



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2023

Time: 9:00 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):

- Dave Anthony
- Tom Baird, Chair – Absent
- David Cozad
- Leslie Love
- Dave Nyberg – Absent
- Carol Moncrieff Rose, Interim Chair
- John Walters

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

- Shannon Lott, Acting Director, Department of Natural Resources
- Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

Meeting Minutes

OPENING COMMENTS

Interim Chair Rose called the meeting of the Commission to order at 1:02 p.m.

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

Interim Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. **Commissioner Love** made a motion to approve the day's agenda, supported by **Commissioner Walters**. **Interim Chair Rose** called for discussion. There being none, **Interim Chair Rose** called for a vote. The day's agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the April 13, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. **Interim Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the April 13, 2023, meeting minutes. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve, supported by **Commissioner Walters**.

Interim Chair Rose called for additional discussion. After no discussion, **Interim Chair Rose** called for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Director's Report

Acting Director Lott began her report with a presentation by Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division.

- [Deer Regulations](#) (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)
- [Legislative Report](#) (*Informational Item*)

At the conclusion of the Director's Report, Stacy Haughey read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances.

- a. 5-Minute Comment
 - i. Molly Tamulevich, Human Society of the United States – Nuisance Regulations
 - ii. Nichole Biber, Anishinaabek Caucus – Nuisance Regulations
 - iii. Moses Biber, Anishinaabek Caucus – Nuisance Regulations
 - iv. Diane Miller – Nuisance Regulations
 - v. Brece Clark – Nuisance Regulations
 - vi. Bee Friedlander, Attorneys for Animals – Nuisance Regulations
 - vii. Trish Marie – Nuisance Regulations
 - viii. Mark Spencer, Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association – Nuisance Regulations
 - ix. Erik Schnelle, National Deer Association – Big Challenges – Bold, Informed Action
 - x. Jim Sweeney – Deer Regulations
 - xi. Mel Smith, Let Em Go, Let Em Grow – Deer Regulations
 - xii. Paul Sikkenga – Deer Regulations
 - xiii. Millard Holton – Deer Regulations
- b. 3-Minute Comment
 - i. Greg Peter – APRs
 - ii. Carlton Miller, Let Em Go, Let Em Grow – APRs
 - iii. Dan Ulfig, National Deer Association – Deer Regulations
 - iv. Mike Harm – Deer Regulations
 - v. Mike Taylor – UP Deer Regulations
 - vi. Chase DeBack – Nuisance Regulations
 - vii. Mike Thorman – Tracking Dogs
 - viii. Roger Thorman – Tracking Dogs
 - ix. Dick Zook – Deer Management

- x. Mark Janeczko – Nuisance Animal Policy
- xi. Dave Buikema – Deer Regulations
- xii. Linda Wood – Nuisance Regulations
- xiii. Julie Dye – Nuisance Regulations
- xiv. Tony Smith – Deer Regulations
- xv. Valorie Gibbs – Nuisance Regulations
- xvi. Donald Garlit – Nuisance Animals
- xvii. Michael Schippa – Nuisance Regulations
- xviii. Bob Jones - APRs

Interim Chair Rose adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting and called to order the regular meeting of the Commission at 4:40 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Interim Chair Rose noted there were no matters for the Director under New Business this month.

Interim Chair Rose noted there were 10 land transactions for the Director.

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Schoolcraft County](#)
[The Manistique Papers, Inc. Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case# 20160001](#)
 - ii. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Emmet County](#)
[The Perkins Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220213](#)
 - iii. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, St. Clair County](#)
[The Hemmlock Ridge LLC. Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220206](#)
 - iv. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Gratiot County](#)
[The Becker Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220221](#)
 - v. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Saginaw County](#)

- [The Maier Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220223](#)
- vi. [Acquisition of State Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Emmet County](#)
[The Pilibosian Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case#20220242](#)
- vii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Mackinac County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220066](#)
- viii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Wexford County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20220199](#)
- ix. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Manistee County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200155](#)
- x. [Gift of Easement – U.S Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
[Wildlife Division, Saginaw County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20230053](#)

Acting Director Lott indicated she will sign all land transactions.

Interim Chair Rose noted there was one new order for information for the Director and NRC this month.

- c. NRC/Director's Orders
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2023](#)
[Deer Regulations](#)

Old Business

Interim Chair Rose noted there was one matter for the Director under Old Business this month.

- a. Director Matters
 - i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2023](#)
[Wildlife Nuisance Regulations](#)

Acting Director Lott indicated she will sign Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2023.

Interim Chair Rose noted there was one item for the NRC and the Director under Old Business this month.

b. NRC/Director Orders

i. [Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023
Tracking Legally Shot Game Animals](#)

Interim Chair Rose called for a motion to untable Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023, Tracking Legally Shot Game Animals. **Commissioner Walters** made a motion to untable; supported by **Commissioner Anthony**. **Interim Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to untable Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023 passed unanimously.

Interim Chair Rose asked for a discussion on the April 13, 2023 motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023. **Commissioner Walters** made a motion for the Department to draft a substitute Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment for posting, public input and further discussion at the June 8, 2023 NRC Meeting to include the following:

- Eliminate basic tracking test and CPL requirement for the tracker.
- Clarify the tracker must be 18 years of age and submit an application to receive a permit from the Department for tracking.
- Clarify “control of the dog” to include the tracker can demonstrate knowledge of the dog’s location and a method of control of the dog which may include voice command.
- Clarify the section of dogs barking on public lands to only be prohibited during “legal hunting hours for deer, elk, bear.”

The motion was supported by **Commissioner Cozad**. **Interim Chair Rose** asked for a discussion. **Commissioner Anthony** made a motion to strike the last item “Clarify the section of dogs barking on public land to only be prohibited during legal hunting hours for deer, elk, bear” from the substitute; supported by **Commissioner Walters**. **Interim Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to strike the last item of the substitute Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023 passed unanimously.

Interim Chair Rose asked for a motion to table Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023. **Commissioner Anthony** made a motion to table Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023; supported by **Commissioner Walters**. **Interim Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to table Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2023 passed unanimously.

Commissioner Walters provided a public reading of four additional proposed amendments to Wildlife Conservation Order No. 7 of 2023, Deer Regulations he would like considered next month.

- Make all “Specialty Hunts” (Liberty, Independence) antlerless only.
- Allow the single deer license to be good for either antlered or antlerless deer harvest.
- Allow the combination license good for one antlered and one antlerless deer, but not two antlered deer. Once a combo license has been filled and recorded with the DNR, an additional antlered deer tag may be purchased.
- Make all opening days begin on a Saturday.
 - Specialty hunts begin on the last Saturday of September
 - Bow season begins on the first Saturday in October and ends the Friday before Firearms Season
 - Firearms season begins the third Saturday in November and ends the first Sunday in December
 - Muzzleloader season in the UP begins the Monday after firearms season and continues for 7 days
 - Muzzleloader season in the LP begins the second Saturday in December and continues for 10 days
- Add antler point restrictions (4 points to a side).
 - Lower Peninsula where no diseases have been detected
 - Lower Peninsula where CWD and bTB have been detected
 - Upper Peninsula-DMU 055, 255, 022, and 122
 - Upper Peninsula-All of UP

Committee Reports

Fisheries Committee: **Commissioner Cozad** reported the Fisheries Committee received a presentation on the Inland Walleye Management Plan from Dr. Seth Herbst, Fisheries Division.

- [Inland Walleye Management Plan](#) (*Dr. Seth Herbst, Fisheries Division*)

Wildlife Committee: **Commissioner Anthony** reported the Wildlife Committee received several presentations regarding deer and issues pertaining to deer including Sportsmen Against Hunger from Joe Presgrove, Marketing and Outreach Division and Deal Hall, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger; Deer Regulations from Matthew Ross and Erik Schnelle of the National Deer Association; Agent-Based Modeling from Mauri Liberati, Wildlife Division; and an APR Study Report from Dr. Dwayne Etter, Wildlife Division.

- [Sportsmen Against Hunger](#) (*Joe Presgrove, Marketing and Outreach Division & Dean Hall, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger*)
- Deer Regulations (*Matthew Ross, National Deer Association Director of Conservation*)
- [Agent-Based Modeling](#) (*Mauri Liberati, Wildlife Division*)
- [APR Study Report](#) (*Dr. Dwayne Etter, Wildlife Division*)

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Anthony: Reported he has spoken to dozens of people about tracking issues and deer regulations and expects these discussions to become more intense over the coming month. He stated it has been a good month for planting trees and creating brush and mast for animals in his neighborhood. He also noted the coho are hitting well in Marquette and steelhead are migrating in the rivers.

Commissioner Cozad: Reported he attended the last Fisheries Division conversation and coffee event, which was very informative and well-conducted. He attended the remainder of the Sea Grant-sponsored workshops as well as the Lake Huron Citizens' Fishery Advisory Committee where he received a thorough update on the fisheries in Lake Huron. He also attended the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation banquet and noticed many families and children in attendance.

Commissioner Love: Reported she is resigning her position as NRC Commissioner effective May 12, 2023 to seek a nomination for the US Senate. She recited her official statement of resignation that she shared with the Governor's Office and NRC Commissioners. She indicated she is extremely thankful for the experiences she was able to participate in and thanked everyone who has reached out to her personally with their experiences and points of view during her time on the NRC. **Interim Chair Rose** stated she will be dearly missed and wished her all the best in her future endeavors.

Commissioner Walters: Thanked Commissioner Love for her service and wished her the best of luck. He reported he met with sportsmen in Escanaba regarding hunting and fishing regulations. He attended the Headwaters Trout Unlimited banquet on opening day of trout season and attended the Lowell Township Historical Society's exhibit that recognized women that impact the river, with his wife being honored this year. He also walked the Leaky Wader 1K and came in last for the 14th year in a row. He indicated he enjoys serving as Commissioner and appreciates the passion and commitment from everyone he speaks with.

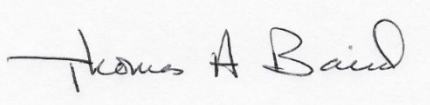
Acting Director Shannon Lott: Reported she was a successful turkey hunter this past weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Interim Chair Rose: Reported she attended the spring meeting of the Upper Black River Council, assisted in the installation of a number of temperature loggers within the Upper Black River watershed and enjoyed some time on the edges of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. She spent time engaging with anglers who were fishing on the east branch of the Upper Black River, one of which came from Toledo to sit on the stream bank fishing for suckers instead of brook trout. She attended the Headwaters Trout Unlimited banquet and participated in another bovine TB meeting. She took part in MUCC's On the Ground habitat project in Kalkaska which involved creating habitat structures with celebrity Mark Kenyon from the Netflix show *MeatEater* in attendance. She shared sightings of turkeys and a whitetail deer and fox encounter. In closing, she thanked everyone who made presentations and appreciated the large amount of time it takes to prepare them. She indicated everyone's input matters and it helps the Commission make informed decisions going forward.

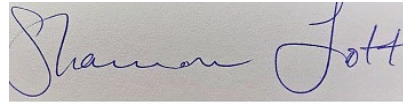
Adjournment

Interim Chair Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Anthony** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Love** supported the motion. **Interim Chair Rose** asked for a discussion. There being none, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, June 8, 2023**, at the **Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653**.



Thomas Baird, NRC Chair



Shannon Lott, Acting DNR Director

DATE: June 8, 2023