



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Monday, May 11, 2020

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

Members present: Senators Robert Erbele, Jim Dotzenrod, Dale Patten; Representatives Chuck Damschen, Gretchen Dobervich; Citizen Members Dorman Bazzell, David DeWald, Doug Goehring, Jason Horning, Brian Schanilec, Joe Schettler, Terry Steinwand, John Weinand

Member absent: Citizen Member Ryan Younggren

Chairman Erbele said the committee is convening remotely due to public health recommendations related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

It was moved by Mr. Goehring, seconded by Senator Patten, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the January 22, 2020, meeting be approved as distributed.

LAND ACCESS PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION

Chairman Erbele called on Mr. Brian Hosek, Information Technology Coordinator, Game and Fish Department, for a presentation ([appendix](#)) of the land access pilot project application.

In response to a question from Mr. Schettler, Mr. Hosek said if the pilot project continues past the 2020-21 hunting seasons, landowners and authorized operators will need to redesignate their land in the application each year.

In response to questions from Senator Patten, Mr. Hosek said electronic posting designations in the application may be changed until July 15, 2020, and an individual's profile in the application will continue to be linked with the land the individual owns from year to year unless the land is sold.

In response to a question from Representative Damschen, Mr. Hosek said changes in land ownership which occur after county tax information is provided to the Game and Fish Department will not be reflected in the application.

In response to questions from Mr. DeWald, Chairman Erbele said the note box the committee considered including in the application will not be in the pilot project because the note box would complicate the pilot project unnecessarily and potentially confuse users.

Mr. Hosek said landowners and operators must be North Dakota residents to post land electronically in the application. He said nonresident landowners can authorize residents to post the land for them.

In response to a question from Chairman Erbele, Mr. Hosek said the application will be accessible through the Game and Fish Department's website.

In response to a question from Mr. Schanilec, Mr. Hosek said the Game and Fish Department will solicit feedback from users about the application.

Chairman Erbele said the committee will meet in the fall to discuss possible legislation to expand the land access application to the entire state.

It was moved by Mr. Weinand, seconded by Mr. DeWald, and approved on a roll call vote that the online application for the land access pilot project be approved. Senators Erbele, Dotzenrod, and Patten; Representatives Damschen and Dobervich; and Citizen Members DeWald, Schanilec, Schettler, and Weinand voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Chairman Erbele read aloud a draft press release prepared by the Game and Fish Department in anticipation of the pilot project going live for the public. He said the press release should clarify the application is temporary or for a pilot project rather than permanent. He said the press release should explain more clearly why landowners who designate land as closed in the online application still need to post their land physically.

It was moved by Senator Patten, seconded by Mr. Weinand, and approved on a roll call vote that the press release be approved with the changes recommended by the committee. Senators Erbele, Dotzenrod, and Patten; Representatives Damschen and Dobervich; and Citizen Members DeWald, Schanilec, Schettler, and Weinand voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further business appearing, Chairman Erbele adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Claire Ness
Counsel

ATTACH:1