

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 20, 2013**  
**6:30-8:30pm EST**  
**LMAS District Health Department, Newberry, MI**

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

**Council Members Present**

Tom Buckingham	Bernie Hubbard
Phil Dennis	Michael Lawless
Jim Duke	Glenn Moll
Gary Ellenwood	Mike Patrick
Al Garavaglia	Dick Pershinske
Ginny Giddings	Chad Radka
Gary Gorniak	Richard Serfass
Tim Hass	Jim Shutt
Jim Hoy	Sara Wall

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Bill Becks	Jason Garvon
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**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons**

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, 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

**Call To Order**

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30pm 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. Buckingham** motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; **Mr. Duke** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Garvon. Motion carried.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the April 18<sup>th</sup> EUPCAC minutes, as well as the March 18<sup>th</sup> Joint UPCAC minutes; none were raised. **Mr. Lawless** motioned to approve both meeting minutes as submitted; **Mr. Buckingham** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Becks, Mr. Garvon. Motion carried.**

### Chair Comments

**Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for their efforts towards the proposed wolf hunt. It shows what can be accomplished collectively as a group.

### Public Comments

There were no public comments brought forward.

### Reports

1. Jon Spieles, Acting UP Regional Coordinator: **Mr. Spieles** added a few updates to his written report.
  - He welcomed Mr. Dan Blough from Congressman Benishek's office.
  - He highlighted the discussion that occurred at the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>, including the proposed wolf hunt, budget update, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) in Lake Ontario, waterfowl recommendations for an earlier U.P. goose opener (Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>), approval of antler point restrictions in the lower peninsula, youth conservation council update (2 from the U.P.), and Globe building plans.
    - **Mr. Moll** indicated that Senate Bill 50 passed yesterday in the Senate and is awaiting signature. **Mr. Spieles** explained the legislative summary on the bill, which includes a free OHV weekend. **Mr. Moll** clarified that OHV use on M-road shoulders and crossings are included in House Bill 4284.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked where the 2 U.P. representatives on the NRC's Youth Conservation Council are from. **Mr. Spieles** indicated Alger & Luce County. **Chair Pershinske** suggested the youth from Luce County be invited to future Council meetings. It was explained that the youth attended the first conservation council meeting in person (with parents) and will use online venues such as Skype to attend future meetings.
    - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked about enforcement of the recreation passport at state forest campgrounds and boating access sites. **Mr. Paquin** stated they are utilizing short-term workers to monitor those sites and issue tickets if necessary; it has been working well so far. **Mr. Ellenwood** stated he doesn't see the percentage of recreation passport purchases going up; **Mr. Paquin** agreed. Discussion ensued in what seems like a drop in advertising of the passport. **Mr. Paquin** stated it is mentioned as much as possible. **Mr. Spieles** stated there is a marketing plan for it; it's not as much as we would hope, but it's what can be afforded. Most advertising right now is through electronic mechanisms and should be gearing up now that it's early summer. He noted the recreation passport program and marketing plan can be a future agenda topic; **Chair Pershinske** agreed as the Council members can help to promote it if they know more about it. **Mr. Duke** mentioned he has the passport and although he hasn't used it at a state park, it has more than paid for itself in all the perks (discounts) he's been able to take advantage of as a passport holder.
    - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked how the summer youth employment initiative is being funded; **Mr. Spieles** indicated it was a general fund appropriation.

2. DNR Division Reports: Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on June 13, 2013. The following are current updates or comments.
  - Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations: **Mrs. Hammill** stated the Retail Sales System (RSS) system was upgraded today and it went smoothly with no problems. Communication with the license agents was good. The improvements allow for a quicker process when buying licenses.
  - Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement: **Lt. Hagy** stated officers have been busy in the field. In addition to regular enforcement duties, they have also participated in several fishing contests and ORV programs for kids. He reminded everyone not to bring wild animals into the home. He also noted he is glad the license package is moving forward to allow for more new officers.
  - Tom Paquin, Parks and Recreation: **Mr. Paquin** introduced himself as the new Eastern UP District Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Division. He stated, in regards to the Naubinway Marina, engineering of the breakwall was done and the contract was awarded; however, the project was put on hold for emergency dredging projects. The marina will continue to be dredged as it's a requirement for all harbors of refuge, and for safety purposes. **Chair Pershinske** stated the item will be kept on future agendas for updates since the community is passionate about the project. **Mr. Ellenwood** congratulated the Parks staff for a good job on the new facility at the Detour harbor.
  - Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources: **Mr. Stampfly** noted that a year ago during the Duck Lake Fire, Wisconsin sent crews to help fight the fire. This year, the favor was repaid as crews from the U.P. were sent to help with Wisconsin fires. Wisconsin DNR sent a nice letter of thanks to Director Creagh.
  - Steve Scott, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Scott** stated he did not have any additions to the written report.
  - Terry Minzey, Wildlife: **Mr. Minzey** added the grouse and woodcock spring survey results are completed and show slight declines, which is partially related to the cold wet spring. Fall populations will be reviewed for impacts on reproduction.

### **Old Business**

1. Budget Update (New Revenue): **Mr. Spieles** indicated the following slides were shared at the June NRC meeting by Sharon Schafer, Chief of the Finance & Operations Division and are available as a link on the NRC website.
  - New Funding: The omnibus budget package which passed two weeks ago gives the DNR the authority to spend the money it doesn't yet have approval to collect (the license fee increase package). A total of \$21.9 million in new revenue comes from several sources: hunting and license fee bill, the ORV bill, and a general fund increase (for conservation officers, wildfire protection and Belle Isle operation).
  - New Funding by Division: From those sources, this chart shows the appropriations for each division. For example, the Law Enforcement Division will receive a one-time appropriation for a new conservation officer recruit academy.
  - Game & Fish Funding by Division: This chart shows how game and fish funding is delineated between divisions. A shaded section for each division includes how the new revenue will tie in.

- Major Funding Sources: Over 90% of the DNR's budget is funded through restricted funds, meaning funding can only be used for a specific purpose. Only 8% of the DNR budget is funded by the general fund.
  - Funding by Division: This chart shows a divisional breakdown of the DNR's entire budget (appropriations). When the new funding bills pass, \$11.4 million in new revenue will be received this year (not a full year). Next year, it will bump up to \$19 million to reflect a full year. The difference from \$21.9 million is the one-time appropriation for the conservation officer academy.
  - General Fund – Statewide: This chart shows how the DNR fits into the state's entire general fund budget of \$9.4 billion. The DNR receives 0.3% of the entire general fund budget.
    - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked if the ORV bill funding is going to the Forest Resources Division; **Mr. Spieles** stated he will obtain clarification and send a response. Funding for trail development is in the Parks and Recreation Division. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that new revenue for the Forest Resources Division is coming from the game and fish funding for wildlife habitat.
    - **Chair Pershinske** asked how the DNR will advise the public on the new funding and how each division will spend those funds. **Mr. Spieles** stated this information was provided at the Joint UPCAC meeting during the license fee package presentation. The slides in the meeting packets are a good reference. He stated there will be measures and reports on those measures provided for review to help show the public what they are receiving for their money. **Chair Pershinske** indicated it may be helpful to feature one of the major sections of the funding at a time at future meetings, as it is important for the Council and the public to understand what the new funding will do; **Mr. Spieles** agreed.
    - **Mr. Minzey** indicated since the Joint UPCAC meeting, a change in the package brought more general fund money for conservation officers, thereby shifting some of the game and fish funding to the Wildlife Division. This will not be reflected in the March joint meeting handouts. He mentioned that although the DNR will be receiving new funding, the budget will still not be where it was 5 years ago.
    - **Mr. Serfass** asked where the \$1.5 million in the wolf bill will go. **Mr. Minzey** stated that the appropriations in the wolf bill were removed. Discussion ensued regarding the referendum.
2. Wolf Bill Update: **Mr. Minzey** provided an update on two wolf matters:
- Atlantic Mine Dog Depredations: **Mr. Minzey** explained the recent depredations involving three dogs. A newfoundland, an 18-year old sled dog and another dog were attacked and killed by wolves. A total of four wolves were subsequently killed, all part of the same pack. **Mr. Buckingham** asked about the size of the wolves; **Mr. Minzey** stated the wolves were estimated to be in the 80-85 pound range, which is average.
  - Limited U.P. Wolf Hunt/Bill: **Mr. Minzey** explained the timeline involving the limited wolf hunt. In December 2012, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 580, which named the wolf a game species. At the May NRC meeting, a limited wolf hunting season was approved. However, shortly after that meeting, the referendum, which received enough signatures to put it on the ballot in 2014, was approved and it halted any further action on a hunt. Later

in May, Public Act 21 was signed into law, giving the NRC the authority to name game species. This Act is not subject to the previous referendum. Two wildlife orders were then presented to the NRC for information only in June. The first order names all game species in Michigan and includes the wolf. The NRC will take action on this order in July. The second order establishes a limited U.P. wolf hunting season, for information only in June. From May until June, there was a re-consideration on aspects of the hunt, and that order will go forward with the changes for action in July. The proposed hunt no longer includes trapping on public or private land, but it can be considered on a case-by-case basis. The justification in the change is the need to be conservative in the number of wolves taken.

- **Chair Pershinske** asked if there has been any feedback from the trapping association. **Mr. Minzey** replied yes, it was not favorable. **Mr. Garavaglia** indicated he received a phone call from a furbearer and he was upset.
- **Mr. Duke** mentioned a YouTube video in which a gray wolf was chasing a motorcyclist.
- **Mr. Serfass** asked if there was a rescheduled date for the U.P. Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT) meeting. **Mr. Minzey** indicated July 13 with no formal location determined. A notice will be sent soon.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked how the 1,200 licenses for the wolf hunt will be sold. **Mrs. Hammill** stated any of the DNR licensed agents and offices in the state will sell the licenses and they will also be available online. There is no lottery; they will be sold on a first come first serve basis. As of right now, the licenses will go on sale Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon Eastern time, 11:00 am Central time. The licenses are valid for any of the three management units in the U.P. The license cost is \$100 for residents and \$500 for non-residents. The cost for disabled veterans and military members is free, and there are no apprentice licenses available for this hunt. Logistics and having the wolf hunt during deer season may limit public interest. **Chair Pershinske** is concerned licenses will be purchased and then not used. **Mr. Minzey** indicated this same concern was with bear licenses, but it didn't occur. Those purchasing a wolf hunting license will need to have had hunter's safety or have purchased a license before. When the wolf hunting digest is prepared, it will have all the information on the three management areas.
- **Mr. Hoy** asked how the DNR declared a quota of 43 wolves. **Mr. Minzey** stated the number was calculated based on research on the number of animals that can be removed by human activity and cause a reduction in the population. The DNR is looking to stabilize the population in the three management units, which have the most conflict. Peer reviewed literature was consulted.
- **Chair Pershinske** stated the wolf management plan that has been approved and put in place is seen as one of the best in the nation. **Mr. Minzey** indicated a summary of the plan may be put in the wolf hunting digest as well.

3. U.P. Deer Advisory Team Update (UPDAT): **Mr. Buckingham** stated there is no report as the June meeting was rescheduled to July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Dan Blough**, from Congressman Benishek's office, noted that House Bill 1825 is the recreational fishing and hunting and recreational heritage bill and directs managers of hunting,

fishing, and recreational activities, including ORV use, on federal land. It is sponsored by Congressman Benishek and has passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation. **Mr. Duke** indicated he is looking forward to having hunting and snowmobiling continue in the Huron Manistee Federal Forest, as a result of a local lawsuit.

### **New Business**

1. **Forestry Subcommittee Report:** Mr. Moll introduced Mr. Bill Cook from the MSU Extension who is here on behalf of the Forestry Subcommittee to provide a presentation on Silviculture. Mr. Cook covered the following slides:
  - Forest Management Systems: The overall goal of forest management is to economically produce a regular and continuing supply of desired goods and services without damaging the land capacity. Forest management uses Silviculture as a tool to reach management goals.
  - Myths about Forests and Forest Management
  - The definition of Silviculture is “the art and science of reproducing and growing trees and forests in a sustainable manner based on principles of forest ecology for the benefit of society”.
  - A Silviculture system is a series of forestry practices using natural strategies designed to regenerate specific forest types according to landowner objectives. A system will accomplish the first two objectives with the third applying to the selection system: 1) produces products and services for use by society; 2) regenerates trees and forests; and 3) with the right selection system, will improve tree quality.
  - Succession is constant. There are three key elements in Silviculture. Succession is one of them. Important dynamic and forest ecology, and subsequently, forest management are the remaining two.
  - Disturbance is often seen as a bad thing, however, forests are designed to recover from disturbances; they are essential.
  - Natural regeneration works better than planting.
  - Three systems of Silviculture include clearcutting, shelterwood, and selection, which is the most commonly used system in Michigan and the most abused system in Michigan.
  - A slide showing a Harvest System Contrast between clearcutting and selection describing the difference in factors (shade tolerance, succession stage, harvest cost, game habitat, etc.) between the two systems was shown.
  - Intermediate Treatments can be considered as nearly any forestry practice not connected with regeneration or harvest. These include Timber Stand Improvement (TSI); weeding, cleaning, and release; salvage and sanitation cutting; protection; pruning.
  - Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) is intended to improve the quality of a timber stand. It is all based on science.
  - A slide showing a million cubic meters of salvage cut logs after a huge wind event in Sweden was shown depicting the following statistics: Michigan grows ~26 times this much wood each year; ~50 million gallons of ethanol, electricity for ~half million homes; half of a wood supply for Mascoma; 37% of NewPage consumption; and 1.4 Potlatch mills.

- **Mr. Cook** was asked if he works with the DNR on their forests. **Mr. Cook** replied he receives several calls from the DNR for private land owner questions. The DNR also sends staff to their educational conferences.
  - **Mr. Moll** discussed the Harvest System Contract slide in reference to aspen. He thanked Mr. Cook for his time and presentation.
  - **Mr. Moll** indicated that the Forestry Subcommittee will go over statistics and the Forestry Inventory Analysis (FIA) at the August meeting. At the October meeting, the subcommittee will review financial statistics. In December, the social factors will be presented. The goal of the subcommittee is to educate the Council on forest management and provide basic information and science.
2. Council Evaluation: **Chair Pershinske** stated he did not have a chance to prepare a document for review; however, he will do so for the next meeting. If any Council members would like to have input, please let him know. The document will be an effort to evaluate the Council from within.
  3. Promotion of Council Meetings: **Chair Pershinske** stated it was discussed at the last meeting the potential to change a few of the meetings to a different location, such as Sault Ste. Marie or St. Ignace. At the December meeting, when 2014 meeting dates are being decided upon, suggestions for locations can be decided at that time. In addition, **Mr. Spieles** noted the Council noted the need for more public participation at meetings and asked how meetings were advertised. Press releases are emailed through two email systems: the GovDelivery system which includes media and others who self-subscribe and a listing specific to media. Through GovDelivery, 3,409 people receive the meeting press release and 44 receive it through the U.P. media-specific listing. Promotion of the meetings via press releases is at the discretion of the media source; they can choose to run it or not. It was also noted that the best promotion is by Council members and their respective stakeholder groups.

### **Next Meeting**

1. Next Meeting Date: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Newberry.
2. Topics for Next Agenda: **Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any topics for the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Ellenwood stated he will provide some topic suggestions before the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

- Pat Wright from the Chippewa County SORVA was present to provide an update on the ORV trails being proposed by the group. She visited the EUPCAC back in February to provide an initial report on two trails; however, there are now three trails being proposed that will connect Hulbert, Strongs, Brimley and Trout Lake. The group wants to be able to sign these trails and have a map made; however, the funding for a survey and maps is not coming through right now. She also discussed areas that cannot be traveled because bridges cannot be crossed; **Mr. Paquin** stated funding was allocated for a bridge to Brimley. Ms. Wright stated the group is making progress.

Closing Comments from the Council

- **Mr. Hass** mentioned there are two long distance hikers in the U.P. traveling on the proposed Belle Isle to Wisconsin route, the first to do so.
- **Mr. Serfass** noted the Michigan Forest Association meeting coming up on August 16 & 17 in the Coldwater, MI area.
- **Mr. Moll** clarified the bills he mentioned earlier; Senate Bill 50 which includes the free OHV weekend, Bill 4284 involves MDOT, and Bill 4288 passed which allows county commissions to open county roads to OHV riders.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm EST.

Approved 8/15/13