



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-3201

Attendance:

Board Members by Phone:

Marty Illick, Vice Chair
Steve Larrabee, Member
Don Turner, Member
Brad Aldrich, Member

Board Members in Person:

Diane Snelling, Chair

Staff:

Kimberley Lashua, Business Director
Evan Meenan, Associate General Counsel
Greg Boulbol, General Counsel
Aaron Brondyke, State Coordinator
Pamela Morin, Legal Technician
Kirsten Sultan, D7 District Coordinator
William Burke, D1 and D8 District Coordinator

Public:

Ms. Shelden Goodwin – From Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC)

Meeting Convened

11:01 A.M., Ms. Diane Snelling, NRB Chair, opened the meeting via phone conference, from 10 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633-3201.

Opportunity for Public comment on non-agenda items.

The Chair invited public comments.
No comments were made.

Minutes of August 06, 2019

The Chair asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes.
None were offered.

Mr. Don Turner inquired about a previous request for more information on the new Commercial Stretch Code proposed by the Department of Public Service.

Mr. Greg Boulbol, NRB General Counsel, provided a brief overview of the status of the new proposed Commercial Stretch Code guidelines.





Commercial Stretch Code

At the November 13, 2018 Board meeting, prior to Mr. Turner joining the Board, Mr. Barry Murphy, Energy Efficiency Program Specialist of the Department of Public Service conducted a presentation to the NRB on the process and details of the new Commercial Stretch Code. It was agreed that it would be helpful for the entire Board to hear this presentation again, now, and prior to voting on any decisions or recommendations. Arrangements will be made to include the discussion at a future meeting.

Motion to Approve August 06, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Marty Illick and Mr. Don Turner seconded.

The Board unanimously voted in favor to approve the Minutes.

Delegation of Authority

Discussion of the Delegation of Authority, as passed by the NRB on November 13, 2018. The Board expressed an interest in voting on the NRB Budget, and on NRB policy direction. The Chair agreed to develop a schedule for timely votes on these items. No changes were made to the Delegation of Authority.

Natural Resources Board (NRB) Budget Development Process.

Ms. Kimberley Lashua, NRB Business Director, presented the preliminary FY21 NRB Budget “ups and downs”. Ms. Lashua also provided an overview of the schedule for Budget Development.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY21 Budget as presented, with the agreement that there will be a revised version in December for approval.

The motion passed unanimously, and the Board approved the preliminary FY21 Budget

NRB Executive Director Position

The Chair presented an overview of the staff recommendations on whether, or not, to hire another Executive Director. In recent weeks, most of the ED responsibilities have been divided among current staff, and it seems to be working well. Chair Snelling acknowledged that this plan will require additional effort from everyone. She also referred to the solid support by staff for the change.

The Chair recommended that instead of filling the Executive Director position, the Board could hire another Compliance and Enforcement Officer.

Board members expressed an interest in participating in any decisions that might affect the Budget.



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The Chair indicated that the decision had not been made yet and was on the agenda for approval.

Without a formal vote, the Board endorsed the staff recommendations.

Policy Updates

Mr. Greg Boulbol, NRB General Counsel, and Mr. Evan Meenan, NRB Associate General Counsel, provided a brief summary of Bills pending in the Legislature.

There was a discussion of the Bills regarding changes to Act 250. An update was given on the status of the trail stakeholders work, Aviation Master Planning, and mapping of slate quarries. It was agreed that staff would provide the Board with the "Weekly Bill Review" document prepared by Mr. Meenan, and used internally to track issues and Legislative Committee work.

Next Meeting

Proposed for December 10, confirmation to follow.

Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Sheldon Goodwin, of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) asked for clarification of whether the NRB would be hiring an Executive Director.

The Board confirmed that a new Executive Director (ED) would not be hired.

Adjournment

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:36

