



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 13, 2022
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Robert Erbele, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members present: Senators Robert Erbele, Dale Patten*, Merrill Piepkorn*; Representatives Gretchen Dobervich*, Bill Tveit; Citizen Members David DeWald, Brian Schanilec*, Joe Schettler, John Weinand*, Jeb Williams

Members absent: Citizen Members Doug Goehring, Jason Horning, Shawn Riley, and Ryan Younggren

Others present: Donnell Preskey, North Dakota Association of Counties
Samantha Kramer, Legislative Council, Bismarck
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

**Attended remotely*

LAND ACCESS STUDY

Mr. Brian Hosek, Business Operations Manager, Game and Fish Department, provided a 1-year update ([Appendix B](#)) on the status and performance of the land access database project, including the functions of the database and related issues from the 1st year. He noted:

- The electronic posting enrollment period started February 1, 2022, and ended on July 1, 2022.
- The department provided notice to landowners to use the department's one-click re-enrollment process.
- Participation in the program increased from 2,042 to 4,572 individuals.
- Total acres of posted land increased from 3.7 million acres to 7.3 million acres.
- 56 percent of landowners provided contact information for the program.
- The department has received positive feedback from hunters and users of the program.
- 15 percent of landowners who enrolled in the previous year did not renew in the program.
- Challenges include customer service requests regarding outdated or missing data from the statewide land parcel project, data quality concerns regarding the posting of incorrect lands, and stewardship concerns regarding which agency is proper to insure data quality.
- Possible areas for enhancement include hosting solutions, communication tools, and nonresident landowner validation.
- Data and information for the program is hosted at the Information Technology Department. Other options to consider include cloud storage if hosting becomes an issue.
- The department has considered in-app communication as opposed to email or text messaging.
- The department is unable to validate nonresident driver's licenses for landowners. Paid services could be used by the department to validate nonresident landowners.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Hosek noted:

- The challenges faced by the department were anticipated with the expansion of the program.
- Additional department staff were educated in the program to provide assistance with customer service requests.

- The department has statutory authority to implement administrative rules governing the land access database project.

Committee Discussion and Staff Directives

The committee members indicated a desire to provide the Game and Fish Department a legislative appropriation to continue the administration and enhancement of the electronic posting system.

In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Hosek indicated the department has attempted to simplify system-related issues to address concerns regarding staff workload.

The committee requested the Game and Fish Department implement administrative rules relating to the electronic database and application. The committee agreed the administrative rules should be limited because the program has been a success.

It was moved by Senator Patten, seconded by Representative Dobervich, and carried on a voice vote that the Chairman and the Legislative Council staff be requested to prepare a report and present the report to the Legislative Management.

It was moved by Representative Tveit, seconded by Mr. Weinand, and carried on a voice vote that the committee be adjourned sine die.

No further business appearing, Chairman Erbele adjourned the committee sine die at 1:15 p.m.

Austin Gunderson
Counsel

ATTACH:2