



# Natural Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: June 10, 2021

### Roll call

#### Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

- Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair, Hillman Twp., MI
- Tom Baird, Elk Rapids, MI
- David Cozad, Bay County, MI
- Keith Creagh, Williamston Twp., MI
- Michael Lashbrook, Thompsonville, MI
- David Nyberg, *Absent*
- J.R. Richardson, Ontonagon, MI

#### Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department) Staff

- Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
- Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director
- Trevor VanDyke, DNR Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the NRC

### Meeting minutes

#### Opening Comments:

**Chair Rose** called the meeting of the Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. **Chair Rose** called for a roll call, all Commissioners, (with the exception of Commissioner Nyberg), the Director, and Assistant Attorney General were present. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Lashbrook** 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 May 13, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

**Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the May 13, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

**Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Richardson**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

## Committee of the Whole:

**Director Eichinger** welcomed the audience and summarized the Director's report.

## Director's Report:

Public Land Strategy – Scott Whitcomb, Executive Division

Tracking Game with Dogs, An Overview of Current Regulations, and Industry Requested Changes – Lt. David Shaw, Law Enforcement Division

Presentations for the Director's reports may be found on the Commission's webpage at [www.michigan.gov/nrc](http://www.michigan.gov/nrc) under "Presentations".

The Director's report ended at 9:58 a.m. at which time **Chair Rose** asked for a 10-minute break before beginning the Public Comment Period. The meeting resumed at 10:09.

## Public Appearances Before the NRC:

(**Chair Rose** provided the guidelines from the Open Meetings Act which will be followed for future public comments. Public appearances began at 10:12 a.m.)

### 5 Minute Comments:

- i. Cathy Theisen – Wolf management
- ii. Ian Fitzgerald, MUCC – Deer tracking with dogs and proposed deer regulations
- iii. Steve Dey – Wolf management
- iv. Doug Roberts – Conquest Scents
- v. Barbara Potter – Wildlife
- vi. Mike Riepen, Michigan Deer Track'n Hounds – Deer tracking with dogs
- vii. Molly Tamulevich, HSUS – Wolf management
- viii. Nancy Warren – General comments
- ix. Trish Marie – Wildlife management boards

### 3 Minute Comments:

- i. Amy Trotter, MUCC – Wolf management
- ii. Lauren Dolega – Remote participation
- iii. Kyla Cruz – Return to in-person meetings
- iv. Theresa Pitts – Wolf resolution
- v. Erik Schnelle, National Deer Association – Deer regulations and management
- vi. Bee Friedlander, Attorneys for Animals – Wolf Management Advisory Council
- vii. Susan Andrews – No hunting signs

viii. Andrea Wotan – Wolves

**Chair Rose** adjourned the public appearance portion of the meeting at 11:44 a.m. at which time **Chair Rose** asked for a 10-minute break. **Chair Rose** asked for a roll call of **Commissioners** and noted that all who were present at the Committee of the Whole were present for the regular meeting. The regular meeting of the NRC was called to order at 11:54 a.m.

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### NEW BUSINESS

#### DIRECTOR

**Chair Rose** read the new business for the Director, which may be acted on during the day's meeting:

#### Director's Orders

- None

#### Land Transactions

- i. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land  
Grayling Management Unit – Crawford County  
Land Transaction Case #20140100](#)
- ii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land  
Gaylord Management Unit – Charlevoix County  
Land Transaction Case #20200141](#)
- iii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land  
Gaylord Management Unit – Charlevoix County  
Land Transaction Case #2020210026](#)
- iv. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land  
Gaylord Management Land – Charlevoix County  
Land Transaction Case #20210067](#)
- v. [Forest Resources Land Exchange  
Gaylord Management Unit – Cheboygan County  
The Union Building Corporation Exchange  
Land Transaction Case #20210023](#)
- vi. [Forest Resources Land Exchange  
Gaylord Management Unit – Mackinaw County  
The Ross Exchange  
Land Transaction Case #20210041](#)
- vii. [State Trail Acquisition  
Parks and Recreation – Upper Peninsula Region  
Alger and Marquette Counties  
Little Lake-Chatham Snowmobile Trail  
Land Transaction Case #20200139](#)

- viii. [Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition](#)  
[The Corpe Tract – Luce County](#)  
[Tahquamenon Falls State Park](#)  
[Land Transaction Case #20200223](#)

**Director Eichinger** indicated he would sign all land transactions.

NRC Orders for Information only this month

- i. None

## OLD BUSINESS

Director's Orders

- i. [Shooting Preserve Regulations](#)  
[Shooting Preserve Order Amendment No. 1 of 2021](#)

**Director Eichinger** indicated he would sign the Order

NRC Orders

- i. [Deer Regulations](#)  
[Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021](#)
  - [Commissioner Lashbrook Amendment – Deer Urine Regulations](#)

**Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the Deer Regulations Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve, **Commissioner Cozad** seconded the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion on the motion to approve Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021. **Commissioner Lashbrook** moved to amend Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021, **Commissioner Baird** seconded the motion to amend by **Commissioner Lashbrook**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion on the motion to amend. **Chair Rose** then called for a vote on the motion to amend, which passed unanimously.

**Chair Rose** asked for additional discussion on Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021 as amended, then called for a vote on Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021, as amended, which passed unanimously.

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

**Commissioner Baird** – stated he's received many reports from the field, some good some bad. He also stated he favored the amendment brought forward by **Commissioner Lashbrook** without qualms. He reported he does have a little concern about CWD and what is being done. Whether we are taking too many nicks out of our basic approach to that disease, between point restrictions, urine scents, and

continued testing. He reported he will personally keep an eye to be sure the **Commission** is doing the right thing and not straying from the basic path that has been laid out. He stated the current path is a good one, but he would like everyone to stay aware.

**Commissioner Cozad** – reported there was a forest fire in Grayling on the national guard range which is now under control. He thanked Scott Whitcomb, the Director, and staff for their work regarding the updated state land strategy. He’s looking forward to receiving additional information and seeing the documents once they are prepared for distribution. He stated everyone in the state will benefit from the information. He’s also looking forward to meeting in person, possibly in July. He thanked **Commissioner Lashbrook** and staff for their work on the conservation order and the amendment that was passed. He sees an opportunity and encourages the development of the feedback loop between the trade associations, DNR, and MDARD. If there is a positive test for CWD, it would be important to be able to move on the issue promptly.

**Commissioner Creagh** – congratulated the Department and thanked the staff for their work on the state land strategy. He’s looking forward to seeing adaptation, resiliency, and climate change integrated into the strategy. He recalled last month the speaker from the Responsible Scent Hunting Association committed to a feedback loop to natural resources agencies should there be any positive tests. He suggested looping back and getting the commitment in writing to help with concerns and suggestions. He supports Eric Schnelle’s request to do a more testing. He also recalled having concerns last year about the food safety aspect and increasing hunter confidence relative to hunting in a CWD area. He requested anything the Department can do to increase testing numbers to increase hunter confidence would be supported. He does support the request to come up with processes and protocols for a hybrid meeting and sees it valuable to receive public input and states it is difficult to travel long distances. He’s reported he has been using the state parks and congratulates Ron Olson and his staff for a great park system. He’s also been using the state trails and seeing more users because people are getting outdoors.

**Commissioner Lashbrook** – thanked the Department and staff for working with him on the amendment and getting it in good shape to be approved unanimously. He also thanked Scott Whitcomb, the Director, and staff for their work regarding the updated state land strategy. He reiterated the additional efforts related to diversity, equality, and the use of the outdoors and believes there’s more to be done to move that aspect along. He appreciates that emphasis that has been made. He reported that he, along with **Commissioner Creagh** and **Commissioner Cozad** attended the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus Advisory Council event at the Capital Area Sportsman’s League in the Lansing. He was able to meet some of the focus groups while waiting for the legislators to arrive before having to leave for another commitment.

**Commissioner Nyberg** – *ABSENT*

**Commissioner Richardson.** – reported he has been working with various partners for the past 10 years in the UP to build brook trout plants and has planted them in remote streams every year. The teams

planted over 12,000 in the last week. The teams plan to plant 7,000 after today's meeting. He'll be traveling in June to Montana to fish the Madison River.

**Director Eichinger** – acknowledged the expressed desire and benefits to continue a virtual format for the public to participate and give comments. He stated the Department staff will work to provide a successful process to mediate the technology to accommodate the request. He asked that the Commission and the public be patient as the Department tries to accomplish the new format. He reported there will be an exciting announcement that will be made later in the day regarding state parks and will talk about the announcement at the July meeting.

**Chair Rose** – acknowledged the technological challenges associated with providing the hybrid format and the various locations. She thanked the staff for working towards accomplishing this goal. She also thanked the staff for the work on the urine regulation amendment, Scott Whitcomb, the Director, and staff for their work regarding the updated public state land strategy, also wanted to acknowledge Dustin Isenhoff who provides the updates to the Commission regarding license sales. She reported she had family from Colorado contribute to the license sales. She thanked the Department support staff, Brooke, Kelly, and all the behind-the-scenes staff for making the meetings possible for many months. She also thanked the staff for providing presentations who also participated in these meetings.

## 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 Creagh**.
- The motion was approved.

During the closed session:

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

## Adjournment

**Chair Rose** asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Lashbrook** 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 is adjourned at 1:17 p.m. The next regular meeting of the NRC is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2021, format to be determined.



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair



for

Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: July 15, 2021