



## NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201

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### **NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING** **TUESDAY, April 13, 2021** **11:00 am**

#### Board Members Present by Phone:

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

#### ABSENT

Steve Larrabee, Member

#### Staff Present by Microsoft Teams:

Gregory Boulbol, General Counsel; Evan Meenan, Associate General Counsel; Kimberley Lashua, Business Director; Aaron Brondyke, State Coordinator & Katie Emerson, Legal Technician

#### Public

Henry Mauck, VNRC  
William Burke

The Vermont Natural Resources Board convened at 11:03 a.m. via Microsoft Teams, Chair Diane B. Snelling presiding.

#### **11:03 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Snelling welcomed Board members and introduced members of the public: Henry Mauck, VNRC and William Burke, former Act250 District Coordinator for D1 & D8.

#### **11:04 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.

#### **11:05 a.m. Review and action on Minutes of February 16, 2021 & March 9, 2021**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 16, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Don Turner and seconded by Mr. Brad Aldrich and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 9, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Brad Aldrich and seconded by Chair Snelling but was delayed until Mr. Andrew Collier joined the meeting at 11:15am and then it was approved unanimously.



### **11:15 a.m. NRB office and budget updates**

Ms. Kimberly Lashua gave the office and budget update. The NRB should expect an increase in retirement rates that was not budgeted for FY22, but the increase can be resolved through the Pay Act next spring. We are also coming to the end of development of new database and will move to training staff soon.

Chair Snelling mentioned that the legislature is dealing with almost \$2 billion of relief money. In term of future projects, anything funded with ARPA dollars will be treated with priority. Limited-service positions to assist us are available if needed.

There was a brief discussion regarding plans to move back to the office. The current emergency order asks folks to work remotely until the end of May. The transition back will likely be a phased approach which will include coordination with ANR with whom we share office space. Working remotely has proven to be more viable than previously thought, for those who want to work from home there will be more flexibility going forward.

We will not be able to make any decisions about reducing office space for a few years. Currently a large portion of office space is dedicated to files. We would have to move up the scanning project to increase the rate of digitizing files to reduce office space. Members of the public are also eager to return to looking at files and interacting with staff in person.

### **11:19 a.m. Discussion regarding Act 250 legislative initiatives**

Chair Snelling reported that she and Mr. Gregory Boulbol will be testifying this afternoon in the House Natural Resources Committee to give an overview of Act250. H. 120 was introduced by Representee Sheldon and contains many provisions from the House bill last session. H.400 contains the provisions from the Governors bill from the last session. The Governor has expressed a desire for expedited permitting for ARPA related projects.

Mr. Boulbol and Mr. Meenan continue to be active on enforcement.

NRB Staff have revised the Board's 2002 Administrative Amendment Guidance document, which had become outdated. Staff will be bringing the draft Guidance to the Board's next meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> for Board review and approval. The draft will be distributed prior to the meeting.

### **11:23 a.m. Adjourn**

At 11:23 a.m., Mr. Brad Aldrich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Andrew Collier, and unanimously approved by the Board.