Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 30, 2011
6:30-8:30pm EST
LMAS District Health Department, Newberry, MI

Council Members Present

Tom Buckingham	Ginny Giddings
E. Pat Carr	Gary Gorniak
Bob DeVillez	Jim Hoy
Dale DuFour	Glenn Moll
Jim Duke	Dick Pershinske
Ron Ford	Ed Radecki

Council Members Absent

Bill Becks	Chad Radka
Mike Lawless	Doug Scheuneman
Mike Patrick	

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula Regional Director, Marquette
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
Jim Dzelak, Recreation Division, Newberry
Christina Hammill, Facilities Management, Newberry
Steve Milford, Forest Management Division, Newberry
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Marquette
Debbie Munson Badini, UP Communications Representative, Marquette
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Sgt. Darryl Shann, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Pershinske reminded the group that there are a few items on the agenda for public comment and he asked that individuals be respectful of the time for the folks that are here. There were no changes to the agenda. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to adopt the agenda as submitted; **Mr. Ford** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Radka, & Mr. Scheuneman. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Buckingham noted one correction on the April 21, 2011 minutes; on page 7, under public comment, the name should be Joe Caswell instead of Joe Caldwell. **Mr. DuFour** motioned to approve the April 21, 2011 EUPCAC Meeting minutes with the noted correction; **Mr. Buckingham** seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Radka, & Mr. Scheuneman. Motion carried.

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske stated that he received a note from retired Lt. Chris Morris who thanked the EUPCAC and staff for the plaque that he received upon his retirement and recognized the good experience he had working with the EUPCAC while he was an active lieutenant stating the CAC's are one of the better things he has seen in a long time.

Chair Pershinske also mentioned that he attended the Wolf Forum in Marquette which has 15 members. There were 10-11 in attendance with 5-6 who were carryovers from the original wolf management roundtable. The state has a mandate that they need to review the plan every 5 years to make sure it's functioning the way it was intended. Several issues were discussed, including depredation and the lack of funding for the US Fish & Wildlife Service to assist. He has been told by several people that Michigan's wolf management plan is probably the best management plan in the country. Following this meeting was a US Fish & Wildlife Service informational meeting on the status of the wolf delisting process; it was not a hearing. Public comment is being received through July 5. It typically takes 12-18 months for a decision; however Congress has promised to get a decision in less than a year. Those in attendance asked about a backup plan, but no information was provided**.** **Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any questions; none were presented.

Public Comments

A member of the audience asked Chair Pershinske to comment on the wolf problem and depredation in the corridor on M-117 and the Engadine area. **Chair Pershinske** stated that he thinks it's more serious now. A federal grant allowed them to do two things: one project worked with two farmers to bring in donkeys and another project worked with two farmers to put up fencing to enclose areas. Depredation is still occurring in those areas resulting in continued vet bills and loss of young. It is unfair for the whole peninsula. **Mr. Kip Cameron** asked how many wolves are in the U.P.; in the DNR handout it says something different that what's been said. **Mr. Minzey** replied that there is a 687 minimum estimate from surveys this past winter, which is above last year's estimate. It is probably around 1200-1300 wolves now. He stated that historically the DNR surveyed the entire U.P. As the number of wolves increased, that job became very time consuming and costly and as a result, they couldn't survey the whole area. Some surveys are in only certain locations and some locations didn't get surveyed this year. He explained that 10 years ago when numbers were reported, it was a minimum "count"; now it's a minimum "estimate". The 2010 book on the desk states winter 2009-2010 estimates.

Mr. King questioned what the target number is for the U.P. Mr. Minzey replied for a federal delisting, 100 were needed in Michigan and 100 in Wisconsin or 200 combined. For state delisting, 200 were needed. The first time the wolf was delisted was in 2007, then it was back on in 2008, and delisted again in 2009. They are not on the state endangered species list right now because of biology. **Chair Pershinske** stated that the eastern end has room, so they have seen a resurgence. **Mr. Minzey** stated there are 100-140 wolves in the eastern end in a one year estimate. West end numbers have held pretty steady. **Mr. King** asked if there was a number on the available food base. **Mr. Minzey** replied 800 or 900 adult animals. **Chair Pershinske** thanked Mr. Minzey for his information. **Mr. Cameron** asked if anyone from the

farm bureau has damage estimates on the farms in that area. **Chair Pershinske** replied that there isn't an accurate estimate, for a number of reasons. People call him constantly. He doesn't believe that information has ever been put together. **Mr. King** asked if it would be beneficial to the delisting process if the farmers were to get together to come up with something. **Chair Pershinske** replied yes, but the farmers haven't been willing to talk. **Ms. Welling** said that Brian Roell, DNR Wildlife Biologist, has been here previously and he can attend again to answer questions.

DNR Division Reports

DNR written staff reports were provided to Council members on June 23, 2011. The following are current updates to those reports.

- *Stacy Welling, UP Regional Director*: **Ms. Welling** provided a short overview of the Council, which has been in existence for two years. She introduced Kristi Dahlstrom, who has replaced Penny Bacon, and will be taking minutes at the Council meetings.
  - A PILT handout was provided to those in attendance and she explained the PILT process (i.e. payments are pro-rated, DNR is the only state agency that pays state taxes on property, etc.). The handout was distributed internally by Sharon Schafer from the Finance Division and it is a good tool to share.
  - A second handout was provided, Michigan Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy, which is a follow-up from an email she sent to council members. It includes a map from the initial report as well as background information. If there are any questions, please let her know.
  - **Ms. Welling** stated that Chair Pershinske mentioned the federal delisting meeting and she found it extremely disappointing to find only a few in attendance. The Michigan DNR requested a meeting be held in Michigan, as the US Fish & Wildlife did not plan to, and it was disappointing to see such a low turnout. However, the good news is that the public can still provide comments online until July 5; please do so. There is a handout with the website information in the packets and on the back table.
  - There was an email sent to council members regarding horse use on hiking trails. A response to that email is included in the Council members' packets.
  - **Mr. Hoy** questioned the state forest campground handout in the meeting packet. **Ms. Welling** stated that it will be covered later in the meeting; she wanted the members to have reference material when it is discussed.
- *Steve Scott, Fisheries Division*: **Mr. Scott** stated that at the April meeting he spoke about the Great Lakes Musky Program. However, they have been unable to collect Great Lakes Musky to start the program. They will regroup and try again next year. In addition, they just finished running the walleye pond which is the first time in 5-6 years. They were able to stock out 6-7 lakes, which is not as much as they had hoped for.
- *Jim Dzelak, Parks & Recreation*: **Mr. Dzelak** stated that he is filling in for Rich Hill this evening. He reported that the Director officially designated Lime Island as a state park recreation area and has transferred management of the park from the Forest Management Division to Parks & Recreation. It will be managed by staff from Straights State Park and reservations are now available through the central reservation system.
- *Steve Milford, Forest Management Unit*: **Mr. Milford** stated that he had nothing new to add to his report.

- *Sgt. Darryl Shann, Law Enforcement*: **Sgt. Shann** stated that he is filling in for Lt. Skip Hagy. He reported that all three men (two tribal members and one non-member) involved in the gill net case were recently found guilty in a separate illegal fishing case. Each received a sentence of a year in jail and will have to pay close to $10,000 in fines and restitution. The charge was conspiracy. **Sgt. Shann** stated that it is the biggest case he has seen in 20 years and it will set precedent for the future cases. More information has come through about other concerns since this case was made public. Investigation for the illegal fishing case was done through the DNR, not the tribes. **Mr. Hoy** asked if the Tribe tried to move the case to Tribal Court. **Sgt. Shann** replied that there have been attempts to include it in the court order agreement. He stated that the court agreement should be limited to fishing on the water and on the ice. No appeal requests were received by the defendants' attorney. **Sgt. Shann** noted that the two commercial fishermen should have been extremely happy with strong enforcement and strong penalties in violating resource laws, since that's their livelihood and is why the judge gave the maximum penalty. **Chair Pershinske** asked Sgt. Shann to let Lt. Hagy know that he enjoys his report, including the dry humor.
- *Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division*: **Mr. Minzey** stated that in regards to Chair Pershinske's comments on the budget issues for wolf depredation, funds were cut in the federal budget and the two staff working on that are done as of today. This will leave the Division short, especially in the west end. He is not sure how the Division will deal with the lack of funding. He added clarification that the funding does not involve cormorant control; however, he is not sure how long the funding will last for that project. The funding eliminated was strictly for the wolf issue. **Mr. Minzey** reported that buck harvest numbers were up 25% from 2009 and at the same time, the car/deer accidents were down 10%. Grouse numbers were up 35%. To reiterate, which is in his report, the Wildlife Division is going through a federal audit, which occurs every 5 years to review how federal grant money is being spent. Federal grant monies are appropriated as a result of the 11% excise taxes on rifles, ammunition, etc. States have to write grant proposals to apply for the funding.
- *Christina Hammill, Facility Management*: **Mrs. Hammill** stated that several calls have been coming in regarding the bear results as they were posted online on Monday. Feel free to call or stop by. There will be left over licenses available so please check your unit area. In addition, an announcement was made on Wednesday that Sharon Schafer was named the new division chief for Finance and Operations. She provided a budget presentation at a previous Council meeting.
- *Debbie Munson Badini, UP Communications Representative*: **Ms. Munson Badini** stated that the DNR volunteer bill has been signed by the Governor. It will allow opportunities for sportsmen's groups, individuals, etc. to work with the DNR. In addition, the Hunters Heritage bill has gone to the Director's desk for signature today. The bill removes the minimum hunting age and creates a mentored youth program. Yesterday, the DNR launched their first mobile app for smart phones called the Michigan Recreation and Camping Locator. The app will locate campgrounds and boat launches near your destination and provide recreation details and registration information. The app is free and can be downloaded through the mobile markets or on the DNR website.

Old Business

1. *Wildlife Division Realignment Plan Update*: **Mr. Minzey** stated that a couple of months ago he was reassigned to the rest of the U.P. for supervision and with that process there was

another level that was going to be hired to work as a biologist with supervisory duties. The Division has funding for 8 positions; 3 in the southeast, 2 in the southwest, 1 in the U.P., and 2 in the northern lower. The U.P. position will be filled by the end of August. There is funding for only one private lands position that the Division is moving forward on, but the position will not be available until October 1. A communications technician was going to be hired to help answer questions coming into the offices and set up presentations to allow more time for biologists to do on the ground biology rather than spending time giving presentations or interviews. Those are the 3 positions he sees coming up in the next 3-4 months. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that Pat Lederly has been named supervisor of the planning adaptation unit and explained that role. **Chair Pershinske** asked how the Division plans to communicate with the public regarding the progress of the realignment plan. **Mr. Minzey** stated that it will be one of the responsibilities of the new communications technician. An annual report will be published every year as well that will measure progress on the goals established. **Ms. Welling** stated that she will bring copies of the recent annual report to the next meeting.

2. *Feral Swine Update*: Ms. Welling stated that she talked with the DNR legislative liaison regarding this issue and presentations have been provided in the past. The Director made a statement that he has been meeting with the legislature on the establishment of a regulatory framework for captive swine shooting facilities which is set to expire on July 8. There are several bills going through the process. The feral swine bill passed the House today and it now goes to the Senate. A few highlights of the bill include a $2,500 annual fee for each facility, a $1,000 fee for inspections, and stringent fencing regulations which take effect on July 8th (the order) with no action until April 2012. It will also give owners two different seasons to hunt, so it won't take effect immediately. If the bills do not pass, then there would be a de-population. An inventory will be conducted to create a list of facilities since one currently doesn't exist. Also, there was mention in one of the bills that there would be a moratorium. **Chair Pershinske** asked if it was the McBroom bill. **Ms. Welling** replied that she is not sure as there are multiple versions. **Dale McNamee** said it was. A member of the audience asked if the bill passed and one came upon feral swine somewhere, what can be done with it. **Mr. Moll** stated if it is outside a fence, it can be shot. **Chair Pershinske** asked if there is an existing population in the U.P. **Ms. Welling** replied that there are several game ranches in the U.P. She has heard of 6 feral swine cases that people have told her about, although she has never seen one out in the wild. **Sgt. Shann** indicated they have been reported in Baraga, Iron and northwest Delta Counties, and the Marquette area. **Mr. Minzey** stated that they have photos of some located in Menominee County and he talked with someone who found one in the Chippewa/Mackinac area. **Chair Pershinske** stated that last time this subject was discussed, it was stated there wasn't a population in the U.P. **Mr. Minzey** added that it is not a huge issue in the U.P., but it could quickly become one.

3. *Beaver Dam Management*: **Ms. Welling** stated that at the last meeting, a handout was distributed in response to public comment; extra handouts are available tonight as well. There was one more follow-up question by Mr. Caswell regarding DNR involvement with county road commissions and beaver dam removal. If a beaver dam is affecting a roadway, the majority of the time removal will be granted and the county will take care of it because

of the roadway. DEQ will get involved in certain situations. DNR law enforcement will only get involved if needed.

4. *Senate Bill 248-Land Cap Bill*: **Ms. Welling** acknowledged Mr. McNamee's presence representing Senator Casperson as it relates to the bill. She explained that the land cap bill has currently passed the Senate and she is not sure what the version in the House will look like since changes have occurred. The bill is promoting the capping of land that the DNR can purchase (what has passed is a 15-17 thousand acre cushion). **Mr. McNamee** stated that there are 11 different exceptions on the bill now. **Ms. Welling** stated that if the purchase of land is capped and a purchase of land was needed, the purchase couldn't go through unless other land was sold. A press release was sent out last week for current land auctions. **Mr. DeVillez** asked how this bill would affect the Trust Fund. **Ms. Welling** replied that this year's allocation has been approved, although it is not yet secured. The concern is to hold the process until it is known if the bill will pass. If there is an actual cap, the monitoring of acre by acre would be vital. The cushion helps, but it could affect future Trust Fund purchases. **Mr. Ford** asked where excess funds would go. **Ms. Welling** stated that excess funds would go to the parks endowment fund as written in original legislation. It cannot go anywhere else. The park endowment fund provides monies for state park infrastructure. There are several bills suggesting rerouting the money from the fund to things like airports. The fund is supported by oil and gas lease revenue, which is the public's money that goes back into the public. **Mr. McNamee** stated that if land can't be purchased, then go back to the community. **Ms. Welling** stated that a certain portion of the fund is statutorily bound for land purchases.

5. *State Forest Campgrounds Update*: **Ms. Welling** stated at the August 2010 Eastern UPCAC meeting at the Hiawatha Club, the possibility of campground closure was discussed. Copies of the handouts distributed at that meeting indicating closure was imminent and public input was needed is included in the meeting packet today. There has been a 60% decrease in the general fund for state forest campgrounds. She provided an update at the last meeting, and since then, the DNR has been working with legislature and few other avenues. As a result and despite no additional funding, the state forest campgrounds will remain open until October 1. There are 132 rustic state forest campgrounds in the state. A few on the list for closure received only 4 nights of use and one for 6 nights of use in one year. There are certain health codes and regulations that the DNR has to follow, which comprise a portion of the operating costs. The reality is if the DNR operates them like a business, and it's not receiving use, it has to be dealt with.

   Ms. Welling stated that a letter was recently sent to all local units of government. A copy of the lease agreement is in the meeting packet. In some cases, local units of government can make it work and in others, they can't. Regarding Garnet Lake State Forest Campground, **Ms. Welling** said she spoke with Lynn Boyd, Chief of the Forest Management Division, three times in the last two days. The DNR is going through the entire process of how the campgrounds are marketed and what is the DNR's response. All avenues need to be explored before closing them, such as whether they are in close proximity to another campground. If changes are made to those leases, certain procedures have to be followed.

She understands that the nightly fee is an issue at Garnet Lake and the DNR is working through that. She hasn't received word on the fee issue yet, possibly next week.

Mr. Hoeft from the audience stated that he works in a state forest campground and there are five in a cluster and three are slated to close. He drives by the three parks slated to close to get to the other two, so why not keep them open since he's there anyway. **Ms. Welling** replied that there are costs associated with maintaining them. If five are there, do all of them need to be open is what is being considered. There are more rustic campsites to maintain than are being used. The DNR is taking all thoughts into consideration. **Mr. Hoeft** stated that the fees went up from $10 to $15/night, and there has been a marked reduction in usage since these fees went up. **Ms. Welling** indicated that she has heard this a lot and this will be taken into consideration. The DNR is doing everything they can to get the word out there to promote use of the state forest campgrounds. Maps and mobile apps are being used to help promote them. The Fire Fund comes from campground usage fees as well. **Chair Pershinske** stated one major concern for local governments is the rental rates because the private facilities are charging less, so they are not competitive. **Ms. Welling** said she spoke to Mr. Milford about that problem which is the issue at Garnet Lake. It was mentioned that federal campgrounds are half the price, therefore business is lost to them as well. **Mr. King** stated that people are using the pit toilets and water, but they are staying on state land a mile away and not paying the fees because it's too expensive. **Mr. Cameron** stated that fishing has dropped dramatically, so maybe that is why people aren't using state forest campgrounds. If more fish were added, maybe then campground usage would increase. **Ms. Welling** stated there are several factors in why people aren't using them and the DNR is trying to assess all of these reasons. To submit suggestions, the public can email Brenda Curtis through the website.

6. *US Fish & Wildlife (USF&W) Wolf Delisting Information Meeting Update*: Chair Pershinske stated to Mr. Minzey that this topic was covered pretty well earlier in the meeting. He mentioned one interesting thought that comes to his mind is the young lady that was doing the presentation made the comment, which he thought was profound, that they learned their lesson from the last experience and that at this session they will following the process exactly. If it is questioned why the USF&W follows certain procedures, this is why. **Mr. Moll** asked for clarification; **Chair Pershinske** explained that it was found that the USF&W did not follow proper procedure during the last delisting process and it was denied.

7. *Biodiversity Stewardship Areas (BSAs)-Living Legacies*: **Ms. Welling** stated that this topic was brought up by Mr. Hoy to touch base on. There was a presentation a few meetings back, which may have been before new members came on board. She explained that when the DNR looked at BSAs, they didn't do a good job explaining it and there were several misconceptions. When Director Stokes came on board, he said there would be no net loss of timber.

   Mr. Hoy stated that from what he's heard and read about, there is another plan, the Michigan Forest Assessment Strategy, and there is lots going on about the use of the state plan. What is it, where are we, who triggered it, who started it, where are we going with use of state land, these are questions that scare him. He feels it has a great deal to do with

the Casperson bill. **Chair Pershinske** interceded by asking Ms. Welling if there been enough changes in the presentation that was provided previously to update it and bring it back again. **Ms. Welling** stated that BSAs have been in the works for approximately 20 years. It is an identification and inventory system. It has nothing to do with the Michigan Forest Assessment Strategy, which is a separate issue and has to do with federal funding. There have been more public meetings in the lower peninsula than in the U.P. about BSAs. It is still a work in progress. She would be happy to bring some of the information back. There are several misconceptions out there on what it means. For example, in each region of the state, the DNR identified all the inventory factors in that region of the state (public and private). Then it goes into a statewide group. There was some concern in the beginning of the process and it could have been communicated better. When Director Stokes came on board, he had a different view on portions of it. If the Council would like another presentation, she offered to bring someone in to talk about it.

Chair Pershinske asked which division is responsible for it; **Ms. Welling** replied that all divisions have a responsibility. It derived from the forest certification process and state forest planning process. **Mr. Minzey** clarified that it is an attempt to have some of those areas that are really intact ecosystems be managed more in natural processes in select areas. He cited examples. He stated that since he has been with the DNR, almost 20 years, they have been working on developing an old growth system. **Mr. Milford** stated the eco-regional planning process is moving forward, and then the DNR will come back and look at this. Areas were identified and he further explained the current status. **Ms. Welling** stated that it is public and private land identification.

Mr. DeVillez stated that at one of the previous meetings, Mr. Mike Paluda mentioned that the groups meeting in the U.P. could not come to a consensus. **Mr. Minzey** confirmed it's true. **Mr. DeVillez** stated he has been looking at the website for the northern lower portion of the state and 3 areas are listed with a short term 10-year plan and list a long term plan and it looked like there was timber that would be reduced within those 3 sites over time because of the long term goal that has been identified for those sites. **Ms. Welling** stated that it is a recommendation for those sites, but it is not happening yet. **Mr. DeVillez** stated that it's important for each region to know where these sites are and the acres involved. It was said that there was no consensus from the group working on this and it wasn't said why. **Ms. Welling** stated that some of those recommendations were on private land; it doesn't necessarily mean anything is going to happen, but it's identified. **Mr. Minzey** stated that core-design teams were created with a compilation of a wide variety of interests (Sierra Club, Mackinac, Wildlife Division, Forest Management Division) and a wide variety of views. Because of this, there were in polar opposite positions and they were never able to come together. He further explained the historical nature of this group and why they couldn't come to a consensus.

Chair Pershinske stated that what he's hearing is that the DNR is in a holding pattern and that the communication should be ongoing. **Mr. Hoy** stated it's not in a holding pattern, as Mr. DeVillez indicated there is biodiversity planning being certified downstate. **Mr. Minzey** stated what is showing online is only a recommendation. **Mr. DeVillez** stated an eco regional plan is needed first, then the legacy. An important point was made by Mr. Milford

that the state forest plans are moving ahead, not including BSAs. **Ms. Welling** stated that it wouldn't hurt to have another presentation if it is needed. If there is movement on the issue, updates will definitely be provided. **Mr. Hoy** stated he thinks this Council should get involved. With the forest strategy assessment, the pattern that was followed was 3 national priorities and he sees the federal government being in the background in that; he doesn't like that they are involved in the management of Michigan land. The BSA plans do not state anything about set-aside areas. The core group was made up of 60 different organizations, and he doesn't see anyone representing the tourists or the trappers. There are 5 US government agencies and 8-9 conservancies in the group. He wants to see open and unrestricted use for hunting and fishing and he didn't see anything in the BSAs that suggests that. He thinks Casperson is involved.

Chair Pershinske addressed Mr. McNamee asking if there is anything in Casperson's bill that addresses what Mr. Hoy is saying. **Mr. McNamee** stated that Ms. Welling said that the Director indicated no net loss of timber. However, he has seen areas where the road has been blocked off taking away access to 2,800 acres. Many of Mr. Hoy's questions have come to them; how is the land really being used? He does think it has something to do with it. For example, there are 200,000 acres in new legacy in the Menominee headwater area. **Mr. Milford** stated that those acres are involved in a property exchange. **Mr. McNamee** stated that as he read it, the DNR is moving the Menominee River into legacy property. **Mr. Milford** stated that it may be confusing because legacy money is being used with that project. **Chair Pershinske** thanked Mr. McNamee for his input. He stated he is leaving it open to the Council. **Mr. Ford** stated he supports Mr. Hoy's comments. **Ms. Welling** asked if a presentation about the program would be the starting point again since half of the Council has seen it and half have not. **Chair Pershinske** asked who would provide the presentation. **Mr. Ford** stated that he didn't have time to process and digest the handouts in order to make notes to ask questions; could we have it ahead of time next time? **Ms. Welling** stated that she can provide Mr. Ford the location on the website. She replied to Chair Pershinske that she is not sure who would present at this time, but she will get the right person. **Mr. Hoy** stated that he would agree to the presentation since the issue really concerns him. **Ms. Giddings** stated that worldwide there is a major loss of species, and personally, as human population increases, the ecosystems are being taxed more and they are being spoiled. She does support the efforts to preserve land for future generations. And she thinks it's a worldwide effort. **Mr. Hoy** stated that he is talking about public land and he sees the working man paying for it. **Ms. Giddings** stated that she supports preserving areas. **Chair Pershinske** stated that this topic seems to be an item of interest for the Council; therefore, an expert will be asked to present as a starting point. **Ms. Welling** stated that there are extra handouts available this evening that were passed out previously, and information on the legislation that passed will be brought back to the Council as well.

Chair Pershinske stated that one thing that appears to be troubling is most of time we can go to Mr. Minzey or Mr. Milford when there is an issue, but we don't seem to have a resource in this case. If it can be determined who is involved it would be helpful. **Ms. Munson Badini** stated that because the focus here has been changed, it has caused confusion. **Mr. Minzey** stated there is an answer; while the Forest Management Division is the administrator of state forest lands, they don't make the decisions solely. It is all in

cooperation with the Fish & Wildlife Divisions as well. The eco team is a panel of district supervisors from all the different divisions who work on this collectively. And there are people who work to support the eco teams. **Mr. Milford** stated that Ms. Welling is a liaison to the Director, and whatever direction the DNR is heading, she is the contact. **Chair Pershinske** stated that he will defer this topic to the next meeting agenda for further discussion and clarification.

Mr. Cameron stated that on the map in the handout, northern Luce County looks like top priority to limit access. **Ms. Welling** stated that the map is one page of a 124-page report. The DNR is 96% self-funded and if access is limited, the DNR won't exist. There are constant rumors that everything is being shut down. The DNR's job every day is to get people outdoors. **Mr. Cameron** stated that is what the report says and there are areas being closed off. **Ms. Welling** stated that she will give him the website address where he can review the entire report. She mentioned that sometimes the DNR does have to protect areas.

New Business

1. *Suggested Resolution from WUPCAC-Recognition of Former DNR Director Humphries*: **Mr. DuFour** motioned to endorse the resolution in recognition of former DNR Director Humphries (see attached); **Mr. Buckingham** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Radka, & Mr. Scheuneman. Motion carried. **Mr. Gorniak** asked for clarification on whether the resolution is separate from the Western UPCAC; **Chair Pershinske** stated it will be a separate resolution.

2. *Resignations*: **Chair Pershinske** stated that two members have submitted their resignation from the Council: Mr. Steve Rodock and Mr. Lester Livermore. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to acknowledge the resignations of Mr. Rodock and Mr. Livermore; **Mr. Ford** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Radka, & Mr. Scheuneman. Motion carried. **Chair Pershinske** declared his appreciation for the service that both men provided to the Council and will send them an email. Mr. Duke suggested a letter be sent to them as well; **Ms. Welling** stated that an appreciation letter was recently sent to both of them.

Upcoming 2011 Meetings

Chair Pershinske referenced the Council meeting dates for the remaining of the year that were noted on the agenda.

Public Comment

Mr. Stephen King explained an issue he has been following regarding the Naubinway Marina dredge. He stated that 5-6 years ago repairs and dredging were done costing a half million dollars. It filled back in 2-3 years later. The project is scheduled again for next year and it will cost up to 3 times more. About 15 years ago, it was dredged and back then, he asked the guy working on the project back then what it would take to fix it and he said $15,000 and a rock berm would do the job. Mr. King questioned why $1-2 million is being spent to fix this problem again, year after year? **Ms. Welling** stated that she doesn't have enough background on the project to provide an answer. **Mr. Scott** questioned if anyone knew who funded the original

dredge. **Chair Pershinske** stated that he doesn't think anyone can answer this question this evening. **Mr. King** indicated that he most recently spoke to the Waterways Commission. **Ms. Welling** stated that she will have an answer for him at the next meeting.

Closing Comments from the Council

Mr. Buckingham stated that he would like to leave this meeting with the following thoughts; he has heard one view on saving lands for future and one opposing that view. In his personal view, this shows how insurmountable the DNR's job is and he asked everyone to keep this in mind. This is a very emotional issue and it points out how hard the DNR's job is to keep the user groups happy.

Mr. DuFour indicated that someone in the Law Enforcement Division assisted with the hunter's safety program; he did a good job and he would like him back in a couple of months. **Sgt. Shann** stated he will gladly provide assistance.

Chair Pershinske stated that he spoke with Ms. Welling about an issue that is heard about often; too many wolves, not enough deer, fish good here, fish not good there. The issue is concerning credibility with the DNR. One goal the CAC is charged with is to assist the DNR with this. He asked Council Members to personally think of their stakeholder group and themselves as citizens and bring concerns and ideas on how to change this image to the next meeting. He said he doesn't know where the lack of trust comes from and it is time that this Council interacts with that issue. He doesn't like to hear the negative comments.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm EST.