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WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

BRIEF OF ACTION

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board was held virtually on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 originating from Room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), 101 South Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. for action on items 1-4 and 7-8. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (0:00:00 – 0:04:48)

A. Calling the roll (0:03:39 – 0:04:30)

William Bruins – present	Marcy West – present
Sharon Adams – present	William Smith – present
Terry Hilgenberg – present	Dr. Frederick Prehn – present
Greg Kazmierski – present	

B. Approval of agenda for May 26, 2021 (0:04:31 – 0:04:48)

At 0:04:47, Mr. Smith MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

DNR Secretary Preston Cole, at 0:04:49, welcomed Board Member nominees Sharon Adams, Milwaukee, and Sandra Dee Naas, Ashland.

Sharon Adams, at 0:06:17, gave a brief introduction.

Sandra Dee Naas, at 0:07:57, gave a brief introduction.

2. CONSENT (0:14:18 – 0:17:05)

A. Approval of brief of action from April 14, 2021

B. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will donate equipment and service totaling \$138,000. This donation will be used to install the Peshtigo and Milwaukee River PIT tag antenna system.

(DNR Secretary Preston Cole)

- C. The Dane County Conservation League (DCCL) will donate \$25,725 to support several critical grassland habitat management projects on DCCL-owned land within the Buena Vista Wildlife Area (BVWA). The donation will also support hiring a student intern and the purchase of rubber tracks for a DNR Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), which will further facilitate the important work of conserving and managing public grasslands in central Wisconsin.
(DNR Secretary Preston Cole)
- D. The Friends of Rock Island State Park will donate \$25,000 to be used to help fund the inspection and potential repairs of the dock at Rock Island State Park.
(DNR Secretary Preston Cole)
- E. The Heritage Hill Corporation will donate \$20,000 in the form of a sculpture entitled “Voyagers” at Heritage Hill State Historical Park in Brown County, WI
(DNR Secretary Preston Cole)
- F. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will donate \$15,444. This donation will be used to support the Wisconsin Endangered Resources fund that manages, conserves and monitors endangered species on state natural areas.
(DNR Secretary Preston Cole)
- G. Request that the Board authorize a preliminary public hearing for the revised Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order WM-01-21(E), Board Order WM-02-21 and Board Order WM-03-21, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 8, 10, 12 and 19 related to gray wolf harvest regulations.
(Scott Karel, Wildlife Policy Specialist)
Written Comments: 10
- H. Request that the Board authorize a preliminary public hearing and comment period for the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-22-20 for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 811 to update, correct and clarify existing code requirements and add requirements for new technologies related to community drinking water system sources, source water quality, storage, treatment, and distribution.
(Steven Elmore, Drinking Water and Groundwater Program Director)

At 0:16:49, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Ms. West, approval of the consent agenda and to acknowledge the donations. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None
- 4. ACTION ITEMS (0:17:06 – 1:38:32; and 1:54:46 - 3:57:16)
ADOPTION (0:17:12 – 1:38:32)
 - A. Request that the Board adopt Board Order AM-20-18, proposed rules affecting chapters NR 400, 419, 421, 422, 423, 425, 439, and 484, related to implementing reasonably available control technology (RACT) to limit volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from miscellaneous metal and plastic parts coatings and miscellaneous industrial adhesives. (0:17:12 – 0:23:19)
PowerPoint presentation by Gail Good, Air Management Program Director

At 0:20:19, Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg, approval of the department's recommendation.

At 0:23:12, the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Tabled at the April 14, 2021 Meeting: Request approval of the 2021-2031 Elk Management Plan (0:23:20 – 1:17:03)
PowerPoint presentation by Scott Roepke, Wildlife Biologist
Written Comments: 4

At 0:23:30, Ms. West MOVED, seconded by Mr. Smith, to take from the table item 4.B. Request approval of the 2021-2031 Elk Management Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Appearances (0:25:37 – 0:49:00):

1. **Tony Blattler**, Phillips, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair
2. **Tom Lochner**, Wisconsin Rapids, representing Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association as Executive Director (**Handout**)
3. **Jim Bible**, Black River Falls, representing self
4. **Will Peasley**, Black River Falls, representing Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

At 1:16:52, Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg, to table approval of the 2021-2031 Elk Management Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Request adoption of Board Order WM-34-19, proposed rules affecting chapter NR 10 related to elk management (1:17:04 – 1:18:08)
Staff presentation by Scott Karel, Wildlife Policy Specialist

At 1:17:54, Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Bruins, to postpone approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Elk herd update and approval of the 2021 elk season quotas. (1:18:09 – 1:38:32)
PowerPoint presentation by Scott Roepke, Wildlife Biologist

At 1:30:48, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the department's recommendation.

Mr. Kazmierski, at 1:35:27, spoke to the bull to cow ratio and requested data on the percentage of calves that hit ground that make it to age class.

Public Appearances:

1. ~~**Tony Blattler**, Phillips, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair~~
[Mr. Blattler included his 4.D. testimony during his testimony for 4.B.]

At 1:38:10, the motion carried on a voice vote of 6-1; Mr. Kazmierski was opposed.

Chair Prehn, at 1:38:33, moved the meeting to item 5-Open Forum.

5. OPEN FORUM (1:38:36 – 1:54:44)

Public Appearances (1:38:40 – 1:54:44):

1. **Melissa Smith**, Madison, representing Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf & Wildlife as Founder and Executive Director
Topic: Willingness of the non-consumptive user and further action on developing a committee to address such a wildlife stamp or license.
2. **Amy Mueller**, Dousman, representing Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Topic: ~~Concerns for Wisconsin wildlife.~~ **(Handout)** She had a schedule conflict and sent regrets.
3. **Lois Lehman**, DeForest, representing self
Topic: Wildlife killing contests
4. **Dave Giordano**, Kenosha, representing Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network as Executive Director
Topic: Restoration of the Pike River

Chair Prehn, at 1:54:45, returned the meeting to item 4.E.

SCOPE STATEMENTS (1:54:46 – 2:04:50)

- E. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order FH-29-20(E) and Board Order FH-30-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice for FH-30-20 and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to lake trout season and harvest in Lake Michigan (1:54:46 – 1:56:46; and 2:00:13 – 2:04:50)
PowerPoint presentation by Bradley Eggold, Great Lakes District fisheries supervisor

Chair Prehn, at 1:56:47, moved the meeting to item 4.F. due to technical difficulties with Mr. Eggold's Zoom presentation.

- F. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order FH-15-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 20 to 23 and 26 related to reorganizing Wisconsin boundary waters fishing regulations. (1:56:49 – 1:58:27)
PowerPoint presentation by Meredith Penthorn, Fisheries Management policy specialist

At 1:58:15, Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

- G. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Board Order FH-16-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapters NR 25 related to reorganizing commercial fishing and wholesale fish dealer regulations. (1:58:28 – 2:00:10)

PowerPoint presentation by Meredith Penthorn, Fisheries Management policy specialist
Written Comment: 1

At 1:59:53, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Ms. West, approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Prehn, at 2:00:11, returned the meeting to item 4.E.

- E. Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order FH-29-20(E) and Board Order FH-30-20 and conditionally approve the public hearing notice for FH-30-20 and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to lake trout season and harvest in Lake Michigan - Continued (2:00:13 – 2:04:50)
PowerPoint presentation by Bradley Eggold, Great Lakes District fisheries supervisor

At 2:04:34, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Prehn, at 2:04:51, moved the meeting to item 4.H.

HEARING AUTHORIZATION (2:04:53 – 2:24:30)

- H. Request that the Board authorize a preliminary public hearing and comment period for the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-25-20, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 140 related to setting numerical standards to minimize the concentration of polluting substances in groundwater (2:04:53 – 2:13:32)
PowerPoint presentation by Steven Elmore, Drinking Water and Groundwater Program Director in place of Bruce Rheineck, Groundwater Section Chief
Written Comment: 2

At 2:13:12, Mr. Smith MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried on a voice vote of 6-1; Mr. Bruins was opposed.

- I. Request that the Board authorize a preliminary public hearing and comment period for the Statement of Scope for Board Order DG-31-20, for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 809 related to the promulgation of new drinking water maximum contaminant levels for 12 additional Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and combined standards for 4 PFAS (2:13:33 – 2:24:30)
PowerPoint presentation by Steven Elmore, Drinking Water and Groundwater Program Director, in place of Adam DeWeese, Public Water Supply Section Chief
Written Comment: 2

At 2:24:12, Ms. West MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg, approval of the department's recommendation. The motion carried on a voice vote of 6-1; Mr. Bruins was opposed.

MISCELLANEOUS (2:24:31 – 3:57:16)

- J. Request approval of Wisconsin’s Sturgeon Management Plan (2:24:31 – 2:40:31)
PowerPoint presentation by Brad Eggold, Great Lakes District Fisheries Supervisor
(*Moved from the 4/14/21 agenda*)

Mr. Hilgenberg, at 2:31:07, requested the timeline for “other areas” in plan on controversial issues related to use of technology for spearing, cameras, televisions, and others.

Public Appearances (2:32:42 – 2:34:20):

1. **Tony Blattler**, Phillips, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair

At 2:34:38, Mr. Bruins MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg, approval of the department’s recommendation.

At 2:38:04, the motion carried unanimously.

- K. Request approval of Blue Mound State Park Master Plan (2:40:32 – 3:48:48)
PowerPoint presentation by Phil Rynish, Property Planning Section Chief
Written Comments: 170

Public Appearances (2:48:03 – 3:40:44)

1. **Karl Heil**, Town of Brigham, representing self (**Handout**)
2. **Kenneth Wade**, Town of Vermont, representing self (**Handout**)
3. **Nancy Wiegand**, Madison, representing self (**Handout**)
4. **Sam Landes**, Dane, representing Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs
5. **Brenda Baker**, Ridgeway, representing self (**Handout**) She sent regrets.
6. **Amy Grunewald Mattison**, Madison, representing self (**Handout**)
7. **Dave Newman**, Unity, representing Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) as president (**Handout**)
8. **Jeff Carroll**, Madison, representing self
9. ~~**Tony Blattler**, Phillips, representing Wisconsin Conservation Congress as Chair~~
10. **Lisa Aumann**, Blue Mounds, representing self (**Handout**)
11. **Daniella Molle**, Madison, representing self (**Handout**)
12. **William Van Haren**, Verona, representing Friends of Blue Mound State Park as President (**Handout**)
13. **Ian Duncan**, Madison, representing Madison Nordic Ski Club
14. **Harry Read**, Madison, representing self
15. **Mike Clark**, Monona, representing self (**Handout**)

At 3:40:51, Mr. Kazmierski MOVED, seconded by Mr. Hilgenberg, approval of the department’s recommendations 1) Approval of the Blue Mound State Park Proposed Master Plan, including all real estate recommendations, and 2) vote to change the BMSP hunting and trapping areas as shown on Map H of the BMSP proposed Master Plan, with the hunting and trapping map change going into effect after the Overlode Mountain Bike Trail segment has been relocated.

At 3:46:46, the motion carried unanimously.

- L. 1. Land Sale – Northern Highland State Forest – Vilas County
2. Land Exchange – Northern Highland State Forest – Vilas County (3:48:49 – 3:52:39)
(Jim Lemke, Real Estate Section Chief)

At 3:51:02, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the department’s recommendations.

At 3:52:34, the motion carried unanimously.

- M. 1. Land Acquisition – Van Loon Wildlife Area – La Crosse County
2. Land Acquisition – Pike Wild River – Marinette County (3:52:40 – 3:57:16)
(Jim Lemke, Real Estate Section Chief)

At 3:55:41, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, approval of the department’s recommendations.

At 3:57:11, the motion carried unanimously.

- 6. INFORMATION ITEMS (3:57:17 – 4:31:29)
 - A. DNR COVID-19 Update (3:57:17 – 4:10:02)
PowerPoint presentation by Todd Ambts, DNR Deputy Secretary

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

- B. Update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): Response Plan Implementation, 2020 CWD surveillance plan, and review of 2020 TB surveillance (4:10:03 – 4:31:29)
PowerPoint presentation by Amanda Kamps, Wildlife Health Conservation Specialist

Mr. Hilgenberg, at 4:24:40, spoke to the Response Plan status boxes marked “X” on pages 5, 8, and 9 which require statutory changes and requested staff check on those items on whether the department will ask for changes and whether the Board can join in on that effort.

Mr. Kazmierski, at 4:28:50, requested a report on biosecurity measures.

Mr. Smith, at 4:29:10, spoke to one of the data points used for tracking CWD which is prevalence within areas of the state that are presently contaminated. He requested that future reports to the Board include that item.

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

7. DEPARTMENT SECRETARY’S MATTERS (4:31:30 – 4:32:36)
 - A. RETIREMENT RECOGNITION (4:31:30 – 4:32:12)
 1. Meja L. Maka, Community Financial Assistance, 35 years
 2. Lynne B. Tomlinson, Facilities and Lands, 24 years
 3. Michael T. Zeckmeister, Wildlife Management, 30 years

At 4:31:56, Mr. Hilgenberg MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski, recognition of the department’s retirees. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. DEPARTMENT SECRETARY’S MATTERS – Informational
 1. Acts of the Department Secretary – Real Estate Transactions (4:32:13 – 4:32:36)

INFORMATION ITEM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

2. Department Secretary’s Matters - None
 3. Planning Status Update - None
8. BOARD MEMBERS’ MATTERS (4:32:37 – 4:36:42)

Mr. Hilgenberg, at 4:33:14, welcomed Ms. Adams to the Board and then at 4:33:35 spoke to his concerns on the wolf management plan process and appointments to the committee. He stated that if the Board is presented with a plan that does not address managing wolves, this Board will be questioning it.

Mr. Kazmierski, at 4:34:32, welcomed Ms. Adams to the Board.

Ms. West, at 4:34:55 spoke to her concerns on process with management plans. The elk management plan (among others) has been before the Board twice. For the groups that are concerned she hoped the department would be bending over backwards to make sure that everyone is involved in the process so that we do not get these at the end when the Board is ready to approve.

Chair Prehn, at 4:36:39, welcomed Ms. Adams to the Board.

At 4:36:54, Ms. Adams MOVED, seconded by Mr. Kazmierski to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

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