

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
October 18, 2020
MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held on Sunday, October 18, 2020, via Zoom, DNR Headquarters, South Charleston, West Virginia.

The following individuals attended:

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONERS

Jeffrey S. Bowers
Gregory K. Burnette
Thomas O. Dotson
Byron K. Chambers (via zoom)
Peter Cuffaro (via zoom)
David M. Milne (via zoom)
Kenneth R. Wilson (via zoom)

MEDIA

John McCoy, Gazette Mail, Charleston

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen S. McDaniel, Director (Presiding), South Charleston, WV (via zoom)
Lysti Looney, Director's Office (Recording Secretary), South Charleston, WV
Emily Fleming, Director's Office, South Charleston, WV
Jane Charnock, Assistant Attorney General, South Charleston, WV
Paul Johansen, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Jerry Jenkins, Law Enforcement, South Charleston, WV
Zack Brown, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Scott Warner, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV
Gary Foster, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston/Elkins, WV
Mark Scott, Wildlife Resources, South Charleston, WV

David Trader, Law Enforcement, South Charleston, WV
Brian Bolyard, Administration, South Charleston, WV
Brett Chandler, Law Enforcement, Forks of Coal, South Charleston, WV
Chuck Holloran, Law Enforcement, Forks of Coal, South Charleston, WV

PUBLIC

Jeff Whitman, Office of Technology, Charleston, WV

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephen McDaniel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Chairman McDaniel introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman McDaniel asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and state the county that they represent.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bowers made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2020, meeting of the Natural Resources Commission with the addition of Jane Charnock, Assistant Attorney General assigned to DNR being added to the list of attendees in the minutes of the August 2, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Zack Brown summarized the public comments regarding the Catch and Release regulations on the Cranberry River. There was a total of thirty-seven (37) comments received of which thirty-two (32) were submitted correctly. All comments submitted required a name and location to be listed. Director McDaniel also reviewed the public comments regarding the catch and release regulations proposed on the New River some which came in via phone calls and social media which cannot be included due to not being submitted properly.

NEW RIVER CATCH AND RELEASE

Commissioner Dotson made a **MOTION** to rescind the motion removing the black bass

no harvest regulation from the 12-mile section of the New River from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone to the Grandview Sandbar, which was adopted at the August 2, 2020, meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S RULING

Approval of the 2021 Fishing Regulations-Improper Motion.
Chairman McDaniel stated that at the August 2, 2020, Natural Resources Commission Meeting that proper procedures were not followed on the motion to remove the 4.3 mile catch-and-release section on the Cranberry River from the junction of the North and South Forks downstream to the low water bridge at Dogway Fork and therefore it is declared that the motion is null and void. Commissioner Bowers recommended and Chairman McDaniel requested that the catch and release regulation be added to the questionnaire on the 2021 Sectional Meetings.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director McDaniel stated that as of today that hunting and fishing license sales were running about \$74,000 ahead in comparison to the same period last year. He also stated that West Virginia has twice as much public lands as Ohio and Kentucky and that the DNR staff will develop methods to "change our product" to create more interest in hunting and fishing in West Virginia.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

Dates and locations have not been finalized and we will notify once finalized. Chairman McDaniel stated the next meeting will be in February and will be held at our South Charleston office headquarters.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Wilson made a **MOTION** to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.