



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING **TUESDAY, March 9, 2021** **11:00 am**

Board Members Present by Phone:

Diane B. Snelling, Chair, Brad Aldrich, Vice Chair, Andrew Collier, Member

ABSENT

Steve Larabee, Member & Don Turner, Member

Staff Present by Microsoft Teams:

Gregory Boulbol, General Counsel; Kimberley Lashua, Business Director; Evan Meenan, Associate General Counsel; Aaron Brondyke, State Coordinator
Katie Emerson, Legal Technician; Alex Pastor, Project Manager, Katharine Servidio, Compliance and Enforcement Officer.

Public

Ed Stanak
Henry Mauck, intern at VNRC
William Burke
John Brabant

The Vermont Natural Resources Board convened at 11:04 a.m. via Microsoft Teams, Chair Diane B. Snelling presiding.

I. 11:04 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Snelling welcomed Board members and members of the public.

II. 11:05 a.m. Opportunity for public to comment and agenda and non-agenda items.

Chair Snelling offered the public the opportunity to comment, no comments were made.

III. 11:05 a.m. Review and action on Minutes of February 16, 2021

There was not a quorum of board members who attended the February 16th meeting so this item was tabled for the next meeting.

IV. 11:06 a.m. NRB office and budget updates



Ms. Kimberly Lashua gave the office and budget update. The NRB received a request for proposal for funding from America's Rescue Plan. The NRB has requested about \$800,000 to cover losses from the special fund from the past year.

Salary increases for exempt employees usually happen in July to reflect cost of living increases. The 1.9% retroactive increase will be extended to base salaries now and the NRB will be able to absorb the cost in the current budget.

State office remote work has been extended through the end of May. NRB developed working remotely guidelines for all staff last fall. We are waiting for feedback from DHR.

Chair Snelling remarked that the overall state budget has gone through the House to Senate fairly quickly. Legislative cross over is happening this Friday.

V. 11:25 a.m. Discussion of and possible vote on proposed update to Records Retention Policy

Mr. Evan Meenan gave an update on the ongoing work regarding records retention. A remaining question has been whether to adopt a records retention schedule for Land Use Permit (LUP) records. This would allow for destruction of permit documents not covered by another records schedule. Universal consensus among NRB staff was that LUP records should not be destroyed (unless they are a duplicate or covered by another schedule such as transitory records). Staff are still working on a records schedule for court related records.

Mr. Brad Aldrich made a motion to accept the updated Records Retention Policy, seconded by Mr. Andrew Collier, and unanimously approved by the Board.

VI. 11:45 a.m. Discussion regarding Act 250 legislative initiatives

Mr. Greg Boulbol gave a brief legislative update. It is likely that Act250 matters won't be taken up this session. H.400 was introduced recently and proposes changes to the court system for Appeals. Rep Sheldon introduced H.120, close to what passed out of her committee last year. No testimony has been taken on it. Much of this legislative session has focused on COVID relief.

VII. 11:24 a.m. Adjourn

At 11:24 a.m., Mr. Brad Aldrich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Andrew Collier, and unanimously approved by the Board.