

## **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Minutes - July 20, 1998

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael J. Kiley, Chair  
Jack Arnett, Vice Chair  
Larry Macklin, Secretary  
Damian Schmelz  
Steve Cecil  
Jane Ann Stautz  
Terri Moore  
Joseph Siener

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Lucas  
Jennifer Kane

### **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF PRESENT**

Jack Costello	Executive Office
Paul Ehret	Executive Office
Angie James	Executive Office
Carrie Doehrmann	Executive Office
Brent Shike	Executive Office
Bill Stuart	Executive Office
Eric Myers	Planning and Quality Development
Bob Waltz	Entomology and Plant Pathology
Mike Clingerman	State Parks and Reservoirs
Carl Lindell	State Parks and Reservoirs
Jeff Cummings	State Parks and Reservoirs
Burney Fischer	Forestry
Tom Lyons	Forestry
Ben Hubbard	Forestry
Jim Wichman	Forestry
Pete Thorn	Forestry
Bill Brochman	Museums and Historic Sites

### **GUESTS**

Joel Myers  
Janet Macklin  
Susan Dillman

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Michael J. Kiley, Chair, called to order the regular monthly meeting of the natural resources commission at 7:00 p.m. (EST), 8:00 p.m. (EDT), on July 20, 1998 in the historic Old Capitol Building, Corydon, Indiana. With the presence of eight members, the chair observed a quorum.

Jack Arnett moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 1998 meeting. The motion was seconded by Damian Schmelz. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

Larry Macklin provided the Director's report. He said he had an opportunity to meet with Norman Hester, state geologist, before Hester's retirement from the Indiana Geological Survey.

Macklin said John Steinmetz will replace Hester and has expressed interest in attending a future commission meeting. Macklin reported upon a budget meeting with DNR's 22 divisions. He said DNR's presentation to the Budget Agency was an "excellent and informative exercise." Macklin said he and Bill Stuart have been discussing agency fiscal needs, including the possibility of a "one-time hit for CR&R and property rehab."

Macklin said Angie James escorted the Governor to a visit with all 22 DNR divisions. Macklin said it was a "great" opportunity for the agency and its personnel. He also reported that 720 DNR professionals received at least a 9% pay increase accompanied by at least one promotional upgrade. Macklin said that Governor O'Bannon helped move the reclassification forward. He said a seven-state survey, taken to compare professional salaries with neighboring states, supported the DNR reclassification.

Jack Costello, Deputy Director for the Bureau of Lands and Cultural Resources, said his advisory council did not meet in June. He reported the return of fire crews from Florida and Texas. The crews were a mixed representation of DNR, and the division of forestry has a reciprocal arrangement with other states to support fire control. Burney Fisher, Director of Division of Forestry, explained a fire crew contains 20 certified fire fighters and ten fire fighters with specialized training. He said Indiana sent 30 representatives to Florida and two to Texas. He also said more crews are likely to be sent to Texas as the need arises.

Joseph Siener, Chair of the Advisory Council for the Bureau for Water and Resource Regulation, said his advisory board will next meet July 29, 1998.

Paul Ehret, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Mine and Reclamation, reported that his staff has finished the public outreach phase relative to coal combustion waste rule language. The division of reclamation is presently incorporating the comments received into a draft rule. Ehret said this item may be on the August commission agenda.

Ehret said he met recently with Kathy Karpan, the new federal Director for the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation. Together they toured mine sites in Illinois and Indiana. Ehret said Karpan is the "best Director OSM has had in the past 20 years." Ehret also said

the division of reclamation took Director Larry Macklin on a helicopter tour of southern Indiana mining country following a reception in the Jasonville field office.

## **BUREAU OF LANDS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Personnel Interviews**

#### **Consideration of Personnel Interview for Assistant Property Manager Martin State Forest**

Terri Moore provided the report of the personnel committee. She said the committee interviewed two "extremely qualified" candidates for the position of Assistant Property Manager, Martin State Forest. The committee determined to recommend Darren T. Bridges for the appointment.

Jane Ann Stautz moved to select Darren T. Bridges as Assistant Property Manager for the Martin State Forest. The motion was seconded by Joseph Siener. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

### **Permanent Appointments**

Jack Costello presented this item. He said, "Mike Clingerman, Assistant Property Manager for Lieber State Recreation Area/Cagles Mill and Carl Lindell, Assistant Property Manager for Harmonie State Park, have successfully completed a one-year probation." The Department recommended both for permanent appointment.

Damian Schmelz moved to approve the permanent appointments of Mike Clingerman as Assistant Property Manager for Lieber State Recreation Area/Cagles Mill and Carl Lindell as Assistant Property Manager for Harmonie State Park. The motion was seconded by Steve Cecil.

Upon a voice vote, the motion carried. Kiley congratulated both assistant property managers on the successful completion of their probationary periods.

#### **Consideration of the dedication of Cline Avenue Dune and Swale Nature Preserve, Lake County**

John Bacone presented this item. He described Cline Avenue Dune and Swale Nature Preserve as a "very small, but very important remnant of dune and swale." He said "you cannot walk in portions of the preserve without stepping on yellow lady slipper orchids." Bacone said the area is owned by the South Shore Railroad and was donated to DNR in perpetuity as a mitigation settlement.

Damian Schmelz moved to approve the dedication of the Cline Avenue Dune and Swale Nature Preserve in Lake County. The motion was seconded by ane Ann Stautz. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

Kiley thanked those who facilitated the dedication. He asked that a letter be prepared to thank the President of the South Shore Railroad for donating this important property.

**Consideration of a request by the Division of Forestry to raise the price of conservation seedlings by \$.02 per seedling or by \$2.00 per 100 seedlings.**

Jim Wichman presented this item. He said the Division of Forestry is requesting a 10% increase in the price per 100 seedlings, an increase which averages \$18 to \$20 per bundle. The increased price would insure the increased expenditures will balance the increased revenues. Wichman said the budget was increased by \$200,000 in order to produce 1,000,000 additional seedlings for 1998-1999. The seedling sales are expected to generate \$200,000 in additional revenues.

Kiley asked whether a lottery system was still being used in seedling distributions. Wichman responded in the affirmative. Costello said production of seedlings will increase with a total amount of 5.5 million seedlings distributed. It was also asked how Indiana's price compares to surrounding states. Wichman said it depended upon the state. For example, Illinois gives them away free of charge.

Jane Ann Stautz moved to approve the price increase for conservation seedlings by \$2.00 per 100 seedlings. The motion was seconded by Damian Schmelz. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS  
NRC Division of Hearings**

**Consideration for Preliminary Adoption of a Rule Amendment adding Steuben County as a County Declared to be Generally Infested with Gypsy Moths and Subject to Quarantine; Administrative Cause Number 98-115E**

Dr. Robert Waltz presented this item. He said the inclusion of Steuben County in the Gypsy moth quarantine area was a "risk assessment decision." He reported the moth has increased in population, and eradication is no longer practicable in this county. Waltz noted the infestation in Steuben County had reached proportions requiring immediate regulatory action for its control and to avoid a statewide quarantine by APHIS.

Kiley asked about future infestation in Indiana. Waltz said there will be increased infestation in the foreseeable future.

Waltz illustrated the seriousness of the gypsy moth infestation by comparing it to fighting of forest fires. He said small isolated fires can be put out, but a large fire cannot be

subdued. Waltz described the moth infestation as a "biological fire." He said the gypsy moth has not been eradicated in Ohio nor Michigan.

Schmelz asked "what's the fate of the target species?" Waltz said there will be a change in the forest structure due to the infestation. He said a 15% to 40% tree kill will occur in the first wave of gypsy moth infestation, with the larger tree species being more vulnerable. Waltz explained environmental stabilization begins in five to ten years.

Chairman Kiley reflected that the problem required immediate agency action. He asked if the commission would consider a nonbinding resolution asking the Director Macklin to implement an emergency rule while the hearing process on a possible permanent rule was pending.

Jane Ann Stautz moved to give preliminary adoption to rule amendments to implement a gypsy moth quarantine in Steuben County. In addition, she moved that the commission urge Director Larry Macklin to adopt a quarantine in Steuben County, by emergency rule, for the period required to complete the permanent rule hearing process and for the hearing officer to make recommendations to the commission concerning possible final adoption. The motion was seconded by Damien Schmelz. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Update on Indiana Heritage Trust and Natural Resources Foundation Eric Myers reported this item. He said the Indiana Heritage Trust (IHT) program was enacted in 1992 by the Indiana General Assembly to acquire real estate or interests in real estate for areas exhibiting outstanding natural features or historic significance or where needed to promote preservation, conservation, or recreation.

Myers reported that since the inception of the environmental license plate program in 1993, \$9,396,175 has been raised from 375,847 new environmental license plate sales and renewals. The Indiana General Assembly had appropriated \$5 million for the program, and, in 1998, the legislature appropriated an additional \$5 million upon Governor O'Bannon's request. He said 17,740 acres have been purchased and protected under the IHT.

Myers said the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation announced the availability of the new 9.9% interest with "no annual fee" Visa credit card. He explained that 2% of the interest derived on a cardholder's balance is credited to the INRF. If a balance is not carried by the cardholder, two cents from every purchase is donated. Myers said DNR has already received 100 calls regarding the credit card, and seven other states provide similar credit card programs as well. The annual INRF contribution from the new credit card is projected at \$350,000.

## **Tour Overview**

Pete Thorn gave a slide presentation regarding an overview of the Harrison Crawford/Wyandotte Complex. A tour of the area was taken the following day.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 7:53 p.m., the meeting adjourned.