

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2013**  
**6:30-8:30pm EST**  
**Comfort Inn, Newberry, MI**

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*Chair: Dick Pershinske Vice-Chair: Glenn Moll Secretary: Tom Buckingham*

**Council Members Present**

Phil Dennis	Bernie Hubbard
Jim Duke	Michael Lawless
Gary Ellenwood	Glenn Moll
Al Garavaglia	Dick Pershinske
Ginny Giddings	Chad Radka
Gary Gorniak	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Bill Becks	Jim Hoy
Tom Buckingham	Mike Patrick
Jason Garvon	Richard Serfass
Tim Hass	Jim Shutt

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

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
Greg Andrews, Special Projects, Marquette  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement, Newberry  
Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations, Newberry  
Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming  
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Jon Spieles, Acting U.P. Regional Coordinator, Newberry  
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Marquette

**Special Guests**

DNR Director Keith Creagh, Lansing  
DNR Deputy Director Bill Moritz, Lansing  
Sigurd Utych, NRC Youth Conservation Council Member, Newberry

**Call To Order**

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:32pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. Introductions of Council members were made.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Duke motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Lawless seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Garvon, Mr. Hass, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Serfass, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

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

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the June 20<sup>th</sup> EUPCAC minutes; none were raised. **Mr. Lawless motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Ellenwood seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Garvon, Mr. Hass, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Serfass, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** provided a history of the Eastern U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council, summarizing the relationship between the Council and the DNR as supportive and trusting. He complimented the staff in providing the information the Council needs. The Council has submitted several recommendations during its 4 ½ years of existence. One area of improvement for the Council will be to seek more input from citizens in the eastern U.P. He stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve as chair of the EUPCAC and he and the Council look forward to providing the DNR assistance on future topics.

**Mr. Spieles** introduced Mr. Sigurd Utych, a 17-year old Newberry resident who is a member of the NRC Youth Conservation Council. **Mr. Utych** stated he is one of 18 youth commissioner council members. The first meeting involved teambuilding and compiling a list of ideas on how to get youth involved in the outdoors. He stated the participation of youth in outdoor activities went from 91% in 1991 to 46% due to the birth of electronic devices. The three main ideas compiled were to create a competition style of how many parks visited in a year with a winner chosen, create a magazine in which the youth council will write articles in a "made by kids for kids" fashion, and utilize social media to get in contact with kids. He stated he would be available after the meeting for additional information about the youth council.

**Mr. Spieles** also introduced Deputy Director Bill Moritz and Director Keith Creagh. **Mr. Spieles** stated he spent the last 4 or so days with Director Creagh traveling around the U.P. attending various functions, including trail dedications in Ironwood and Negaunee, and a Natural Resources Trust Fund dedication at Brockway Mountain. It was a fantastic experience and it was an honor to see an agency director so well respected and well spoken.

### **DNR Director Creagh's Comments**

**Director Creagh** stated he looks good because he has great staff. He has been a Director for only 13 months and he thanks everyone for all of their work. He has reviewed the EUPCAC's past resolutions and the Council was an early thought leader on the license restructuring. He provided a brief overview of the status of the license fee package in the legislature. The reason this package is successful is because of the stakeholders. He further explained uses for the increased revenue, including funding for additional "boots on the ground", conservation officers, fire support/suppression. Also, increases were received for ORV licenses and trail improvements. In a little over a year, the budget has been stabilized, \$21 million was received for dredging, license restructuring occurred, and a land plan and strategy was developed. He stated wherever he travels in the state, people say they can't be successful without having a DNR employee in the room, but yet he hears that people don't like the DNR. Employees do good work. The push for making decisions downward to get things accomplished is happening. The wolf legislation passed twice and scientific game management, allowing the NRC to name a game species occurred. A

timber summit was held. A recreation summit of sorts was held to get alignment. Getting youth involved. Part of the license fee package is a \$1 surcharge to the base license to run a program similar to Colorado to do natural resources marketing and outreach in Michigan. The summer youth employment initiative together with the civilian conservation core enables young adults to spend time in the outdoors and solving natural resource issues. More time needs to be focused on invasive species and the Council's help will be needed with this as the DNR needs to be more proactive. The Governor talked a lot about land based industries this week. The trailhead in Ironwood is real important. Visited Orvana to talk to them about environmental impact and mining, visited the Victoria Dam, had forestry conversations, economics, the monetary impact of boating. Through groups like the Council, the DNR can get it right. The Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Quality (Quality of Life Group) conducted a strategy session at the senior management level. What is done in this room is critical and the DNR looks to be good partners with the Council. **Chair Pershinske** reciprocated stated when issues come along, the Council will be glad to review them.

### **Reports**

1. **Jon Spieles, Acting UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mr. Spieles** stated he did not have any additions to his written report.
  - **Graymont Proposal Status:** **Mr. Spieles** stated that Graymont received a use permit to do exploratory experiments in an area called 44 North in the eastern U.P. They then put forth a proposal to acquire the rights to do limestone mining. Graymont is the largest limestone producer in America. The proposal came to the DNR a few weeks ago and the DNR is in the process of a review and drafting a response.
    - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked how many acres were involved and how much of this property would not be available to the public for recreation. **Mr. Spieles** replied 10,000 acres, 12 square miles. The proposal calls for an above-ground operation, however, most of it will be underground. The proposal also indicates the vast majority of those acres would remain accessible.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked how much involvement does the township have in this project. **Mr. Spieles** indicated any land transaction will go through the local government, and the DNR will work with the local government in this case as well. It is very early in the process however. Recreation opportunities will definitely be taken into consideration.
    - **Mr. Garavaglia** stated his township was approached by Graymont back in November, but at that time, they were only looking at 5,000 acres. Graymont mentioned to them that most of the land would be accessible, however, there would be an 800 acre buffer zone for the working area.
2. **DNR Division Reports:** Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on August 8, 2013. The following are current updates or comments.
  - **Tom Paquin, Parks and Recreation:** **Mr. Paquin** provided an update on the following:
    - Naubinway Marina Project: \$315,000 was allocated for emergency dredging. Once permits are received, it will take a couple of months for bids, then the contract will be awarded. It will be early winter or spring before it's dredged.

- Conley Point Boating Access Site: Work is slated for September. This area is one of the highest priorities for waterways in the eastern U.P. district.
- Little Lake Harbor: Dredging will occur in September and the harbor will be open by the end of September.
- Manistique Paper Article Clarification: 7% of the Recreation Passport revenue, after the Secretary of State gets their portion, goes to the forest recreation program. This includes operating, monitoring, and capital improvements. In addition, \$120,000 is allocated for short-term workers to run the program. It is not taking revenue from the state parks.
- Straits State Park: Funding was allocated for new shower buildings with construction starting next spring.
- East Fox River Campground: The Hemingway Plaque Dedication was held at the campground this week and went very well.
- Brimley State Park: In regards to the beach always being closed due to water quality, very limited leaks found in the park are being fixed. The local health department determined the issue with water quality is not affiliated with the DNR.
- DeTour Harbor: Issues with surge protection are being taken care of.
- Father Marquette Museum: An input session was held with 40 attendees on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Another meeting will be held in November to keep things moving forward.
- A Waterways Commission meeting will be held in St. Ignace next Friday.
  - **Mr. Gorniak** asked if there was an update on the Pine River Launch. **Mr. Paquin** stated it is second on the list behind Conely Point, however, the timeframe is not yet known.
  - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked about the summary in the NRC notes from the Blue Ribbon Parks Committee which recommended a hike in park fees. He stated the system has been put on the campers, but a lot of money is received from the passport fees. Fees are pretty high compared with city and county parks. **Mr. Paquin** stated he will take this information into consideration.
- Greg Andrews, Special Projects: **Mr. Andrews** stated he is working on an initiative to initiate partnerships with stakeholder groups to offer veterans recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, canoeing, and guided services. Other initiatives he is working on with Mr. Minzey are a fishing heritage trail and grouse management trail. These will link into local economies.
  - **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if he has looked into the local Wilwin resort for veterans; **Mr. Andrews** stated he will check into it. **Mr. Utych** stated a friend of his is working with the American Legion on a disabled vets retreat center in the east U.P. and it may be Camp Wilwin as well.
  - **Mr. Duke** stated his group had their 11<sup>th</sup> year of offering a free veterans' snowmobile ride from Seney. They started out with 16 veterans in the first year to over 277 people this year; 185 rode snowmobiles and the rest were in vehicles or stayed back to help with cooking. The work with both active military and veterans. **Mr. Andrews** stated he will talk with him more after the meeting.
- Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement: **Lt. Hagy** stated it has been a very busy summer. Officers are teaching safety classes and set up a recruiting booth at the UP State Fair this year in the

DNR Pocket Park. The Pocket Park is very shorthanded, so if anyone can volunteer some time, please do so. With fall on the horizon, bear baits are all over the place. There was also an illegal wolf kill this week and other violations are starting to increase.

- Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations: **Mrs. Hammill** stated she did not have any additions to her report. The new hunting digests are in with a new layout.
- Bill Moritz, Deputy Director: **Mr. Moritz** stated it has been a very busy time. Mr. Minzey will provide an update on wolves, it's been a busy year in the parks, and it is good to see the uptick in the economy from using the outdoors.
- Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources: **Mr. Stampfly** noted he did not have any additions to his report.
  - Communication Between DNR & Other Land Managers: **Mr. Stampfly** responded to a question at the last EUPCAC meeting regarding how the DNR cooperates with other land managers, such as the federal forests, etc. In the eastern U.P. for example, DNR staff are invited to open houses, coordinate burning and using specialized equipment, coordinate with the forest service on snowmobile trails and some ORV trails. Meetings are held with the district and grant sponsor of a program to work out logistics, trail maintenance, etc. The fire program collaborates nationally on fires. There was group started on the eastern end of the U.P. that met regularly across all levels to discuss general management issues, future plans, common issues, etc. It just recently got back together and the group may expand more in the future.
    - **Mr. Garavaglia** thanked Mr. Stampfly and Director Creagh from a township perspective for coming to Mackinac County to talk about land management and also working out previous issues with a park. He stated 87% of land in Hudson Township (in Mackinac County) is state land; they are big partners and he appreciates the help.
    - **Mr. Hubbard** stated he was at a meeting where a representative from the Nature Conservancy was present and asked why the group doesn't meet. **Mr. Stampfly** stated there is potential to bring it back together as private industry was involved as well. He stated he would like to gain some insight on how the process worked previously from Mr. Hubbard.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked about the reference in the division report to 650 acres of red pine release work. **Mr. Stampfly** stated after planting red pine, there is additional vegetation on the ground that can compete with the red pine, so they apply an herbicide to knock the brush back to allow the red pine to grow.
    - **Mr. Radka** asked about land with no bid in the Gaylord district. **Mr. Stampfly** indicated he wasn't aware of it and explained how the process works.
- Terry Minzey, Wildlife: **Mr. Minzey** provided the following updates:
  - The Wildlife Division also collaborates with other land managers, such as the Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forest partnerships with the grouse enhancement management system. Also there are partnerships with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the National Turkey Wildlife Federation to assess all the aspen on the Ottawa National Forest. They are also looking at how to pull funding over to do habitat management on state land.

- The division's recent budgeting process has allowed for \$50,000 to provide the Hunter Access Program in Chippewa and Mackinac Counties, where the DNR will pay private landowners to give hunters access to their land for sharp tail grouse hunting.
  - An update on a temporary solution for the Cranberry Lake flooding problem was provided. There will be a temporary disruption of trails in that area through to next spring or summer as a result of a bridge removal.
  - In the Rudyard area, there was a report of 9 beagles killed by wolves. Information being received by the owner of the dogs (from Ohio) is conflicting. They are in the process of investigating the situation.
  - On St. Martin's Island, the island is being sold to the Nature Conservancy. The Wildlife Division will be working with owners to substantially reduce deer numbers on the island before the sale is final. Deer numbers are very high and are a danger to the bird population there.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked how many wolves are collared in the U.P. **Mr. Minzey** replied they collared 15 wolves this year, for a total of 40 in the U.P. There is only 1 wolf collared in the eastern U.P.
    - **Mr. Radka** asked about the grouse enhancement project. **Mr. Minzey** stated he asked each biologist across the U.P. to identify one area that would be intensely managed for walk-in grouse management. The Strickler Grouse Management Area is a prototype. There are 10 areas that have been identified in the U.P. They are now working on a system of partners and sponsors, and tying it into local economies for a land-based program. It also provides opportunities for Wheelin' Sportsmen and Wounded Warriors.
- **Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Scott** stated he did not have any additions to the Fisheries written report.

### **Old Business**

1. **New Revenue Update (Proposed License Fee Package):** **Mr. Spieles** indicated that the Director covered this topic in his earlier comments.
2. **Limited UP Wolf Hunting Season Update:** **Mr. Minzey** distributed a copy of the new Wolf Hunting Digest to the Council members. He stated as of right now, there will be wolf hunt, starting November 15 through December 21 in three U.P. zones. The sale of the licenses were delayed a bit to make sure all systems are ready for the sale, which is on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon EST. The HSUS is currently filing a petition.
  - **Mr. Garavaglia** asked for clarification of the boundaries in Unit C; **Mr. Minzey** will confirm with him after the meeting.
  - **Mr. Duke** asked if detailed zone maps are available; **Mr. Minzey** indicated they are in the hunting digest. **Mr. Duke** also stated his concern with snowmobile season starting December 1 and the trails running through Units A & B. **Mr. Minzey** stated that it is assumed that most animals will be harvested during deer season.
3. **U.P. Deer Advisory Team Update (UPDAT):** **Mr. Minzey** stated he will provide the report in Mr. Buckingham's absence. A meeting was held in June in which 6 different proposals on buck

harvest and APR's were being considered. The final vote resulted in a status quo. The goal was to advance more bucks to the 2 ½ year old age class. When the data was analyzed, it suggested there are more bucks in that age class right now under the current year rules, the most since the 1950's. Once this was understood, the group relaxed. Other discussion at the June meeting was whether to have open houses. The group agreed they would like the Wildlife Division to present the recommendations, but there was a wide variance on how many meetings should occur. As a result, the group did not come to a consensus. They asked to have Bill Scullon provide a presentation on private land partnerships at a future meeting. The deer survey showed harvest up about 20%. Future topics for the group was the regional state forest management plan, purchased lands, deer wintering complexes in the U.P., partnership initiatives, private land topics, and the QFP program. **Chair Pershinske** asked when the APR recommendation will be going to the NRC; **Mr. Minzey** stated it would be recommended for 2014, because the group decided status quo. When the license fee package is approved, there will be a new conversation.

4. Forestry Subcommittee Report: **Mr. Moll** introduced Mr. Bill Cook from the MSU Extension who will provide the second in a series of educational presentations on behalf of the Forestry Subcommittee. This session is on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA). Mr. Cook covered the following slides:
- Foresters go out in the woods and collect data. Inventories get better with technology.
  - Several agencies go out and get inventory data: US Forest Service, State of Michigan, corporate owners, smaller forest owners, research groups. Lot of inventory, lots of ownerships.
  - FIA datasets. 10,500-11,000 forested field plots, 10% re-measured each year, statistical error margins, subsets of plots increase error margins.
  - Lots of terms and definitions that can be confusing: cords, cubic feet, tonnes, tons, MBF, etc.
  - Examples of what these types of inventories can show were provided. Periodic measurements, annualized measurements, forest ownership in Michigan.
  - Stocking, growth, mortality, and removals: Divided by ownership groups. Corporate land is a little higher for growth. Most of the productive soils are in private ownership. State and federal ownership has lands with low productivity. Under mortality, there is a lot less than growth. Federal ownership higher here. Under removals, most of it is harvest.
  - Some ways that data can be used was explained. Data can easily be misapplied and misused.
  - It is real important to understand the difference between inventory (what's growing out there) versus availability (what might be purchased).
  - An example of how to use FIA data was explained. Ownership pie charts in zones were shown.
  - Inventory tools help describe this resource better for us so that society, legislature, etc. and we as resource managers can respond to those demands or questions. FIA figures seen in brochures are typically federal FIA data. Won't often see FIA numbers generated by a club or the State of Michigan.

- Mr. Utych asked when surveys are done, and going to a particular plot area, is there a time that the same trees are used. Mr. Cook replied yes and explained that many times the same plot and same trees are measured. He also stated that FIA data can be accessed online at any time, but one has to have a lot of background knowledge on how to use the data as it can be easily misinterpreted.

Mr. Moll stated that the next educational session planned for the October meeting will be social issues.

### **New Business**

1. **Recreation Passport Program**: A summary of the marketing conducted for the Recreation Passport Program was included in the meeting packets. **Chair Pershinske** asked what kind of communication has been sent out so that articles like the one in the Manistique paper doesn't occur. **Mr. Paquin** stated how the funding is spent is on the DNR website and available to the public at any time. **Mr. Moll** thinks it is an excellent system and it will gain momentum. **Mr. Paquin** stated it is hoped an opt-in/opt-out option will be available soon.
2. **Council Evaluation**: **Chair Pershinske** stated a Council evaluation form was included in the meeting packets. He asked Council members to complete it and provide honest comments. The form should be returned to Mrs. Dahlstrom by the end of August. A summary will be provided before the next meeting. **Mr. Ellenwood** asked for a .pdf version to be emailed to the Council; Mrs. Dahlstrom will forward the file as soon as possible.

### **Next Meeting**

1. **Next Meeting Date**: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Newberry.
2. **Topics for Next Agenda**: **Chair Pershinske** stated Mr. Minzey has a wildlife biologist attending various sportman's group meetings and he thinks it would be a good approach for this Council. If there is a sportsman's group meeting, possibly a Council member could attend, pick up some ideas and/or concerns from them, and bring them back to the Council. **Mr. Minzey** stated that he is referring to the Sportsman's Coalition Meetings held by the Wildlife Division, in which each sportman's club sends a representative to meet together. **Chair Pershinske** noted it would be nice to have a Council member attend. **Mr. Minzey** stated Council members are welcome to attend and if interested, contact the local biologist to get on the meeting email listing. **Chair Pershinske** stated this topic can be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Stephen King spoke to the Naubinway marina project mentioned earlier. He stated, once again, he questions doing something temporary and not doing something more permanent. Mr. Paquin responded the township has hired a consultant to remodel the entire breakwall.

### **Closing Comments from the Council**

- **Chair Pershinske** stated that he had an opportunity to have dinner with the Director this evening and he doesn't think he's seen a more positive timeframe in the current environment in a long time. All three departments, the DNR, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Environmental Quality, and the Governor are all in sync.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm EST.

Approved 10/17/13