



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes May 4, 2022
Duluth City Hall, Conference Room 330

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Schrage called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Mike Schrage, Brandon Krumwiede, Judy Gibbs, John Lindgren, Tiffany Sprague, Allison Ray

Not Present: Brian Fredrickson, Nancy Shuldt

III. Approval of Agenda

Kubiak noted that No Action is needed on the Draft Goose Management Plan Agenda Item.

**Commissioner Sprague motioned for approval of the Agenda with changes; second by Commissioner Krumweide.
8 – yes; 0 – No. Motion carries.**

IV. Approval of the April 6 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lindgren motioned for approval of the April 6 meeting minutes as presented; second by Commissioner Sprague.

8 – yes; 0 – No. Motion carries.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

- A. **Draft Goose Management Plan** – Martha Minchak, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, MN DNR and Tom Keefe, Consultant, Goose Management Inc. presented the Draft Goose Management Plan to the Commission.

Commissioner Ray asked if the wild rice beds are the only place geese would be targeted. Minchak replied that only the rice beds would be targeted in the first year.

Commissioner Krumwiede asked if there is a provision for the public to report goose conflicts in the City's new resident problem reporter system. Filby-Williams replied that that would not be something that would be reported through that system.

Commissioner Sprague asked about how this plan is integrated into other City Plans including the Natural Resource Management Plan and noted the significant work that has been expended to protect lands within the Estuary. Kubiak replied that the relationship between planning efforts should be noted in the Plan.

Commissioner Ray asked about how private landowners' interests are represented in the Plan. Minchak replied that private landowners would still request assistance from DNR wildlife regarding concerns about nuisance geese.

Commissioner Krumwiede asked that all references, including URLs, be noted in the references section of the Plan. Keefe noted that the references list would be updated.

Commissioner Schrage indicated that the Plan could be improved by adding the following: 1. information about the DNR permitting requirement to try non-lethal methods of goose management before resorting to lethal management methods; 2. a discussion of the methods that have been used within the Estuary to solve the wild rice herbivory thus far; 3. A discussion of the DNR's role in the plan development and wildlife management within the City. Keefe noted that these items will be added to the Plan.

Commissioner Fredrickson was not present at the meeting but submitted comments to the Commission via email.



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- B. **Changes to NRC Structure**, Jim Filby-Williams
Director Filby-Williams discussed several administrative changes relating to City staff support provided to the Commission.
- C. **Natural Resource Management Program Funding Update**, Director Filby-Williams
Director Filby-Williams provided an update on current and future funding for the Natural Resources Program. Several Commissioners inquired about how to support City Staff with advocacy for future funding. Director Filby-Williams responded that the Commission would need to pursue such advocacy as an independent body.

VII. Staff Reports

- A. Natural Resources Coordinator: Kubiak provided a verbal report.
- B. Forester: Kubiak provided a verbal forestry report on behalf of the City Forester.
- C. Director's Report: Filby-Williams announced that the City received a Conservation Partners Legacy grant to acquire land within the Tischer Creek Watershed / Forest Hill Cemetery.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Commissioner Lindgren announced that he served as a panelist for the Ikes/League of Women Voters meeting in April.

IX. Public Comment

- A. Barb Huberty, representing League of Women Voters Environmental Action Committee. Commented that there is a draft "Duluth Beaches TDML" (MPCA) that identifies e-coli exceedances and associated TMDLs at all city beaches and that the Goose Management Plan could support the City in addressing these impairments.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 330.