

**Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Via Teleconference**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Committee Members

Nick Ayers, Chair
Patrick Denney, Vice Chair
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Randy Dellinger
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Gary Vowell
Dee Yancey, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Ray Lambert
Rob Leebern
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Miguel de Alba
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
John Bowers
Tina Johannsen

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The March 23, 2021 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Yancey called on Nick Ayers, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee. Mr. Ayers called on Dr. Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief, Game Management, for a briefing on proposed amendments to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2.

Dr. Johannsen stated the hunting regulation proposals are developed on a 2-year cycle and this year the regulatory proposals will be developed for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 hunting seasons. She further stated public meetings were conducted in January to receive input for consideration. She added the proposed hunting regulations include amendments to reflect statutory changes, add bears to Game Check reporting requirements, make changes to the statewide turkey season dates and bag limits, amend antler restrictions, allow youth to use rifles during bear primitive weapons season, allow suppressors on wildlife management areas, regulate hunting and other activities on WMAs and other public lands, and housekeeping changes.

Dr. Johannsen stated the proposals will be given widespread distribution to the public and hearings will be conducted in mid-April to receive public comment. She further stated the proposals and any public comments received will be presented to the Board for consideration at the May 25, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Williams thanked Dr. Johannsen and Director Ted Will for their work and the open process. He further stated that turkeys are on many of the DNR's customers' minds and there were over 17,000 comments sent via email.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.