

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

6:00 -9:00 p.m. (EST)

Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department

14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry, Michigan

Meeting Minutes

EUP-CAC Members Present

William Becks

Tom Buckingham

Al Colegrove

Jim Duke

Fred Gregg

Nathan Fazer

Ginny Giddings

Lester Livermore

Glenn Moll

Richard Pershinske

Chad Radka

Steve Rodock

Jim Rutledge

Doug Scheuneman

Tom Schweitzer

EUP-CAC Members Absent

Bob DeVillez

Dale DuFour

Mike Lawless

Steve Walker

Department of Natural Resources Staff

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula (UP) Field Deputy, Marquette

Acting Lieutenant Greg Drogowski, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry

Gary Ellenwood, Parks & Recreation, Newberry

Darren Kramer, Fisheries Division, Escanaba

Ann Mattson, Office of Land & Facilities, Marquette

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Newberry

Mike Paluda, Forest Mineral & Fire Management (FMFM), Marquette

Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

Call to Order:

The Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by **Chairman Dick Pershinske**.

Adoption of Agenda:

Chairman Pershinske moved Russ Mason to the top of the agenda. **Lester Livermore** made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion supported by **Bill Becks**.

Ayes: 15. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A Council member made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion supported by a council member. Ayes: 15. Nays: None. Motion carried

Wildlife Division Updates:

Russ Mason, Wildlife Division Chief said he spent the week in the Upper Peninsula talking about wolves and the deer season. Russ said the most important point to make is the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has complete jurisdiction on wolves in Michigan, not the DNR. Wolves have recovered in Michigan. Michigan has a good wolf management plan. The other reason the wolf doesn't come off the list is a matter of money not to the DNR, not to the Federal Government, it has to do with money on the other side of the issue.

Russ said in Michigan, the Federal Legislators are focused on other issues like the auto industry and double digit unemployment. The wolf is at the top of the priority list in Montana and Idaho. In these states, the economy depends on range, sheep, and cattle operations. Russ suggested if people have an interest in this issue to contact their Federal Legislators and let them know this is an issue to people in the UP. Russ said the State Legislators support the DNR in trying to get the issue resolved and giving the DNR management of wolves.

Russ said the DNR has asked the USFWS three times for permitted authority to take wolves on depredation but the Service refuses to answer. In Michigan, the wolf can only be taken legally if it's attacking a person. The DNR in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are working with the Attorney General to consider what legal action to take to try to force the USFWS to give permitted authority to take wolves on depredation.

Russ said the wolf was removed off the State's endangered list; this was done before they came off the Federal list the last time. He said wolves should not be managed any differently than any other wildlife species in this State. The legislation that was passed allows wolves to be taken on livestock depredation. But neither law has authority until the Federal Government gives control back to the State.

Russ Mason also stressed that taking wolves illegally gives the other side more ammunition for their case. Everyone needs to work together; don't provide the other side with any advantage in this argument. Russ encouraged people to take coyotes around deer yards. Wildlife Division is going to recommend to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to allow the taking of coyotes in the firearm deer season in the UP. He stressed hunters better be sure their target is a coyote and not a wolf.

Russ Mason said Wildlife Division staff is revising their deer range improvement manual, updating the deer yard maps, and continuing the Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) private grants program. They are working with the Delta County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to provide resources to private landowners to help manage private lands for the benefit of deer. The DNR isn't powerful enough to do any of these things alone. The DNR needs partners and stakeholders to work together to do more for deer in the UP.

Commissioner Madigan asked Russ how long have they've been waiting for a decision from the Federal Government and why it is important to get that decision on permitted authority. **Russ Mason** said the DNR has been waiting for over a year to put the wolf on the threatened list, the Service has verbally said no. Russ said he needs it in writing to be able to move forward. He added Minnesota kills 100-250 wolves per year on depredation but Wisconsin and Michigan don't have that privilege.

Do all of the wolf packs have a radio collared wolf, so the packs can be tracked?

Terry Minzey said they try to get radio collars in most if not all packs. **Kristie Sitar** said they have maps from the last survey that show where packs are located. Kristie added they receive a lot of requests from bear hunters for location of packs but also which packs have killed dogs. There have been a couple of packs, primarily in the WUP that have a habit of killing dogs. Hunters can check with their local DNR office to get the location of wolf packs.

How many wolves are there from US-41 to the East? **Terry Minzey** said they estimate between 112 and 160 wolves; each pack averages 4 animals. These numbers were generated last winter. They are currently working on a new survey and those numbers should be available in March or April.

Lester Livermore asked why the DNR is spending time and energy monitoring the wolves and enforcing wolf kills. **Russ Mason** said they have no choice but to fight against this otherwise the wolves could stay on the list for a long time. Russ added some people in Gogebic County are talking about closing deer season and not buying hunting licenses. There are more wolves in Gogebic County than the entire EUP. The hunters are the backbone of conservation in this State. Russ said they can't violate the hunter's trust or conservation will suffer in this State.

Lester Livermore said snaring is so difficult, that some trappers no longer trap, it's too difficult and it's not worth it. Lester said the Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club is going to offer a bounty on coyotes to their members.

Russ Mason said they are going to revisit dry land snares. Russ said there are many things that can be done. Russ said the DNR needs your input.

Public Comment:

John Martinchek said he had problems with ORV's in his hunting area. He said they don't stay on the roads, they operate all hours of the day, and they're disrupting the deer.

Louie Colegrove said there are too many coyotes in the East Lake and Moran area. He supports hunting coyotes in the firearm deer season.

Jim Hoy said as a deer hunter he feels like he's at the bottom of the list when it comes to priorities and sharing the deer herd. **Mr. Hoy** said if there are changes, he anticipates those changes will be to eliminate the doe season and manage the youth hunt. He feels that's punishing the licensed hunter. He would like to see re-negotiations with the Tribes, push hard on the wolves, and eliminate any closed season on coyotes.

Reports:

Stacy Welling, UP Field Deputy said Governor Granholm announced the new Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Director as of January 17, 2010 at 12:01 a.m. (we'll become the DNRE). Stacy said we are very thrilled the Governor selected Rebecca Humphries to continue on through this transition. The transition report is available on-line.

Stacy said House Bill 5380 on supplemental feeding passed. It gives the NRC authority on baiting and feeding until 2016. At the Legislative hearing on the topic; the UP Representative's mentioned that both the EUP and WUP CAC's were in support of extending the authority to the NRC.

The WUP-CAC met Monday in Alberta. Chief Mason was in attendance and talked about deer season, wolves, and other wildlife issues. Stacy provided a merger update but at that time the transition plan and the organizational chart wasn't available. Also, the new DNRE Director hadn't been announced. There was a discussion with their deer subcommittee which will be followed up on.

Stacy Welling said Ann Mattson from the Office of Land and Facilities has been assigned as the new DNR representative for the EUP-CAC. Tim Melko was the liaison but he was covering both the EUP and WUP CAC's.

Stacy said the DNR has an Accessibility Council. They are planning a UP Demo Day on March 13 at the Escanaba Recreation Show in the Ruth Butler Building at the UP State Fairgrounds. Adaptable equipment for hunting and recreation will be demonstrated. Please let Stacy know if there is someone who may be interested in the Demo Day.

Stacy said the WUP-CAC would like to meet on March 18 with the EUP-CAC in Marquette. Kelley Smith, Chief of Fisheries Division and Dennis Knapp, Tribal Coordinator will attend the meeting to provide information on Native American Treaties and how the DNR works with the Tribes on issues related to the resources in the 1836 and 1842 Treaty areas. .

Stacy introduced Natural Resources Commissioner John Madigan. **Commissioner Madigan** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said it's important for people to provide input.

Division Updates:

Mike Paluda, FMFM said they cut their budget almost \$6 million because of the expected decrease in the timber sale revenue for this year. They receive no general fund tax dollars, except for part of the Cooperative Forestry, Wildfire and Forest Recreation budgets. The whole forest management operation of Michigan's 4 million acres is funded by timber sales on state land. The first quarter revenue was up a little bit, so a few cuts were restored. The State's economic condition has led to the steady decline of anything supported by general fund tax revenue. General funds support the recreation program and the forest fire program. There was a study several years ago on the wildfire program. That study revealed that 100 fire officers was the absolute minimum number of staff to lead the wildfire program. As of today there are 70, that's down 30% from the absolute minimum. It means foresters and other staff will be doing

fire duty which compounds in less timber sale efforts and management activity and snowballs from there. If there is major fire weather, with the number of staff available, they can anticipate more and bigger fires.

At the last Snowmobile Advisory Committee meeting in Munising, Dr. Chuck Nelson provided information from a study on the snowmobile program in Michigan. There were almost 3,000 respondents to the questionnaire. Mike shared some of the statistics:

- Michigan has 6,300 miles of groomed and maintained snowmobile trails.
- 152,000 Michigan residents snowmobiles have trail permit stickers.
- 48,000 out-of-state residents have trail permits.
- \$240 million is spent on snowmobile trips in the State, which ties in 2,500 jobs.
- \$175 million is spent on equipment, maintenance, etc., which ties in 1,500 jobs.

Snowmobiling is a major economic contributing program in the State. Overall snowmobilers are very happy with Michigan's trail system.

Ann Mattson, Office of Land and Facilities said she is responsible for the Newberry Operations Service Center; and the Sault Ste. Marie, Naubinway, and Shingleton Field Offices. Her support staff answers the phones and questions; sells licenses; and supports all of the user divisions in the offices. Ann's main responsibility is maintenance of the facilities. Ann announced turkey applications are on sale through February 1.

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division said this fall there was one confirmed cougar photograph taken on a trail cam in the Barbeau area. Dave Jentoft and Tim Maples confirmed the location of that photograph. Cougar tracks were also confirmed in Detour and Gulliver.

Acting Lt. Greg Drogowski, Law Enforcement Division said he is here in a temporary position. Lt. John Cischke retired in August and they are waiting for permission to fill the position. In the EUP District, which covers from Escanaba to Sault Ste. Marie, there are currently 12 Conservation Officers (CO's), which is the lowest amount of officers in a number of years. Captain Tom Courchaine retired and that position is also being filled on a temporary basis.

The CO's this past fall were busy through deer season working on violations for deer taken out of season, at night cases, and multiple ORV violations. The CO's are still following up on a deer cases. LED has a snowmobile sound enforcement initiative this year to address loud snowmobiles.

Gary Ellenwood, Parks and Recreation Division said at Muskellunge State Park, the Lake Superior water levels are near normal average water depth. With the high water and high winds it's created an erosion problem. This fall, they've lost about 24 feet of shoreline behind the Park shop. If it continues the shop may have to be moved. The erosion is about ½ mile in either direction of the shop.

A few years ago, State Parks got out of the housing business for their staff. Some of the empty park manager residences have been converted into lodges and a new lodge will be opened at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The lodge is right on the snowmobile trail; sleeps eight; costs \$110 per night with a four night minimum stay; fully equipped and will also be available in the summer. **Lester Livermore** commended Gary on the innovative idea on new ways to generate money.

An engineering firm is under contract to work on new boating access sites on the Pine River and Kemps/Conley Point on the St. Mary's River. Also an engineering service contract has been awarded to do the dredging work on Maxton Bay on Drummond Island.

Gary said the Recreation Passport Bill was acted on by both the House and the Senate at the Committee level and the bill was approved. The bill hasn't moved for almost a month. They've been told there is optimism that the legislation will be passed prior to spring. If it becomes effective, it would provide an option to pay a \$10 fee on your vehicle registration that would allow access to State Parks and boating facilities; camping and marina fees would still apply. It would eliminate the state park sticker for Michigan residents but the sticker would still be required for non-residents.

Darren Kramer said Fisheries Division has been reviewing inland trout stream regulations and has reclassified gear restricted trout streams Type 5, 6, and 7 into a single gear restricted category. Darren said it offers simplification of the guide and offers more flexibility in setting regulations for those categories. There is a hot link on the Fisheries page of the DNR web site titled "DNR gear restrictions." The public can submit comments on-line regarding regulations or nominate additional streams to be listed in those categories. If someone doesn't have access to the web, please call Darren or the local fisheries biologist to provide input.

Doug Scheuneman asked Darren when they will have VHS-free spawning walleyes that can be put into the lakes. Darren said they need to get testing that provides a greater improved confidence so when walleye eggs are brought into the hatchery they will be VHS free. Darren can't put a timeline on full production.

Old Business:

Update of the Forestry Coalition: Mike Paluda said there wasn't a whole lot of movement on the Forestry Coalition effort since the last meeting. One of the efforts of that coalition is to educate the Legislators on the need for forestry for private landowners. But the Legislators continue to reduce the funding for the cooperative forestry efforts in the State. The DNR has 6 Cooperative Forest Managers (CFM), one at Escanaba, Baraga, Newberry, and three in the Lower Peninsula. Mike provided a breakdown in the funding for the program: \$205,000 from stewardship (federal dollars); \$100,000 from the general fund; \$48,000 from commercial forest funds for a total of \$353,000. It's the DNR's responsibility to administer the commercial forest program, which includes new listings, withdrawals, payments and compliance with the rules. There's not enough money to do everything they are required to do under the act. In the UP, staff has been restricted to two days per week to work on cooperative forestry, stewardship, and commercial forests. The CFM's are not allowed to do any cooperative forest work for private landowners. The private landowners are referred to a consultant or NRCS. The budget and program will be reassessed in April.

Update on the Deer Management Plan – **Terry Minzey** said the draft deer management plan should be completed this week. The draft plan will be sent to Russ, and then forwarded to the NRC, with the hope of going to the public on February 5, with

open houses starting the week of February 16. An open house is scheduled for the Newberry area on March 9.

Update on the March Two Week Walleye Season – Darren Kramer

Darren Kramer said this is in response to the extended walleye and pike season first implemented in 2009 and what it means for walleye in Big Manistique Lake. In February and March 2009, there were creel counts, on harvest and release estimates. Darren also used data from 2004 for comparison.

- **Angler effort - trips, hours (February and March):**
 - In February and March 2009 the angler trips were up compared to 2004 but in 2004 the walleye and pike seasons were closed in March.
 - The angler effort (hours) were up considerably in February and March 2009 compared to 2004.
- **Walleye Estimates - Catch rate, harvested, released:**
 - Anglers were not as successful catching walleyes in February 2009 compared to March 2009. Anglers spent more hours fishing, they harvested more fish and released more fish in February and March 2009 compared to 2004.
- **Walleye Catch Rate Comparisons - Other Statewide Large lake surveys:**
 - More walleyes were harvested and released in February 2009 than in February 2004. Darren said the large lake surveys are available on-line.
- **Walleye Growth and Age Classes:**
 - Mean Growth Index is used to compare growth rates of a population in a lake to average statewide growth rates. In 2004, Big Manistique Lake the mean growth index was +1.0,” meaning the population is low in abundance; there is lots of room to grow, and plenty of forage. In 2009 the mean growth index was -0.3,” meaning there is a population increase, more competition for limited food resources and the growth rates slow down. They become concerned if the mean growth index is too negative. In 2009, they found 11 age classes of walleye from ages 3 to 13. Darren said this is great to see that many age classes. It means consistent natural reproduction.
- **Future Creel:** There will be no winter creel program statewide in 2010 – except large lake surveys and consent decree ports. Darren said Big Manistique Lake is still a priority and is on the priority list for 2011. Darren is still working on a possible March creel census for Big Manistique Lake using his budget and personnel.

Discussion followed on stocking fish and VHS. **Tom Schweitzer** asked if the pike size will be lowered. **Darren Kramer** said Fisheries is currently reviewing the pike regulations. He said hopefully the regulations will be simplified and less complicated. Darren added when the new regulations are proposed, the Council and the public will be able to provide input. **Mr. Schweitzer** asked Darren if he plans to plant muskies in South Manistique Lake. **Darren Kramer** said he plans to put a limited number of muskies, once every three years, about one per acre, to provide a mixed bag fishery.

New Business:

Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAP's) – Terry Minzey

DMAP's replaced (although expanded) the block permits which allow for the harvest of antlerless deer during the hunting seasons on private lands beyond the prescribed antlerless quota for a given Deer Management Unit (DMU). The block permits in the 80's and 90's were designed to get the excessive deer off private lands, primarily agricultural lands. Who may receive DMAP's:

- A person, or authorized designee, owning land within a qualifying area... by filing an agreement with the wildlife management unit supervisor. Before the permits were only issued to farmers, but now permits can be issued to forestland owners, municipal parks or for safety situations – airports.
- This agreement will include an estimate of desired antlerless harvest and numbers of hunters needed to meet the desired harvest objective, during an open season with legal methods.
- The number of DMA permits will be determined by the wildlife management unit supervisor. A minimum of 5 DMA permits shall be issued per permittee.
- Permits may be issued statewide to owners or authorized designee of land located in areas where current antlerless harvest methods are insufficient to achieve department deer management objectives or where one of the following conditions exist:
 - The department has documented that the property owner has significant agricultural or horticultural crop damage caused by deer
 - The department has documented that a serious disease outbreak is a threat to the deer herd, livestock, or human health
 - The department has documented a significant safety hazard from deer
 - Current antlerless regulations are insufficient to achieve landowner deer management objectives, with no antlerless permits available in the area.

Terry said in 2005, east of Federal Highway 13, 14 DMAP's were issued: 8 for agriculture; 5 for different management goals and 1 for safety reasons. In 2009 east of Federal Highway 13, 18 DMAP's were issued: 10 for agricultural; 7 for different management goals and 1 for safety reasons.

Discussion followed on DMAP's and how they're issued. It was noted there is no minimum acreage required; a landowner with 20 acres or a landowner with 100 acres (that has documented damage) would receive the same number of permits. Not all DMAP sites were inspected due to being understaffed. The program as its set up right now doesn't give the ability to take migratory deer into consideration. Landowners who have food plots with documented damage could be issued DMAP's. **Terry Minzey** said the Wildlife Conservation Order doesn't provide the flexibility to not issue DMAP's for food plots. It was also noted that not all landowners used or purchased their allowable permits.

Terry Minzey said the DNR has a workgroup reviewing all of the supplemental permits. Terry suggested if the Council had a recommendation or suggestion, now would be a good time to forward it to the workgroup.

Bill Becks suggested the Council make a recommendation to the DNR and NRC on DMAP's. He added the Council could recommend that DMAPS are not issued to a landowner if they have food plots; or eliminate the program for three years.

Russ Mason said the new DNRE has an enhanced emphasis moving management to the regional level and it's entirely possible DMAPs could be issued differently in the UP than in other parts of the State.

Doug Scheuneman made a motion that the Council recommends the DNR to continue its review of DMAPs and how they are issued in the UP. **Lester Livermore** supported the motion.

Steve Rodock agreed and added something needs to be done quickly and make it tailored so it can be adjusted. **Russ Mason** asked Chairman Pershinske for a friendly amendment to change the word "recommends" to "encourages," since the DNR is already doing it. **Doug Scheuneman** agreed to the amendment.

The motion on the floor, "The Council encourages the DNR to continue its review of Deer Management Assistance Permits and how they are issued in the UP."

Glenn Moll supports a small non-industrial private forest landowner trying to grow timber who has documented damage receive DMAP's but not for someone who plants food plots or feed the deer. Glenn would like to see justification required for the permits.

Ayes: 15. Nays: None. Absent: **Bob DeVillez, Dale DuFour, Mike Lawless, Steve Walker.**

Merger Update – Stacy Welling

- Executive Order 45 of 2009 re-combines the DNR and the Department of Environmental Quality creating the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).
- Department Directors will be appointed by the Governor.
- Stacy provided the timeline for the merger phases. She said the November 19 UP Stakeholders meeting was a huge factor in the plan for the new organizational chart that includes CAC's. The Director and the transition manager Bruce Rasher were extremely impressed with the CAC's. Phase 4 of the timeline will continue through 2010.
- Goals:
 - As a single Department become more efficient and effective.
 - Continue to promote a culture of transparency and problem solving.
 - Become a national leader by adopting an integrated, human health and ecosystem approach to environmental and resource management.
 - Preserve Michigan's outdoor heritage.
 - Facilitate and encourage economic growth in a sustainable manner.
- The Michigan Natural Resources Commission will be transferred to the new agency and will retain its authority to regulate the taking of game and other duties prescribed by current law.
- Several Boards and Commissions will be abolished, including the Michigan Citizen's for Michigan State Parks and the Water Resources Advisory Council with duties transferred to the NRC.
- The new agency director will be authorized to create a 7-member **Environmental Science Review Board**: (made up of experts). The board will

advise the new agency on scientific issues affecting the protection and management of Michigan's natural resources.

- **Trails Advisory Council:** Consolidate the functions of the existing Snowmobile Advisory Council and Michigan Trailways Advisory Council into a new 7-member Michigan Trails Advisory Council focused on the creation, development, operation, and maintenance of snowmobile, equestrian, hiking, skiing, and off-road vehicle trails, for more effective organization and reduced administrative overhead.
- There are numerous changes for the Department of Agriculture in the Executive Order.

NEW Executive Order #54: Significant Changes:

Many changes with Department of Agriculture:

- NRC Role re-emphasis: A member of the NRC would also serve on the AG Board and a member of the AG Board would serve on the NRC.
- **Trails Advisory Council:** Change from Executive Order #45, whereas the Trail Advisory Committee would be called the "Michigan Snowmobile and Trail Advisory Council" and would have 9 members (two additional). At least 5 members would be from motorized trail individuals, with a minimum of 3 snowmobile representatives.
- Bruce has met with over 142 stakeholder groups, more than 50 stakeholders outside the departments, 6 former DNR/DEQ directors and received comments/suggestions from more than 300 employees.
- The DNRE (Department of Natural Resources and Environment) will be divided into the following bureaus:
 - Resource Management
 - Stewardship
 - Environmental Protection
 - Divisions will be reduced from 16 to 9.
 - Administrative, budget, accounting and facility functions will be merged.

On January 17, 2010 at 12:01 a.m., all authorities, laws, etc. will transfer to the DNRE. The process will be fluid! The forecasted plan will be known, but this will not happen immediately, it will take time to implement.

Protocol on Sandhill Cranes – Terry Minzey

Terry said since sandhill cranes are a migratory species and they require a permit from the USFWS. It also requires a nuisance animal control permit from the DNR Wildlife Division. Terry said to contact the local wildlife biologist for help through the process.

Russ Mason added mute swans are also a problem in the State. The Waterfowl Advisory Committee brought a recommendation to the NRC to look at what can be done about mute swans on DNR managed waterfowl areas. The mute swans have a negative impact on wildlife vegetation.

Russ Mason said at this time there is no framework to hunt sandhill cranes but there will be a framework available within two years. Wildlife Division issues about 900 kill permits per year for sandhill cranes.

2009 Deer Season:

Terry Minzey reviewed the 2009 deer camp survey for the EUP, which doesn't include DMU's 021 and 121. Craig Albright provided the data for those DMU's. The deer camp survey numbers are generated by hunters not the DNR: They surveyed 118 camps and 535 hunters participated. Compared to 2008, the buck success rate was down 43%, DMU 021 down 27%; and DMU 121 down 56%. The deer observation rate was down 42%; DMU 021 down 70%; DMU 121 down 50%. This year the number of camps where 1 deer per hunter day was sighted went up 110% as compared to 2008. This equals 61% of total camps in the survey. The hunter success rate was down 52% at the buck pool at the Bear Trap in Shingleton.

Terry provided graphs of total snow accumulation readings at stations across the EUP. The readings provide Wildlife Division with winter severity index. Almost all of the stations are within a few points of the long term average except for Big Springs. Terry said he is concerned with this area but it will depend on what happens from mid-February on.

Chairman Pershinske said the deer management plan will have an impact on what happens. **Russ Mason** said the deer management plan includes the regional aspect. One recommendation in the plan is to establish and maintain regional deer advisory groups to help tailor the program to the area. Russ said he has been working with Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA) on supplemental feeding. UPSA will recommend a supplemental feeding proposal tied to the winter severity index and deer population goals. The plan should be available in February. Russ said the key feature to that plan is partnership. The sportsmen will be running those stations not the DNR. He added UPSA's proposal would open supplemental feeding across the entire UP.

Discussion followed on wolves following deer into the deer yards and bait piles.

Chad Radta said the deer population is on the decline. He suggested the Council look at what does the EUP want for a deer herd, is it important to supplemental feed, issue less licenses? How much DRIP work do we want to do on state and private lands to create better winter habitat to help stabilize the deer population. Chad said they need to look at DMAP's but that's just a small part. They need to look at the big picture. Should the Council recommend to the DNR to maintain deer populations at a certain level? How can we help the DNR to manage to that level?

Discussion followed on trying to find a way to move forward in a positive direction addressing things that can be changed. Including predators or eliminating doe permits. **Chairman Pershinske** suggesting taking the input from tonight and apply it to the deer management plan when it's available for review, to make a recommendation. **Terry Minzey** said he is willing to work with a Council subcommittee to develop a recommendation to bring to the council.

Chairman Pershinske deferred the agenda items on supplemental feeding, survey, and attendance until the next meeting.

Chairman Pershinske asked the Council to accept the resignation of Council member Lisa DenBoer. **Steve Rodock** made a motion to support the resignation. Motion

supported. Ayes: 15. Nays: None. Absent **Bob DeVillez, Dale DuFour, Mike Lawless, Steve Walker**. Motion carried.

Chairman Pershinke suggested confirming the next meeting dates of February 18, 2010 and the joint meeting with the WUP-CAC on March 18. The rest of the proposed 2010 meeting dates will be tabled until the February meeting.

Agenda items for February will include the election of officers. **Chairman Pershinske** said he will send a survey looking for agenda items specific to you or your organization and a self-appraisal survey.

Bill Becks provided the Council with a packet of letters in support of supplemental deer feeding across the whole UP. At the February meeting he would like the Council to support a recommendation to allow supplemental feeding in the entire UP.

The Council approved the February and March meeting dates with no objections.

Chuck Payment shared a complaint he had with the recent increase in the snowmobile registration. It's his understanding part of the registration fee goes for private land access for snowmobile trails. **Mr. Payment** said there was \$8 increase strictly for trail access purchases. He added everyone has to pay for this registration even if they don't ride the trails. He said there are thousands of snowmobilers who use their snowmobile strictly for ice fishing or on their private property. He doesn't support how the registration fee is spent.

Discussion followed on registration fee and trail permits and who sets the registration fee. **Chairman Pershinske** asked Stacy Welling to research how the registration fee is determined and bring that information to the next meeting for the Council to review.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.