



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: April 15, 2021

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

- Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair, Hillman, MI
- Tom Baird, Elk Rapids, MI
- David Cozad, Bay County, MI
- Keith Creagh, Fremont, MI
- Michael Lashbrook, East Lansing, MI
- David Nyberg, Marquette, MI
- 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, the Director and Assistant Attorney were present. **Chair Rose** introduced two new Commissioners, Tom Baird, and David Cozad, both were appointed to the NRC in March 2021, by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. **Chair Rose** provided a bio for each new member. She then called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Baird** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Cozad** 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 February 11, 2021, and March 11, 2021, Commission meeting minutes. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the February 11, Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Lashbrook**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote, which

passed unanimously. **Commissioner Nyberg** made the motion to approve the March 11, 2021, Commission meeting minutes. **Commissioner Creagh** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Baird and **Commissioner Cozad** noted they have abstained from voting on the Commission meeting minutes. They were not present for the February or March Commission meetings.

Committee of the Whole:

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

Director's Report:

Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Muskegon State Game Area and the Rogue River State Game Area

John Niewoonder, Wildlife Division and Lt. Gerald Thayer, Law Enforcement Division

Bear Harvest and License Quota Corrections

Cody Norton, Wildlife

Falconry Regulations:

Krista Hubbard and Casey Reitz, Wildlife Division

Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance Report:

Dan O'Brien, Wildlife Division and Nancy Barr, Veterinary Specialist, MI
Department of Agriculture

Presentations for the Director's reports may be found on the Commission's webpage at www.michigan.gov/nrc under "Presentations."

The Director's report ended at 10:26 a.m. at which time **Chair Rose** asked for a 10-minute break before beginning the Public Comment Period. The meeting resumed when **Chair** Rose requested another roll call with all Commissioners still in attendance at 10:36.

Public Appearances Before the NRC:

(Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances which began at 10:38 a.m.)

5 Minute Comments:

Cathy Theisen – Wolf Issue

Bee Friedlander, Attorneys for Animals – Wildlife Issues

James Sunstrum, MD – Bovine Tuberculosis in Humans

Nancy Warren – Wolves

Pat Witherell – Bear Hunt and Youth Deer Hunt

Ian Fitzgerald, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – Bear Regulations
Steve Dey – Wolf Management
Keith Shafer, Michigan Bear Hunters Association – Bear Regulations
Marcie Tree – Wolves - unable to connect – will submit comments in writing
Barbara Lucas – Wolves
Gary Gorniak – Wildlife Management in the UP
Dale Hendershot – Trapping
George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette County – Wildlife Management
Jeff Towner – Wolf Issue
Darrel Heine – Bear Regulations and Use of Bait Barrels

3 Minute Comment:

Jordan Hoover, UP Whitetails of Baraga County – Sound Science Management
George Graves – Sound Science Management
Molly Tamulevich, HSUS – Representation of non-consumptive interests
Lou Levins – unable to connect – will submit comments in writing
Nick Green, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
Trish Marie – Wolves
Matt Pedigo – Bears Regulations
Amanda Canfield – Wolves

Chair Rose adjourned the public appearances portion of the meeting at 12:28 p.m. and called to order the regular meeting of the NRC at 12:38 p.m. **Chair Rose** asked for another roll call of Commissioners and noted that all who were present at the Committee of the Whole were present for the regular meeting.

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

- [Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Muskegon State Game Area and the Rogue River State Game Area – Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2021](#)

Land Transactions

- [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land
Cadillac Management Unit – Mecosta County
Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park](#)

- [Land Transaction Case #20170212](#)
- [Forest Resources Gift of Easement](#)
[Shingleton Management Unit – Schoolcraft County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210042](#)
- [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Undedicated Land – Benzie County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200168](#)
- [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Gaylord Management Unit – Charlevoix County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200191](#)
- [Release of Deed Restriction on DNR-Conveyed Land](#)
[Plainwell District – Barry County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200175](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition](#)
[Rose Lake District – Washtenaw County](#)
[Pinckney Recreation Area](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20200176](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign the land use order and all land transactions.

NRC Orders for Information Only this month

- [Falconry Regulations](#),
[Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2021](#)

OLD BUSINESS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Chair Rose read the title of the Land Use Order for the Director.

- [Order to Consolidate and Standardized Watercraft Use Restrictions in the Pigeon River Country State Forest – Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2021](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign the land use order.

Chair Rose read the NRC Orders.

- [Bear Regulations and License Quotas](#)
[Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2021](#)

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the Bear Regulations and License Quotas, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2021. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve and supported by **Commissioner Nyberg**. **Chair Rose** called for discussion. **Commissioner Richardson** requested an amendment to the Bergland license quota – to keep the license quota the same as the

2020 bear season. To be clear, this amendment is based on the past 10 years success ratio not just three (3) years and until we had better bear account procedures. **Commissioner Creagh** would accept the amendment once the Department had the opportunity to include the 2020 bear harvest data to improve the clarity of the situation. Dan Bock, Legal Counsel, referred the Commission to the Wildlife Conservation Order, Species Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 3.200, which states the Department not the Commission sets the bear quotas each year. **Chair Rose** called for a vote and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Baird – Spring fever is hitting hard in the north country. The fish are jumping, and the birds are chirping. He appreciates the calls and those who have written to express their thoughts on the issues.

Commissioner Cozad – Shared that he is very happy to be back on the Commission. He reported he was able to view the last two Commission meetings online to stay current. He's been out planting seedlings without mosquitos and black flies. He's looking forward to fishing, and the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing to be able to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Creagh – Welcomed **Commissioner Baird** and **Cozad** back to the Commission. He shared he was able to do some Crappie fishing with a guide in Illinois. He fished with Dr. Moritz, who is doing some good, futuristic thought for the Wildlife Management Institute. He also did some walleye fishing on the Detroit River. The water was clear, and the fishing was not good. He's waiting for the river to heat up to be able to catch some walleyes.

Commissioner Lashbrook – Thanked and congratulated Cody Norton, and everyone that worked on the bear regulations. He also thanked all the hunters, and everyone that communicated with him through the process. He learned a lot about bear hunting and bear regulations. He welcomed **Commissioner Baird** and **Cozad** back to the Commission. He reported he was able to get his four granddaughters out to catch some bluegill. His eight-month-old puppy enjoyed retrieving the bobbers from the pond when his granddaughters cast their line.

Commissioner Nyberg - Welcomed **Commissioner Baird** and **Cozad** back to the Commission. He also congratulated Cody Norton, and everyone that worked on the bear regulations. Nicely done.

Commissioner Richardson - Welcomed **Commissioner Baird** and **Cozad** back to the Commission. He's looking forward to working with them. He also thanked Jim Dexter, Chief, Fisheries Division, and staff for meeting at the Western UP Lake Superior forum. He reported Jim Dexter, staff, and he will also participate in the Eastern UP forum. He also states the Lake Superior fishing has been good.

Director Eichinger - Shared that on March 30, 2021, the Department celebrated its 100th Birthday. Information regarding 100 years of conservation and additional recognition materials can be found on the Department's website. He encouraged everyone to get outdoors for mushroom season, turkey season, and opening day of trout season.

Chair Rose ~ Shared that she'll be going out for the spring turkey hunt on Beaver Island. She reported that she participated in one of MUCC's On the Ground Project. She helped create "rabbitats, bunny bungalows, bunny condos" out of brush piles. She shared that there were about 20 volunteers that created over 40 "rabbitats" out of the brush piles and the process was very well organized. She stated that it was a very positive experience being a part of habitat development for small game species and great fun.

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. The motion was supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lashbrook made a motion to adjourn the closed session meeting. **Commissioner Richardson** supported the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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. Meeting is adjourned at: 2:17 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the NRC is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, format to be determined.



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair
DATE: May 13, 2021



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director