



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING **TUESDAY, December 8, 2020** **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; Katharine Servidio, Enforcement Officer & Katie Emerson, Legal Technician

Public Present by Phone:

Veronica Ung-Kono, VNRC intern

The Vermont Natural Resources Board convened at 11:02 a.m. via Microsoft Teams, Chair Diane B. Snelling presiding.

I. 11:02 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Snelling welcomed Veronica Ung-Kono, an intern at the VNRC.

II. 11:02 a.m. Opportunity for public to comment and agenda and non-agenda items.

Chair Snelling offered the public the opportunity to comment on agenda and non-agenda items. There were no comments.

III. 11:03 a.m. Review and action on Minutes of November 10, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 10, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Don Turner and seconded by Brad Aldrich and approved unanimously.

IV. 11:03 a.m. NRB office and budget updates

Ms. Kimberly Lashua gave a budget update. The budget development form was submitted to Finance & Management last month. We are expecting some savings in



salaries and benefits but we are also expecting increases in benefits rates to be issued soon. Staff have developed a proposal for 1%,2%, or 3% higher spending levels. Earlier cuts we had made for the “skinny”/ reinstated budget are still achievable; we have discussed using the increase funds for other needs, such as the appeals/ enforcement database preliminary planning work.

The Board has expressed a desire in the past to vote on the budget as it is in process. Mr. Don Turner made a motion to approve the budget as it currently stands, Mr. Brad Aldrich seconded the motion. The budget was approved unanimously.

V. 11:12 a.m. Discussion regarding Act 250 legislative initiatives

Chair Snelling participated in a chamber policy series with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources last Monday. In the next legislative session, the administration hopes to revisit topics from Act250 discussions from previous years. It is currently unclear if specific proposals will be made.

Mr. Greg Boulbol reviewed that earlier in the year, when the governor vetoed the Act 250 bill (H.926), he issued an Executive Order directing the NRB to clarify rules regarding recreational trails. Staff are taking this opportunity to look at the rules more broadly. We are nearly done drafting rules and will look for feedback from the Board and staff before making a final proposal.

VI. 11:15 a.m. Adjourn

At 11:15a.m., Mr. Brad Aldrich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Don Turner, and unanimously approved by the Board.