



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 9, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Michigan Historical Center Forum
702 West Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

- Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
- Tom Baird
- David Cozad
- Keith Creagh
- David Nyberg
- J.R. Richardson

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department) Staff

- Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
- Shannon Lott, DNR Natural Resources Deputy
- Stacy Welling-Haughey, DNR Upper Peninsula Field Deputy
- 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 9:02 a.m. with a request to silence cell phones. **Chair Rose** called for a roll call. All Commissioners were present. **Chair Rose** then asked for everyone in the room to introduce themselves. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Cozad** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Creagh** 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 November 10, 2021, Commission meeting minutes. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the November 10, 2021, Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion. **Chair Rose** commented there are hyperlinks for the

presentations and orders for each month's agendas and minutes on the Department's website. Hearing no further discussion **Chair Rose** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

Deputy Director Lott began her report with the introductions of several awards given to staff highlighting the variety of duties throughout the day that support the missions of the Department. Duties range from hunter and angler checks to snowmobile and marine patrols, as well and protecting the citizens of this great State. In addition, conservation officers often respond to a wide range of activities that may include suicide or domestic assault complaints while carrying out their resource protection duties. She stated it's an honor on behalf of the Department to recognize staff members who have shown bravery, a passion for helping others in need, and a passion for what they do every day on the job. The following staff were recognized:

- i. Law Enforcement Division Awards presented by David Shaw, Acting Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement Division
 - Purple Heart Award Recipient – Conservation Officer Josiah Killingbeck
 - Lifesaving Medal – Mr. Corey Miller (Citizen)
 - Lifesaving Medal – Mr. Richard Olds, II (Citizen)
- ii. Safari Club International presented by Bob Taylor, President, Safari Club International Michigan Involvement Committee Presentation of Gun and Bow Prizes
 - Mr. Scott Johnson of Alpena (Gun)
 - Mr. Robert Mazey of St. Clair Shores (Crossbow)
- iii. Safari Club International Biologist of the Year Award
 - Mr. Pete Kailing, Wildlife Division
- iv. MUCC on the Ground Conservation Partner of the Year Award presented by Greg Peter, President and Amy Trotter, Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs
 - Mr. Chad Fedewa, Wildlife Division
 - Mr. Chad Krumnauer, Wildlife Division

Chair Rose requested a break following the awards presentation to take photos with the recipients.

The Director's Report continued with presentations.

- v. MUCC Annual Convention Update (*Greg Peter, President & Amy Trotter, Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs*)
- vi. [Michigan Wildlife Council Update](#) (*Ed Roy, Michigan Wildlife Council & Gŭd Marketing*)
- vii. [Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results](#) (*Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division*)

Public Appearances before the NRC

Stacy Welling Haughey read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances.

- a. 5 Minute Comment
 - i. Erik Schnelle, National Deer Association – Deer Management, Sandhill Cranes, and Wolves
 - ii. Ray Schmidt – Steelhead

- b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Jim Bos, President, Pere Marquette Watershed Council - FO 200.22
 - ii. Jay Allen - Steelhead
 - iii. Mel Smith - CWD
 - iv. Stephen Peis – Steelhead
 - v. Terry Greiner – Steelhead
 - vi. Jeff Hubbard – Steelhead
 - vii. Walter Grav – Steelhead
 - viii. Jim Bedford – Steelhead
 - ix. Chris Raines – Steelhead
 - x. Greg McTaggart – DMAP and various species
 - xi. Bryan Burroughs – Steelhead

Chair Rose adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting at 12:03 p.m. then called to order the regular meeting of the Commission.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Rose noted there were no orders up for information for the Director this month.

Chair Rose noted there are seven land transactions.

- a. Land Transactions
 - i. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land
Forest Resources Division, Montmorency County
Land Transaction Case #20200188](#)
 - ii. [Sale of Restrictive Covenant on DNR-Managed Land
Forest Resources Division, Kalkaska County
Land Transaction Case #20210083](#)
 - iii. [Conveyance of Easement on DNR-Managed Land
Parks and Recreation Division, Cheboygan County
Land Transaction Case #20210151](#)
 - iv. [Gift of Land – Ducks Unlimited
Wildlife Division, Tuscola County](#)

- [Land Transaction Case #20210245](#)
 - v. [Exchange of State Wildlife Land](#)
[Wildlife Division, Montcalm County](#)
[The Allen Exchange](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20120254](#)
 - vi. [Exchange of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Baraga County](#)
[The Keweenaw Land Trust Exchange](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200199](#)
 - vii. [Acquisition of State Parks and Recreation Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Wexford County](#)
[The Deuell Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210110](#)

Deputy Director Lott indicated she would sign all the Land Transactions.

Chair Rose noted there are no NRC Orders up for information this month.

Old Business

Chair Rose noted there is one item for the Director under old business.

- a. Director's Orders
 - i. [Land Use Order of the Director No. 7 of 2021](#)
[Order to Restrict Firearm Use on State Forest Lands in Benzie County](#)

Deputy Director Lott indicated she would sign the Land Use Order No. 7 of 2021.

- b. NRC Orders
 - i. [Fisheries Order 200.22](#)
[Inland Rivers and Streams - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)
 - **Chair Rose** called for a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22 passed unanimously.
 - Fisheries Order 200.22 was open for discussion. **Chair Rose** opened the discussion with a request for **Commissioner Nyberg** to review his proposed amendment. **Commissioner Nyberg's** amendment to Fisheries Order 200.22 to add exceptions for establishing a daily possession limit of one (1) Rainbow Trout during the spawning period of March 15 through May 15 on several waters and extend the upstream boundary for the Little Manistee River to Johnson's bridge for this same time period. Supported by **Commissioner Baird**.
 - **Commissioner Baird** put forth an amendment to **Commissioner Nyberg's** amendment Fisheries Order 200.22 to allow a daily possession limit of one (1) fin-

clipped Rainbow Trout during the spawning period. Supported by **Commissioner Cozad**. After discussion. **Chair Rose** called for a vote on **Commissioner Baird's** amendment to **Commissioner Nyberg's** amendment to Fisheries Order 200.22. The amendment failed with three (3) in favor – Baird, Cozad, and Nyberg, and three (3) opposed –Creagh, Richardson, and Rose.

- **Commissioner Nyberg** put forth an amendment to his previous amendment to Fisheries Order 200.22. The order would be amended to have an effective date of 30 days after being adopted through January 8, 2027, which would be a five (5) year testing period. Supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. After discussion **Chair Rose** called for a vote to the amendment to **Commissioner Nyberg's** original amendment of Fisheries Order 200.22. The amendment to **Commissioner Nyberg's** original amendment passed unanimously.
- **Chair Rose** called for a vote on **Commissioner Nyberg's** amendment as amended to Fisheries Order 200.22. The amendment as amended passed unanimously.
- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 200.22 as amended. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order 200.22 as amended. Supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for a vote. Fisheries Order 200.22 as amended passed unanimously.

ii. [Fisheries Order 206.22](#)

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

- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 206.22. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 206.22; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** called for discussion. **Chair Rose** called the motion to a vote. The motion to un-table Fisheries Order 206.22 passed unanimously.
- **Chair Rose** opened Fisheries Order 206.22 for discussion. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to amend Fisheries Order 206.22 to provide for the establishment of a year-round Walleye season on the Lower Saginaw River (Bay and Saginaw Counties) having a daily possession limit of eight (8) Walleye and a minimum length of 13 inches with no special gear restrictions. Supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to further amend **Commissioner Cozad's** amendment to Fisheries Order 206.22 to specify an effective date of January 1, 2023. The amendment was supported by **Commissioner Richardson**. **Commissioner Creagh** withdrew his amendment; supported by **Commissioner Richardson**.
- **Commissioner Cozad** offered an amendment to his previous amendment of Fisheries Order 206.22 to this new year-round season under Fisheries Order 206.22 shall take effect January 1, 2023. The Commission requests Fisheries Division conduct public outreach and education during the calendar year 2022 in preparation for the implementation of this new year-round season; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** called for a vote on the amendment to

Commissioner Cozad's amendment to Fisheries Order 206.22. The amendment as amended passed unanimously.

- **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve **Commissioner Cozad's** amendment as amended; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for a vote on the amendment as amended to Fisheries Order 206.22. The motion to pass **Commissioner Cozad's** amendment as amended to Fisheries Order 206.22 passed unanimously.
- **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve Fisheries Order 206.22 as amended; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. After discussion **Chair Rose** call for a vote to approve Fisheries Order 206.22 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Baird – reported that he has had many conversations and worked with staff sometimes agree and sometimes disagreed but working with the staff has always been an excellent educational experience. He appreciates the time taken to help him understand both the science and social aspects of his questions, particularly the Fisheries Division staff. It's been an excellent experience and he appreciates it. He thanked everyone that participated in person and through email. He's looking forward to starting in January.

Commissioner Cozad – thanked everyone that participated, and all the effort put into the Fisheries orders. He reported on a conversation with an individual where he discussed the day-to-day activities of the Commission. He explained the statutory responsibility and the laws. He further explained the actions and roles of the Commission. He appreciates the time to be able to help people understand what the Commission's role is and how they approach their responsibilities. He expressed he's very thankful for our democracy and that the Commission provides a venue for citizen participation and hopes that continues.

Commissioner Creagh – thanked the staff, stakeholders, and the Commissioners. He appreciates the opportunity to have an open dialogue to try to perfect things. He reported he had a good deer season, and everyone is safe and healthy and wished the same for everybody in the audience.

Commissioner Nyberg – thanked everyone for taking the time to provide input on the business of the Commission. It's been great to have active participation. He further thanked the Fisheries and Wildlife Division's Biologist, Department leadership, and staff. He had a busy fall, success with a whitetail, and is looking forward to ice fishing. He wished everyone a great Christmas.

Commissioner Richardson – reported he harvested a nice deer. He stated this could be his last meeting. He thanked the staff for the many years of support and stated he has the utmost respect for them and their assistance with biology and science.

Chair Rose – reported she did her part for the antlerless harvest. She was invited to the Turtle Lake Club to view their buck pole and get a sense of the operation for their deer management. She stated it

was stunning, impressive, and they do a great job. She was also able to sit in on the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting. She thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting as well as multiple staff members who provided presentations regarding the walleye amendment that has been discussed. She was also able to sit in on the Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Committee meeting earlier in the week. She's always impressed with the two Upper Peninsula meetings because there is so much discussion, engagement, staff that participates and bring everyone up to date. The minutes are extensive and very specific. The meetings are very well run. She wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. Thanked everyone that participated in person and all the staff for all their time in assisting in the process.

Natural Resources Deputy Lott – stated she will be attending the graduation for 19 recruits on Friday in Grayling.

Adjournment

Chair Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Creagh** 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, January 13, 2022**, at the **Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum located at 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48915.**



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: January 13, 2022