



# Natural Resources Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: May 13, 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, Williamston Twp., 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** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Creagh** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Lashbrook** 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 April 15, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

**Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the April 15, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

**Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **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:

### Shooting Preserve Regulations

Krista Hubbard and Casey Reitz, Wildlife Division

### Deer Regulations

Chad Stewart, Wildlife Division

The **Commission** requested supporting documents referenced in the presentation and additional information regarding the status of the science regarding scent-based products.

- An update on the status of the Wolf Management Advisory Council was provided.

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 9:54 a.m. at which time **Chair Rose** asked for a 10-minute break before beginning the Public Comment Period. The meeting resumed at 10:04.

## Public Appearances Before the NRC:

(Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances which began at 10:05 a.m.)

### 5 Minute Comments:

Jordan Hoover – Archery season in the Upper Peninsula

Gary Gorniak – Upper Peninsula Wildlife Management

Steve Dey – Wolf Management

Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – Land Transactions

Ian Fitzgerald, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – Deer Regulations

George Graves – Prop G, N. American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and  
Composition of Wolf Committee

Bee Friedlander – Wildlife Issues

### 3 Minute Comments:

George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette County – Wildlife Management

Molly Tamulevich, HSUS – Wolves

Seven Mattes – Wolves

Nick Green, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – Commission Responsibility

Jenny Cook, MI Equine Trails and SW MI Equine Trails Rep – Horses  
Dale Hendershot – Trapping  
Ruth Bush – Bear Baiting  
Doug Roberts, President United Deer Farmers of MI, and Owner of Conquest Scents  
in MI – Proposed Urine Ban  
Davin Henderson, Founder of CWD Evolution LLC – Proposed Urine Ban  
Jay McAninch – Proposed Urine Ban  
Sam Burgeson – Proposed Urine Ban  
Trish Marie – Wolves

**Chair Rose** adjourned the public appearances portion of the meeting at 11:42 a.m. at which time **Chair Rose** asked for a 5-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 11:47 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

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

#### Land Transactions

- [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)  
[Gaylord District – Cheboygan County](#)  
[Land Transaction Case #20180102](#)
- [Forest Resources Land Exchange](#)  
[Sault Ste. Marie Management Unit – Mackinac County](#)  
[The Graymont Easement Exchange](#)  
[Land Transaction Case #20210057](#)
- [Forest Resources Land Exchange](#)  
[Sault Saint Marie Management Unit – Mackinac County](#)  
[Shingleton Management Unit – Schoolcraft County](#)  
[The Newton Lands Exchange](#)  
[Land Transaction Case #20190151](#)
- [Wildlife Land Acquisition](#)  
[The Crystal Waters Tract – Monroe County](#)  
[Land Transaction Case #20170171](#)
- [Forest Resources Land Acquisition](#)  
[Gaylord Management Unit – Cheboygan County](#)  
[The Jarvis Property](#)

## [Land Transaction Case #20210020](#)

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

NRC Orders for Information only this month

- i. [Deer Regulations](#)  
[Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2021](#)  
The **Commission** intends to request an amendment. **Commissioner Lashbrook** will work with the Department to outline the language for the amendment.

## OLD BUSINESS

Director's Orders

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

NRC Orders

- i. None

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

**Commissioner Baird** – reported he attended the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing regarding his appointment to the NRC. He stated that between the hearing and other input he's received he continues to hear concerns raised regarding a variety of communication between a variety of bodies. He wanted to state that he's been part of that and to those who were listening to the hearing he doesn't mean to be over critical. He stated that there are a lot of good people working very hard for the resource under severe limitations, financial and otherwise, due to lack of funding, due to COVID. He stated his expressions of concern weren't meant to imply bad motive. He just wanted to say they can do better and not only between the Commission and the Department, but also to the various constituent groups and the general public. He wanted to clarify that he hopes to work towards that in the future. He commented that the Commission's efforts to place some specific items on the agenda with the Department is a good step in that direction.

**Commissioner Cozad** – reported he also attended the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing regarding his appointment to the NRC. He was pleased to have the opportunity and looks forward to a favorable outcome. He would also like to thank **Chair Rose** and **Director Eichinger** for their ongoing efforts and dialogue regarding future presentations from staff to the Commission. He also stated he was pleased with the consideration of additional agenda items including discussions and presentations on cormorants, sandhill cranes, etc. He expressed that's all very positive. He stated as we emerge from

the pandemic, he's looking forward to the reactivation of the working committees of the Commission and the opportunity that will present to have open discussions and dialog in detail of many of the complex issues. He's looking forward to the advent of spring.

**Commissioner Creagh** – reported the walleye fishing has been very good on the Detroit River and Lake Erie. He noted the great job **Commissioner Cozad** and **Commissioner Baird** on their appearance before the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing. They were very articulate, eloquent, well prepared, and represented the Commission very well. He congratulated the Director and staff on the acquisition of Crystal Waters. He reminded the general public that part of the acquisition is because of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), which the Director had mentioned. The MNRTF is somewhat unique to the State of Michigan is something that is held dear. He stated he had been to Belle Isle on a walleye fishing trip and noted that Oudolf Garden looks great, the Island is cleaned up, and had a lot of traffic. He complimented Ron Olson and staff for the great job they have been doing. He congratulated the Director and the Riverfront Conservancy for beginning the final piece for completing the 3.5 miles of the riverfront trail segment through the old Uniroyal site. It will be a great asset to the City of Detroit.

**Commissioner Lashbrook** – congratulated **Commissioner Cozad** and **Commissioner Baird** on their successful appearance before the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing. He stated he was impressed with their presentations. He reported he enjoyed a day on the Detroit River and was able to fill the limit on the boat with pretty nice sized walleye.

**Commissioner Nyberg** – stated the Commissioners are aware that the Department staff are always going above and beyond in their duties. He wanted to give a special shout out to one of the newer Wildlife Division Biologist, Heather Shaw, and Eric Strazzinski, member of the Mid-U.P. Ruffed Grouse Society. He noted the Detroit Free Press published a story that Heather and Eric hosted renowned Chef Gordon Ramsay on a woodcock hunt in the UP last fall. They will be featured on an upcoming National Geographies series "Uncharted". He stated the Chef could not have been in better hands. He reported he has been spending time coaching t-ball and looking forward to getting out on the water soon. He appreciates all the public comments.

**Commissioner Richardson.** – complimented the Department for a very good presentation regarding a possible land acquisition with MNRTF partnership on the Keweenaw. He stated Stacy Welling Haughey did a very nice job putting the presentation together. He reported he had a successful UP Habitat Workgroup meeting and UP Sports Fisherman Association meeting. He also stated there are a lot of exciting things and partnerships happening in the UP. He's looking forward to brook trout season opening. He congratulated **Commissioner Cozad** and **Commissioner Baird** for their appearance before the Senate Advice and Consent Committee.

**Director Eichinger** – thanked the Commission for the discussion on the items presented. He had the opportunity to be in Detroit for the groundbreaking on the old Uniroyal site. He urged everyone to get downtown Detroit and take a walk on the Riverwalk, it's a phenomenal recreational asset and with the completion of the Uniroyal site you would be able to walk from the Gordy Howe Bridge to the

MacArthur Bridge and onto Belle Isle. The Department has played a critical role in the development of the trail and the MNRTF has invested over \$58 million over the years in helping to redevelop some of the recreational assets for the citizens of Detroit and residents. The Detroit Riverwalk was named the best Riverwalk in the United States by USA Today which the Department is very excited and proud. The legislature passed and the governor signed, last Thursday in Traverse City, the MNRTF Appropriations Bill. He stated the Department appreciates the legislature moving the bill forward, prioritizing action, and the governor signing the bill into law. He noted the report submitted by Dustin Isenhoff, Marketing and Outreach Division, showing some of the trends the Department is seeing. As the Department reported last year the interest in the outdoors continues to be sustained. Fishing and hunting licenses are up. The competition has been fierce for reserving campsites in the state campground.

**Chair Rose** – thanked Cheryl Nelson for her years of service to the Commission and wished her all the best in her retirement. She also congratulated **Commissioner Cozad** and **Commissioner Baird** on their successful appearance before the Senate Advice and Consent Committee hearing.

## 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. Meeting is adjourned at: 12:16 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the NRC is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021, format to be determined.



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair



Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: June 10, 2021