

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council Meeting  
McMillan Township Hall, Newberry  
Saturday, May 10, 2008**

**Large Group Discussion**

1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
  - Being able to honestly exchange ideas
  - Listening skills
  - KISS theory – keep it simple stupid
  - Good method of disseminating information
  - Respect
  - Identifying limitations up front
  - Objectivity
  - Open discussion – agree to disagree
  - Get meaningful answers to inquiries
  - Availability – finding the right people
  - Understand the culture of people that you are communicating with
  - Well defined regular meetings – structure
  - Build a trust level
  - Timeliness doesn't drag on forever (meaning the whole process)
  - Follow through on communication
  - Try to ensure public involvement
  - Include the general population (unaffiliated) along with interest groups
  
2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen's advisory council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
  - Need DNR representative who understands area, economic, and culture of people
  - Balance of views
  - Broad based
  - No units of government on council (municipalities/agencies), only users of the resources
  - Must believe the committee would do some good
  - Economic development vs. conservation should be taken in consideration and at times would conflict
  - Central meeting location
  - By-laws need to be established
  - Manageable size work group (8-10 people)
  - Respect other's opinions
  - Rotate meeting locations
  - Avoid council member repercussions – don't shoot the messenger
  - Even representation from each county
  - Define the scope of the council's work
  - Clear process for representative selection
  - Ability to represent diverse issues
  - Advance notice of meeting subject to gather input from constituents
  - Who decides council membership
  - Document meetings to be shared; for example, minutes

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council Meeting  
McMillan Township Hall, Newberry  
Saturday, May 10, 2008**

**Large Group Discussion**

- 3. What challenges need to be overcome?**
- Diversity of opinion
  - Public perception of cooperation
  - Trust
  - Good selection process of council personnel
  - Commitment
  - Funding issues
  - Image of council
  - Image of DNR – as opponent or a dictator
  - Clear exchange of ideas “valid communication”
  - Understand all agendas/interests are equally important
  - Corridor between the UP and Lansing
  - The voices in the UP are getting to the right place
  - Evidence that the CAC advice is considered (for example, the council has 25 recommendations but none are used)
  - Need feedback of consideration or use – if not why not. If 100% are not used it would be discouraging
  - Clearly defined process needs to be followed
  - Timeline – related to issues and urgency
  - Could the State Forest Management Plan or similar plan affect the council's input
  - Getting people involved and keeping them involved
  - What is the scope of the council's authority
  - Staffers of the council will be determined by the council
  - Getting the right DNR people involved - understand culture
  - Who's going to be in charge of the meetings