200.23 as amended. The motion to approve Fisheries Order 200.23 – Inland Rivers Streams – Trout and Salmon Regulations as amended passed unanimously.

ii. [Fisheries Order 206.23](#)

[Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters](#)

Chair Baird called for a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 206.23 – Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters. **Commissioner Rose** made a motion to un-table Fisheries Order Amendment 206.23; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Baird** asked for a continued discussion of Fisheries Order 206.23. After continued discussion, **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to re-table Fisheries Order Amendment 206.23 – Special Fishing Regulation for Warmwater Species until the November meeting; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Baird** called for a vote to table Fisheries Order Amendment 206.23 – Special Fishing Regulation for Warmwater Species. The motion to table passed unanimously.

iii. [Fisheries Order 210.23](#)

[Designated Trout Streams for Michigan](#)

Chair Baird called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 210.23 – Designated Trout Streams for Michigan. **Commissioner Love** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order 210.23; supported by **Commissioner Rose**. **Chair Baird** asked for a discussion. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to table Fisheries Order 210.23; supported by **Commissioner Rose**. **Chair Baird** called the motion to table Fisheries Order 210.23 to a vote. The motion to

table Fisheries Order 210.23 – Designated Trout Streams for Michigan passed unanimously.

iv. [Fisheries Order 254.23](#)

[Inland Lakes – Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)

Chair Baird called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 254.23 – Inland Lakes – Trout and Salmon Regulations. **Commissioner Rose** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order Amendment 254.23; supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. **Chair Baird** asked for a discussion. After no discussion, **Chair Baird** called the motion to a vote. The motion to approve Fisheries Order 254.23 – Inland Lakes – Trout and Salmon Regulations passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Fisheries Committee: **Commissioner Cozad** reported the Fisheries Committee received four presentations. All the presentations were well prepared, presented, and received. As a result, the presentations assisted the Commission in a better understanding of each of the topics covered. **Commissioner Cozad** thanked the staff for all the time in the preparation and delivery of the presentations. He's looking forward to the presentations in November.

- [Strategizing Investments in Fish Habitat](#) (*Jessica Mistak & Dr. Joe Nohner, Fisheries Division*)
- Cisco Chain Muskellunge Minimum Size Limit (*Floyd Dropps, Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance*)
- [Lake Superior Splake Management Policy](#) (*Patrick Hanchin, Fisheries Division*)
- [Cisco Chain Muskellunge](#) (*Patrick Hanchin, Fisheries Division*)

Wildlife Committee: **Commissioner Creagh** thanked the staff and the stakeholders for their presentation. He reported the Wildlife Committee was provided with a presentation on the UP Habitat Workgroup.

- [UP Habitat Workgroup Update](#) (*Stacy Welling Haughey, DNR Upper Peninsula Field Deputy, JR Richardson, & Jim Hammill*)

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Anthony – reported he conducted his monthly radio interview and discussed the action and discussions from September NRC Meeting. He had a very good field trip with the UP Habitat Workgroup which included Jim Hammill, Dave Johnson, and Stu Boren, along with DNR staff Bill Scullon and Tom Seablom. He reported the meeting was very informative, and he left the meeting with a very good outlook. He had a well-spent month using the resources.

Commissioner Cozad – reported it was a big month all around both in terms of work at the Fisheries Committee level and on fisheries orders. He attended and participated in several meetings, including the Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, and the Great Lakes Angler Diary where the last year's steelhead data was reviewed with Dr. O'Keefe. The Great Lakes Angler Diary program is driven by volunteer

steelhead anglers providing electronic data into a database that is supported by Sea Grant a Michigan State University Extension. He also participated in the AuSable Resilience and Sustainability Project where they continue to make progress in their second year.

Commissioner Creagh – stated he appreciated the phone calls on mandatory harvest reporting. He reminds the callers that the Department is well aware of the challenges and has made a commitment to work with hunters to see what works and what doesn't. If anything, he's learned the Department is very adaptive in its management. He's sure everyone will learn some things as they look at deer regulations in the future. He thanked the Director and the Department staff for the trip to the UP. He stated it's been a good trip and he was glad to see the turnout. It's always good to be in the UP and good to get back to meet with everyone. He wished everyone success in the field whatever success may be.

Commissioner Love – thanked **Commissioner Nyberg** for his hospitality. She reported she was invited to a pheasant hunt with Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy. From that hunt, Daryl James reached out to her and invited her to dinner. At the dinner, she met with the Detroit Area African American Wing Shooters. She appreciated hearing the perspectives the group shared and looks forward to them coming to a meeting.

Commissioner Nyberg – thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Expressed how great it is to be back in the UP for a meeting after a three-year hiatus. Stated it's gratifying to see friends from across the state enjoying the area. He thanked the sponsors for supporting the tradition of the NRC Reception. He also stated it was nice to honor JR Richardson and to see him as well as John Matonich and John Madigan, former Commissioners. He stated he also attended the Great Lakes Angler Diary call regarding the steelhead report with Dr. O'Keefe. Another example of a public-private partnership that's helping inform data around resource management. He announced the Fresh Coast Film Festival, a documentary film festival focused on conservation and outdoor recreation, will be in Marquette over the weekend starting Thursday evening.

Commissioner Rose – reported she also attended the Lakes Angler Diary call regarding the steelhead report with Dr. O'Keefe as well as the Chinook salmon webinar. She had the delight of being able to taste bear meat from the Red Oak DMU. She was delighted with all the informative activities that were provided for the Commissioners, especially the hatchery seeing the artic grayling as well as the ride aboard Lake Char vessel. She stated the digital data collection the staff developed was very impressive. She'll be preparing for the firearm deer season in the coming weeks. She thanked all the staff from both peninsulas who helped make the meeting an enjoyable and informative event. The reception was spectacular. She expressed; it was great to see so many familiar faces at the meeting. It's a testimony to the strength of the conservation community in the state of Michigan.

Director Eichinger – stated he will be heading home after the meeting to celebrate his son's 12th birthday. He stated it's a fantastic time to be outdoors. He had a chance to hunt with Chair Baird and Commissioner Anthony. He expressed his gratitude to the Commissioners who volunteered two days of their time to attend the activities as well as the meeting. He also thanked everyone

that had taken the last two days to participate in the activities, some participating in the Joint Citizens Advisory Council meetings.

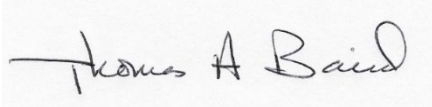
Chair Baird – stated he has had a great time and had many great conversations as he’s had over the last month about a variety of topics. He appreciated the conversations about what will be done about the situation in the future. He also stated the Commission, and the Department will be meeting to discuss the 2023 Commission meetings and will provide more detail than what was provided during the Covid period. He thanked everyone for their hospitality while in the UP.

Adjournment

Chair Baird asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Rose** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Creagh** supported the motion. **Chair Baird** called for discussion after no discussion a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, November 10, 2022**, at **Lansing Community College, West Campus Rooms M119-121, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917.**



Thomas Baird, NRC Chair



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: November 10, 2022