



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
4125 Beaumont Road
Lansing, MI 48901

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
- Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director
- Shannon Lott, DNR Natural Resources Deputy
- Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Su Schrauger, Executive Assistant to the NRC

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Rose called the meeting of the Commission to order at 9:01 a.m. with a request to silent cell phones. **Chair Rose** called for a roll call, and all Commissioners were present. Take a moment to remember Michael Lashbrook who passed a couple of weeks ago and in his honor recognize a moment of silence. **Chair Rose** asked for everyone in the room to introduce themselves. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Nyberg** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Richardson** 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 August 12, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional

discussion, there being none, called for a vote, **Commissioner Creagh** abstained - he was not present. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote, **Commissioner Creagh** abstained - he was not present. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

- i. Wildlife Chief Introduction – Jared Duquette

Director Eichinger introduced Jared Duquette the new Chief of the Wildlife Division for the Department of Natural Resources. **Chief Duquette** thanked everyone, met a few virtually, and mentioned he had the opportunity to talk to **Commissioners Richardson** and **Nyberg**. He tuned into the Commission meetings virtually to get up to speed on the issues and the issues the NRC is interested in. He expressed his approach is to bring people to the table and make the table bigger and to have a more comprehensive perspective. **Director** concluded that we are fortunate to have him.

- ii. [Fisheries Orders](#) (*James Dexter & Dr. Seth Herbst, Fisheries Division*)

Public Appearances Before the NRC:

(**Brooke Parmalee** read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances)

5 Minute Comments:

- i. Jonathan Durtka – Spearfishing Proposal

3 Minute Comments:

- i. Nancy Warren – Budget
- ii. Hunter Nation – Wolf Management
- iii. Erik Schnelle, National Deer Association – APR Core Testing & Wolves
- iv. Jim Sweeney – CWD Sampling
- v. Mike Riepen, Michigan Deer Track'n Hounds – Tracking Dogs
- vi. Dale Hendershot, Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association (MTPCA) – Trapping rules and tracking dogs

Chair Rose adjourned the public appearance portion of the meeting at 10:18 a.m. and asked for a 10-minute break before beginning the public comment portion of the meeting. The regular meeting of the NRC was called to order at 10:31 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Rose read the new business items the Director may act on at the day's meeting.

Director's Orders

- i. [July 29, 2021, Oil and Gas Lease Auction Results](#)
- ii. [State Land Review Recommendations Group 2](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign all Director Action Items.

Chair Rose noted there are four land transactions.

Land Transactions

- i. [Case Number 20190002](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Oakland County](#)
[Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
- ii. [Case Number 20210040](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Chippewa County](#)
[Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
- iii. [Case Number 20210024](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Cheboygan County](#)
[The Sheppard Exchange](#)
- iv. [Case Number 20210129](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Washtenaw County](#)
[Gift of Land – Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign all land transactions.

Chair Rose noted there are four NRC Orders up for information this month.

NRC Orders

- i. [Fisheries Order 210.22](#)
[Designated Trout Streams for Michigan](#)
- ii. [Fisheries Order 215.22](#)
[Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass](#)
- iii. [Fisheries Order 216.21](#)
[Minnow, Wiggler, and Crayfish Regulations for Commercial Purposes and Waters that are Closed to the Personal Take of Minnows](#)
- iv. [Fisheries Order 226.22](#)
[Hook and Line Restrictions During Walleye Spawning Runs](#)

Old Business

Chair Rose noted there is one Director item under old business this month.

a. Director's Orders

- i. [Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 5 of 2021 Restrict Beach Access Under Certain Conditions](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he plans to sign the order.

b. NRC Orders

- i. [Fisheries Order 200.22 Inland Rivers and Streams - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)
 - **Chair Rose** advised that per the Department's request, this Order will be held over until next month to get clarity on the Little Manistee River. No discussion.
- ii. [Fisheries Order 206.21 Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters](#)
 - **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 206.21. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. Chair Rose then asked for discussion.
 - **Commissioner Richardson** requested the Department draft an amendment for consideration at the October meeting for the removal of the possession of two (2) Walleye from 13-15 inches and set the minimum size limit for Walleye be at 15 with a daily possession limit of five (5) Walleye.
 - **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion. **Commissioner Creagh** asked for clarification that Commissioner Richardson's request is specifically Gogebic County and Lake Gogebic. **Commissioner Richardson** indicated yes. **Chair Rose** advised the order will be held over until next month for the amendment to be posted online for public review and input prior to the Commission's consideration.
- iii. [Fisheries Order 219.22 Special Fishing Regulations for Bow, Spear, and Crossbow Fishing Regulation](#)
 - **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 219.22. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. Chair Rose then asked for discussion.
 - **Commissioner Baird** requested the Department draft an amendment for consideration at the October meeting to add a three (3) year sunset to the underwater spear fishing regulations.
 - **Commissioner Rose** requested the Department draft an amendment for consideration at the October meeting to delay the ability to harvest northern pike using underwater spear, with season dates of July 1 to March 15th.

- **Commissioner Richardson** requested the Department draft an amendment for consideration at the October meeting to remove Lake Superior from waters open to underwater spear fishing.
 - **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion. There was none. **Chair Rose** advised the order will be held over until next month for the amendment to be posted online for public review and input prior to the Commission's consideration.
- iv. [Fisheries Order 248.22](#)
[Possession Limits for Fish](#)
- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 248.22. **Commissioner Baird** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
- v. [Fisheries Order 252.22](#)
[Statewide - Lake Whitefish, Round Whitefish, Cisco, Rainbow Smelt and Arctic Grayling Regulations](#)
- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 252.22. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Richardson**.
 - **Commissioner Richardson** requested the Department draft an amendment for consideration at the October meeting that the combined daily possession limit for Lake Whitefish, Round Whitefish, and Cisco be expanded to allow for an additional 10 Round Whitefish per day on Lake Superior waters only. This proposal would retain the Lake Whitefish and Cisco protections with the 10 fish per day, in combination, but allow for the desired additional harvest opportunities for Round Whitefish in Lake Superior.
 - **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion. There was none. **Chair Rose** advised the order will be held over until next month for the amendment to be posted online for public review and input prior to the Commission's consideration.
- vi. [Fisheries Order 253.22](#)
[Great Lakes and Great Lakes Connecting Waters - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)
- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 248.22. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Cozad**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
- vii. [Fisheries Order 254.22](#)
[Inland Lakes - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)
- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 254.22. **Commissioner Baird** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner**

Nyberg. Chair Rose called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

c. [NRC Committee Discussion](#)

Chair Rose thanked **Commissioners Baird and Cozad** again for their efforts in developing options for adding a sub-committee component to our monthly meetings.

Commissioner Baird stated they would like to get back to the additional committee structure to enhance their capabilities as a commission especially in the area of implementing sound science.

Commissioners Cozad and Baird thought it best to start simple and focus on the most important aspects of our work: governance, fisheries, and wildlife.

Chair Rose confirmed there won't be a vote until next month when there is opportunity to get feedback from the Department and stakeholders.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Baird - Mentioned discussions about Saginaw Bay Walleye and how very lucky we are to have great conversations in the department and outside the department with those who really know their stuff and work hard. He also had the opportunity to participate in the AuSable Strategic Decision Making for climate resilience on that watershed. He was impressed with the group of people brought together from the department, MSU, and stakeholder groups.

Commissioner Cozad - He emphasized with the other Commissioners and those in attendance the sadness of **Commissioner Lashbrook's** passing. He had the good fortune of meeting with him briefly face-to-face as well as in virtual meetings. He is impressed with how **Commissioner Lashbrook** approached issues with a very diligent and thoughtful manner. We will miss him but think of him often as the Commission continues to carry out its work. He attended the second WMAC meeting in Gaylord. He learned a lot. Along with **Commissioner Baird**, he met with the AuSable Resiliency and Sustainability Collaborative efforts, between the Department of Natural Resources, MSU, and stakeholders as Tom indicated. He anticipates some surprises and impressive results as the process unfolds. He looks forward to ongoing productive meetings.

Commissioner Creagh - He echoed **Commissioner Cozad's** sentiments regarding **Commissioner Lashbrook**. He knew him before he became a commissioner. He was a great thinker and a great guy. He will certainly be missed. He apologized for missing the last meeting. They were at Glacier National Park. He described smoke from the wildfires out there. He emphasized how thankful for the department he was for their thoughtful forest management and their response to wildfires. He added we don't want to lose track of that, and they do a great job despite it being a hazardous job. He enjoyed goose hunting and hanging a deer stand. He voiced his thanks to the DNR for lots of geese in the sky. He proposed a topic to have further discussion on is the dog tracker. There are technical

issues that need to be resolved, but he had the opportunity to use a dog tracker last year. He expressed it's not about hunting but the humane dispatch of an animal.

Commissioner Nyberg - Appreciated **Commissioner Creagh's** comments on forest management. Both he and **Commissioner Richardson** will meet with the Upper Peninsula Habitat Work Group next Wed. September 22. He replied after coming off the committee discussion, this is an impassioned and critical group of stakeholders and partners in conservation that are focused on that intersection between forest management, habitat, and how we keep and sustain the quality of recreation and conservation in the work that we all do.

Commissioner Richardson - He thanked Chief Duquette for the Work Group they are going to have. He remarked it shows a real commitment to bring the Wildlife Director and a forestry person together. **Commissioner Richardson** described an event he had the idea for. There are about 40 special needs adults at the VFW. The Tribe gives about 300 rainbow trout each year. He came up with the idea for the vets the day before Labor Day to go fishing. Many of them hadn't fished in years. They caught about 60 rainbow trout, and they filleted them for them. It was such a positive event. He also stated how special Dr. Straka was and how much she will missed for the work she did. He reiterated that **Commissioner Lashbrook** will be missed.

Director Eichinger thanked **Commissioner Creagh** for mentioning the wildfires out west. He just got back yesterday from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting. There were several colleagues from out west that couldn't participate. He reported that we've had 121 dispatches from DNR staff go out west to fire support activities. This is another part of the incident management team doing fire suppression. Those same incident management teams have been doing double duty the last 18 months for mass vaccination centers. Our folks have done a lot inside the state as well as crisis support and management there. He added that our parks have been busy. We hit a milestone in August, which passed 1 million lodging nights in state parks which we typically don't hit until October. The parks are full, and that is a good thing. Increases in hunting, and camping, and biking, motorized trail use, and non-motorized trail use, these are all good problems to have. It's a good opportunity for us to make investments into those systems that support that level of use. In conclusion, small game season opened yesterday, September 15. He hopes everyone takes advantage of that, and there is still lots of good fishing. It's a great time to be outdoors. We encourage everyone to get out there and do something.

Chair Rose - She mentioned since our last meeting, she also was able to attend the WMAC with **Commissioner Cozad**. She expressed her thanks to MUCC for live streaming the WMAC meetings as well as the NRC meetings. She mentioned it's so helpful to be able to go back to MUCC's Facebook page and relisten. She read through the most recent Wolf Management plan. She found it very informative and looks forward to seeing what kinds of updates the WMAC comes forward with. She made a presentation yesterday on the NRC and its history at the association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Annual Conference in Gaylord. She added that she will be making a short presentation at MUCCs Convention next weekend in Gaylord. She thanked the department for the wonderful

document that was shared with the Commission after last month's meeting titled "The Factors Limiting Deer Abundance in the Upper UP". She requested that this be available on the NRC website. She agreed with Director Eichinger that she is looking forward to dusting off her shotgun for small game hunting and giving fall turkey hunting another shot on Beaver Island and getting out for some small game hunting elsewhere.

Commission Closed Session

Motion for Closed Session:

Chair Rose moved that the Commission meet 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.

- A second by **Commissioner Baird**.
- Discussion - None
- The motion was approved.

During the closed session:

- Minutes of the closed session must be kept.
- No deliberations are allowed on the business before Commission.

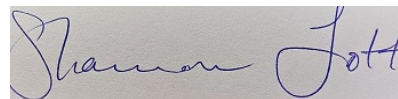
Adjournment

Chair Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Nyberg** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Baird** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the NRC is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021, at **MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, Michigan 48901.



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: 10/14/21