



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-3201

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING **TUESDAY, October 12, 2021** **11:00 am**

Board Members Present:

Don Rendall, Chair; Brad Aldrich, Vice Chair; Steve Larrabee, Member and Andrew Collier, Member

ABSENT

Don Turner, Member

Staff Present:

Gregory Boulbol, General Counsel; Alison Stone, Associate General Counsel; Aaron Brondyke, State Coordinator and Katie Emerson, Legal Technician, Michaela Stickney, Enforcement and Compliance Officer

Members of the Public:

Ellen Czajkowski

The Vermont Natural Resources Board convened at 11:01 a.m. via Microsoft Teams, Chair Don Rendall presiding.

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

Chair Rendall offered the public the opportunity to comment, there were no comments.

II. 11:05 a.m. Review and action on Minutes of September 22, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 22, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Brad Aldrich and seconded by Mr. Steve Larrabee and approved unanimously.

III. 11:06 a.m. NRB office and budget updates

Chair Rendall gave the office and budget update. For FY2022 spending is on track. As mentioned in the previous meeting he submitted a proposed budget to Finance & Management for FY2023, that reflected a 3% increase from FY2022. The two open positions of Business Director and Enforcement and Compliance Officer have been posted.



Chair Rendall gave an update regarding permit processing. For the month of September, the district offices issued 50 permits, which very strong number for a single month. There were 25 new applications, so more permits were issued than number of applications received. For the quarter ending on September 30th the district offices issued 125 permits.

Chair Rendall gave a brief overview of a conversation he and Greg Boulbol had with ANR regarding the permitting process, generally.

A legislator had asked for data regarding staffing and number of permits issued over the past several years. Chair Rendall supplied the requested data, and shared it with the Board. Both staff and number of permits have declined by about 15% over the past four years.

IV. 11:20 a.m. Enforcement Update – Quarries and gravel pits

Enforcement and Compliance Officer, Michaela Stickney gave a presentation on quarries and gravel pits. She discussed the difference between various types of quarries and permit and common complaints.

A discussion followed regarding the various enforcement tools that the Board has at its disposal. There was also discussion of differences between operational violations such as dust and noise which can be challenging identify and site disturbances, like excavating beyond the boundary, that are more easily identified.

Complainants are often dissatisfied with outcome of an enforcement action, especially where staff could not identify a violation, or cannot provide relieve beyond the terms of the permit.

V. 11:50 a.m. Discussion of appeals, enforcement, and attorney-client memoranda

Mr. Greg Boulbol gave a brief update, there were no new appeals. Regarding the Snowstone decision, two briefs were filed seeking reargument, one by the appellant (neighbor), and the other by the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC).

VI. 11:52 a.m. Adjourn

At 11:52 a.m., Mr. Brad Aldrich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Andrew Collier, and unanimously approved by the Board.