



**ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – DECISIONS AND VOTING**

State Form 55860 (R / 10-15)
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
IC 4-2-6-9

FILED

JUN 11 2025

Reset Form

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with IC 4-2-6-9, you must file your disclosure with the State Ethics Commission no later than seven (7) days after the conduct that gives rise to the conflict. You must also include a copy of the notification provided to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer when filing this disclosure. This disclosure will be posted on the Inspector General's website.

Name (last) Bonar	Name (first) Aaron	Name (middle) William Kuckewich
Name of office or agency Natural Resources Commission, Division of Hearings		Job title Administrative Law Judge
Address of office (number and street) 100 N. Senate Ave, Room N-103		City Indianapolis
Office telephone number (317) 232-4699		ZIP code 46204
Office e-mail address (required) nrcaopa@nrc.in.gov		
Describe the conflict of interest: The Natural Resources Commission's Division of Hearings will be eliminated as of July 1, 2025. As a result, I have been looking both inside and outside the State for employment opportunities. I applied for a position with the Conservation Law Center (CLC), which is sometimes involved in administrative cases with the Natural Resources Commission. There was an ongoing proceeding involving the CLC, from which I promptly recused myself on May 16, 2025. The matter has already been reassigned to a new Administrator of the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings. I have had no involvement with the case since my recusal.		
The CLC, despite my offer to withdraw the application, approached me about entering into employment negotiations. I am interested in the position and plan to continue speaking with the CLC about prospective employment. After submitting an informal ethics review request to the Office of the Inspector General, I was informed that I needed to submit this form and notify both the in-house ethics officer at the Division of Hearings as well as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Please see the notifications I sent to both people attached to this form.		
As discussed below, I will refrain from discussing the pending administrative case with the CLC and will not divulge any sensitive information if offered the position.		

Describe the screen established by your ethics officer: (Attach additional pages as needed.)

After discussing this potential conflict of interests with Elizabeth Gamboa, the Hearing Division's Ethics Officer, we agreed to establish the following screen:

1. I will not discuss the pending case involving the CLC during negotiations and if offered the position. If the CLC team members need to discuss that case, I will promptly leave any meetings and recuse myself from those discussions.
2. I will not discuss any sensitive information regarding the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Commission, or any other agency/State body with the CLC regarding any pending matters.
3. While lobbying should not be an issue, I will refrain from any executive branch or legislative branch lobbying on behalf of the CLC for at least one year.
4. If any ethics concerns arise that I have not contemplated, I will notify the CLC and the State as appropriate and as needed.

AFFIRMATION

Your signature below affirms that your disclosures on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. In addition to this form, you have attached a copy of your written disclosure to your agency appointing authority and ethics officer.

Signature of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Aaron W. K. Bonar

Date signed (month, day, year)

06/11/2025

Printed full name of state officer, employee or special state appointee

Aaron W. K. Bonar

FOR ETHICS OFFICER USE ONLY

Your signature below affirms that you have reviewed this disclosure form and that it is true, complete, and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. You also attest that your agency has implemented the screen described above.

Signature of ethics officer

Elizabeth A. Gamboa

Date signed (month, day, year)

06/11/2025

Printed full name of ethics officer

Elizabeth A. Gamboa

From: Bonar, Aaron W
To: Morrison, Alan
Cc: Conner, Madalynn R
Bcc: Gamboa, Elizabeth A
Subject: Notification and Disclosure - IC 4-2-6-6, IC 4-2-6-9, 42 IAC 1-5-10, and 42 IAC 1-5-11
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 11:59:00

Director Morrison,

Please be advised that I am engaging in employment negotiations with the Conservation Law Center (CLC). This email disclosure and notification is being sent to you as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources in compliance with IC 4-2-6-6, IC 4-2-6-9, 42 IAC 1-5-10, and 42 IAC 1-5-11. It will also be filed with the Inspector General's office as part of State Form 55860 (R/ 10-15).

As you may or may not be aware, there was an administrative proceeding in the Natural Resources Commission Hearings Division involving the CLC. I recused myself from that case on May 16, 2025 and it already has been reassigned to an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (OALP), the agency that will handle all administrative proceedings involving the Department going forward. I did not receive a request for an interview with the CLC until June 5, 2025 and promptly requested an informal ethics opinion. I was advised to notify you and Elizabeth Gamboa of this matter. I have already notified Elizabeth.

I will not discuss the case with anyone in the Natural Resources Commission, OALP, or with the CLC if offered the position and will not divulge any sensitive information to the CLC. In addition, I will recuse myself from any voting matters involving the CLC with the Natural Resources Commission for the remainder of my time with the Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Dr. Aaron W. K. Bonar
Administrative Law Judge and Deputy Director
Natural Resources Commission, Division of Hearings
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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<https://www.in.gov/nrc/>



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Bonar, Aaron W
To: Gamboa, Elizabeth A
Subject: Conservation Law Center - Ethics Disclosure
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 11:00:00

Elizabeth,

Please be advised that I am engaging in employment conversations with the Conservation Law Center (CLC). This email disclosure and notification is being sent to you as the Division of Hearings' ethics officer in compliance with IC 4-2-6-6, IC 4-2-6-9, 42 IAC 1-5-10, and 42 IAC 1-5-11. It will also be filed with the Inspector General's office as part of State Form 55860 (R/ 10-15).

As you are aware, there is a proceeding in front of our office involving the CLC, from which I have recused myself. I will not discuss the case with anyone in our office or with the CLC if offered the position and will not divulge any sensitive information to the CLC. In addition, I will recuse myself from any voting matters involving the CLC with the Natural Resources Commission for the remainder of my time with the Commission.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Dr. Aaron W. K. Bonar
Administrative Law Judge and Deputy Director
Natural Resources Commission, Division of Hearings
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