

## EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 21, 2011

6:30-8:30 p.m. (EST)

Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department  
14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry, Michigan

### MEETING MINUTES

#### EUPCAC Members Present

William Becks	Glenn Moll
Tom Buckingham	Mike Patrick
Eugene Patrick Carr	Richard Pershinske
Jim Duke	Steve Rodock
Ronald Ford	Doug Scheuneman
Ginny Giddings	Bob DeVillez
James Hoy	Dale DuFour
Mike Lawless	Gary Gorniak
Chad Radka	

#### EUPCAC Members Absent

Lester Livermore  
Steve Walker  
Ed Radecki

#### Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula (UP) Regional Coordinator, Marquette  
Christina Hammill, Administration, Newberry  
Rich Hill, Recreation Division, Gaylord  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Newberry  
Steve Milford, Forest Management Division (FMD), Newberry  
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Sharolynn Robinson, Administration, Newberry

#### Special Guests

Mindy Koch, DNR Deputy Director, Lansing  
Kelly Siciliano-Carter, Wildlife, Lansing  
Anne LeClaire-Mitchell, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Pat Lederle, Wildlife Division, Lansing

#### Call to Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. EST by **Chairman Dick Pershinske**.

#### Introduction of Special Guests

**Stacy Welling** introduced guests Mindy Koch, DNR Deputy Director; Kelly Siciliano-Carter, Wildlife Division; Ann LeClaire-Mitchell, Wildlife Division; and Pat Lederle, Wildlife Division. Stacy said the special guests were invited to present information and answer questions on Equestrian Trails on State Forest Lands and the Wildlife Division Strategic Plan (GPS).

#### Adoption of Agenda

**Chairman Pershinske** proposed that Chair Comments be added as an agenda item. **Mike Patrick** made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. **Steve Rodock** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Jim Duke** made a motion to approve the February 17, 2011 meeting minutes as written. **Bill Becks** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes from the March 21, 2011 Joint CAC Meeting**

*Amendments to the March 21, 2011 minutes:* **Steve Rodock** asked that his name be moved to the list of absent members as he did not attend that meeting. **Dick Pershinske** asked if there was a reason that the Special Recognition of Penny Bacon's service to the Council was omitted from the minutes. Stacy said she will add this information to the minutes. **Dick Pershinske** pointed out a typo on Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph the Restricted Funds money should be \$228 million to make the math balance. **Dale DuFour** made a motion to approve the March 21, 2011 joint meeting minutes as amended. **Mike Lawless** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

**Steve King** asked why Pike Season dates are different for the Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. **Steve Scott** looked the information up in the Fishing Guide and explained it to him in a side conversation so that the meeting could continue.

### **Division Staff Reports**

Written reports were provided to the Council members prior to the meeting. Due to time constraints, **Chairman Pershinske** requested introductions and updates only.

**Stacy Welling**, UP Regional Coordinator said that there is a handout with the DEQ staffing that was requested at the last meeting. There is also a handout on beaver management on the check-in table.

**Stacy Welling** said that she received a lot of feedback from the joint meeting and re-emphasized the purpose of the councils and thanked the Eastern UP-CAC for their dedication. Terry Minzey also reinforced this message.

**Dick Pershinske** said that he left the joint meeting with a sour taste in his mouth – the EUP Council has been very positive, but the WUP wasn't as positive. He was almost of the mindset that he wouldn't like to see another joint meeting. He feels that the EUP Council is very productive and doesn't want the WUP Council to drag them down. Stacy thanked the Council for being respectful and productive and was pleased with what has been accomplished.

**Stacy Welling** shared a PowerPoint handout on the FY 2011 Budget that was presented at the Joint Meeting on March 21, 2011. She went over the information discussed at the joint meeting.

Stacy said that US Forest Service has issued a press release on a 60-day comment period to gather input on the delisting of Gray Wolves from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. She asked that any Council member wishing to offer comment review the press release and submit comments to the website provided or by US Mail. The deadline for comment is July 5, 2011.

Stacy shared information about a letter from Cara Boucher to address the discussion brought up at the March 21st meeting relative to the access map that was brought up by Rory Mattson. She expressed this map was part of a federal grant requirement and had input from several outside stakeholder groups.

Stacy didn't receive the Treasury Budget documents, from Mr. Mattson, referenced at the March 21st meeting, so she can not follow up on the issue at this time.

**Dick Pershinske** said that there are several items that may need to be added to future agendas; and listed:

- DEQ waste disposal procedures
- Budget Information
- Beaver & Dam Management Policy
- State Forest Campgrounds – leased by local government
- Upcoming legislation – bill that will prohibit the Department from purchasing land

**Rich Hill**, Straits District Supervisor, Recreation Division: Nothing to add to the written report. He called attention to the Recreation Passport bullet in the report and the operational aspects.

**Christina Hammill**, Administration Division: She included some updates in her report, but not much happening right now.

**Terry Minzey**, EUP Wildlife Supervisor, Newberry: Terry said that he agrees with Dick on the tone and tenor at the joint meeting. Terry spoke about monitoring featured species – ruffed grouse, bobcat, beaver were offered for inclusion on the list. The grouse and beaver were approved, but the bobcat was not. Bobcats are being monitored and Wildlife Division is doing population models.

Terry said that he will be working out of Marquette as the UP Regional Wildlife Supervisor. This is a new position in the Division realignment, as part of the new Wildlife Division reorganization. Another person will be hired to work between Terry and the field staff. The Division is moving back to a regional alignment. **Bill Becks** asked Terry about changes in the antlerless limits in the NLP. Terry explained the rationale behind the changes.

**Steve Scott**, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator, Fisheries Division: No additions to his written report.

**Darrell Shann filled in for Lt. Skip Hagy**, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry: Nothing to add to the written report.

**Steve Milford**, EUP District Supervisor, Newberry: Nothing to add to his report.

### **Old Business**

- Wildlife Strategic Plan Update (GPS): **Dick Pershinske** introduced the representatives of the Wildlife Strategic Plan workgroup and shared his background in dealing with Pat Lederle.

**Pat Lederle** gave a brief overview of the plan and why it was developed. He introduced Kelly Siciliano-Carter and Anne LeClaire-Mitchell, who will be assisting him with the update.

**Kelly Carter** talked about the development of the plan and where it's going. The GPS (Guiding Principles and Strategies) document has been in development for a few years now. She gave highlights from the handout that was provided. Comments were taken from the public and DNR staff. The GPS was approved by the Director in October 2010 and implementation has begun within the Wildlife Division. A consultant was hired; an Implementation Team was put together, and they are identifying barriers and conflicts that

need to be addressed. The 13 Strategies are listed in the handout. The GPS is being printed now and the Implementation Team will provide copies to the Council members as soon as they are available. Kelly encouraged the Council to continue to share their thoughts and comments with the team. Craig Albright is the WUP member of the Implementation Team and can bring comments to meetings too.

**Steve Rodock** complemented the Implementation Team on their handling of the plan.

**Doug Scheuneman** asked how many Fisheries and Wildlife Division employees there were in the Department; and how many of them are in field staff. **Steve Scott** provided Fisheries Division numbers and **Terry Minzey** offered to provide the Council with a copy of the Wildlife Division realignment plan as soon as it's available. **Mindy Koch** mentioned that you have to consider that we've had many retirements recently and pointed out that Fisheries Division only has 15-17 staff in Lansing.

**Dick Pershinske** thanked the team for coming up to provide information to the Council and he offered the Council's assistance whenever it was needed. This issue will continue to be on the agenda for updates as the process moves along.

**Terry Minzey** recognized the sportsmen's clubs for their contribution to the GPS. **Bill Becks** thanked Terry for the recognition and offered support for license fee increase.

- Feral Swine Update: **Stacy Welling** provided a handout with a summary of the workgroup discussions and recommendations. Stacy said that the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) and Agriculture Commission (AC) had a joint meeting in Escanaba on August 12, 2010 to discuss this issue and determined that Feral Swine meet the criteria for invasive species. NRC directed Wildlife Division to convene a workgroup to determine whether a regulatory framework could be established as an alternative to Invasive Species Order Amendment 1 of 2010. The mission of the workgroup was to "*develop recommendations for the regulation of sporting swine facilities to prevent disease transmission, natural resource degradation, and to protect the health of the commercial swine industry.*" The deadline for recommendations to NRC and AD was November 2010. In November, the Director met with legislature. Currently House Bills 4503-4507 and Senate Bills 307-310 to regulate Feral Swine are in the works – the Department is working to ensure that the workgroup recommendations are in these bills. **Bill Becks** mentioned that Commissioner Madigan recently stated at a meeting that this issue should be left in the hands of the DNR.

**Dick Pershinske** mentioned the deadline is July 8, 2011 and asked if that date was firm or if that can be moved. **Mindy Koch** said that this date is firm unless the director rescinds that because it's under the invasive species statute. This is another issue that will be a discussion topic on the agenda for a while.

### **New Business**

- Pigeon River Legislation & Workgroup Update - Equestrian Trails: **Mindy Koch** talked about the Right to Ride legislation that was written into law April 2, 2010. She said that there is no funding for existing or new trails in the trails budget at this time. The new laws require that a subcommittee be created – Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS); and that two members of this subcommittee serve on the 11 member Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC). The ETS is required to submit a recommended plan for a statewide pack and saddle trailways network to the MSTAC within one year of the ETS member appointments.

**Mike Lawless** asked if there is anything in the works on a permit fee for riders. **Jim Duke** said that he's heard a positive response on bridle fees from riders. The concerns he's heard regard destinations and open riding on state forest lands.

**Holly Osborn** confirmed that the EUP Club wants to pay bridle fees and they don't want trails created that they have to stay on. The riders prefer to wander on state land without trails. **Terry Slack** said that they don't want to be restricted to groomed areas similar to ORV trails, but prefer to explore across the landscape. Mindy said that a bridle permit would be required to ride on state forest lands whether on a trail or not. A permit fee is being worked out, but no information is available on what it will be yet.

**Dick Pershinske** said that he assumes that the public would be allowed to give input on anything that is offered as regulations for equestrian use. **Jim Duke** said that the MSTAC takes public comment. **Steve King** asked how the similar dog sled use issue that came up a few years ago was resolved.

**Mindy Koch** said that State Forest land is already open to equestrian use unless posted otherwise and some State Parks have trails that have to specify "open to equestrian use" before riders can use them. She explained why it was so important to get the wording in the bill right. She mentioned that there are several trails and areas that are still under review. We have to stay in compliance with the USFS federal regulations and statutes.

**Holly Osborn** asked if the group could get names and contact information of the ETS members. Mindy said that she would get that to them. **Ron Ford** asked if there was anything in the statute on where riders were permitted to ride. **Halyn Taylor** asked; if the bridle fee is passed; will the permit be per owner or per horse? Mindy said that's another thing that hasn't been decided yet.

**Stacy Welling** said that this issue is broader than the EUP; it's a statewide issue, so the regulations will have to cover state forest lands across the whole state. **Tom Buckingham** asked if the committee contact information is listed on the website.

- Fisheries Regulations Update (Pike & Muskie, Yellow Perch Season Les Cheneaux Islands):  
**Steve Scott** presented a PowerPoint and provided printed handouts to provide an overview of the regulations and seasons of these species. He talked about the development and implementation of The Esocid (Pike & Muskies) Management Plan and goals, issues, objectives and strategies that have to be considered.

The five main suggestions for management are:

- 1) Protect, Restore & Enhance Esocid habitat on Michigan waters.
- 2) Ensure that adequate technical information is available for Michigan's Esocid Fisheries
- 3) Protect and maintain Michigan's self sustained Esocid fisheries and associated fish assemblages and aquatic communities.
- 4) Communicate with anglers and promote the recreational value of Michigan's Esocid fisheries.
- 5) Provide a variety of fishing opportunities for Esocids in Michigan.

Steve gave a short overview of the proposal to develop a Great Lakes Musky Broodstock Program. He explained that Northern Musky (barred markings) is the primary species in our

lakes, but they want to bring Great Lakes Musky (spotted markings) stock into hatcheries. He explained that the division wants to make sure that the public is on board with the regulations that may need to be put on this species before they implement the program.

**Mike Patrick** asked about the perch fishing closure issue from the last meeting and Steve said that he was going to talk about that next. **Jim Hoy** asked how many lakes the expansion would encompass. Steve answered that the number hasn't been determined at this time. He said that there is only the capacity to grow 40,000 nine-inch fingerlings. Jim expressed concern about predation, that is the increased planting of a very large fish would have an impact on other fisheries.

Perch Management in the Les Cheneaux Islands Area: **Steve Scott** handed out a memo that he prepared to help explain that the division has been working on in the Les Cheneaux area since 2000. Cormorants are the primary contributing factor to perch numbers in this area. Steve said that the studies show that once cormorants moved in, mortality rates increased to 90% in 2-3 year old fish. The Cormorant Workgroup determined that 500 cormorant nests is the target for this area. Now that they have reached that target, mortality rates have dropped and perch numbers are coming back up. Discussion covered the trends and increase/decrease in numbers of perch at any given time.

**Mike Patrick** asked about the spawning season dates; Steve explained why the dates are what set where they are. **Gary Gorniak** asked about mussels in the area and if they're a contributing factor. **Bill Becks** noted that ecosystems change as fast as the studies are finished and asked how effective these studies really are. **Dick Pershinske** asked if everyone saw that Michigan was recently recognized as the number one Fly Fishing state in the nation in the Field & Stream Blog.

### **Member Resignation**

**Dick Pershinske** received an email from Steve Walker submitting his resignation. He asked for a motion to accept this resignation. **Tom Buckingham** made a motion to accept this resignation. **Bob DeVillez** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **2011 Meetings**

**Chairman Pershinske** said the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2011. The remaining 2011 EUP-CAC dates are:

- Thursday, June 16, 2011
- Thursday, August 18, 2011
- Thursday, October 20, 2011
- Thursday, December 15, 2011

### **Council Members Closing Comments**

**Tom Buckingham** was approached by a member of the public at the last EUPCAC meeting with a question about banning chocolate while baiting bear. Tom said that he didn't know the answer to the question.

**Tom Buckingham** gave the Council an update on the last Regional Deer Committee meeting. He said that the committee split into two groups – one group will cover habitat and the other regulations. Tom is working with the regulations group and Bill Becks is on this committee working with the habitat group. Tom asked for any comments that the Council would like to have brought to the committee. He will bring comments to the regulations group and Bill can take habitat comments to that group. **Dick Pershinske** reminded stakeholders to take this

information back to their groups and encourage them to get their comments heard by contacting Tom or Bill. **Steve King** asked where comments should be sent so he could publish that in his article. Tom said he'll meet with Steve after the meeting and give him the contact information.

### **Public Comment**

**Joe Caswell** asked why he wasn't given a complete copy of the correct beaver regulations; after 5-6 years of asking for trapping regulations for the area he traps in. He's been to the Newberry DNR office multiple times and he keeps getting conflicting information on what streams are open for trapping. He asked for a list of the waters that are open to trapping, but the list that the DNR gave him is a list of the streams that are closed to trapping. It's very confusing to someone like him who doesn't read well. Joe commended Ms. Michelle Zellar for finally getting him the first page of the regulations that explains that the list he's been given are streams that are closed to trapping.

**Dick Pershinske** asked Terry Minzey to explain where the regulations come from and how to interpret them. **Terry Minzey** apologized to Joe for the misinformation that he's received over the years and complemented Ms. Zellar for taking the time to get to the heart of the problem and provide the information that Joe needed to understand where he could legally trap.

**Jim Hoy** asked Steve Scott to bring updates on the Pike/Musky programs back when the plans are closer to completion. Steve Scott agreed to update the Council and asked that any comments be communicated to him.

**Joe Caswell** asked that Beaver Management be added to the next agenda. He would like to talk about the regulations for destroying Beaver dams. **Chairman Pershinske** said this topic will be added to the next meeting agenda.

**Mike Lawless** asked for information on the State Forest Campground Closures. He wanted to know how long this process has been going on and what stage it was in. **Mindy Koch** said that a survey was established over a year ago to get public comment on the likes and dislikes of users. She explained the funding/lack of funding in the State Forest Campground Program and the problems that the program faces. She said that letters have gone out to local governments to see if any of them would be interested in operating the campgrounds that have been proposed for closure in their counties. Fiscal information was provided with the letter to assist local governments in making their decisions. She explained that there was no strategy plan when these campgrounds were established; they were placed strategically with fire considerations in mind. Closures were looked at in areas where there are a number of campgrounds close together or located near state parks. Mike asked if local governments are the only ones who received the letters. Mindy said yes – and legislators. Mike said that, since his township doesn't have a campground located within the township, he wondered if his township got a letter. Mindy said the letters were only sent to local governments with campgrounds in their jurisdiction.

**Stacy Welling** reminded everyone to make sure they look at the press release from the US Forest Service and submit their comments because the deadline is before the next EUP CAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.