

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2013**  
**6:30-8:30pm EST**  
**Comfort Inn, Newberry, MI**

---

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

**Council Members Present**

Tom Buckingham	Tim Hass
Phil Dennis	Jim Hoy
Jim Duke	Bernie Hubbard
Gary Ellenwood	Michael Lawless
Al Garavaglia	Glenn Moll
Ginny Giddings	Dick Pershinske
Gary Gorniak	Chad Radka
Dennis Gorsuch (sub for Jim Shutt)	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Jason Garvon	Jim Shutt
Richard Serfass	

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

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
Greg Andrews, Special Projects, Marquette  
Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations, Newberry  
Stacy Welling Haughey, U.P. Regional Coordinator, Marquette  
Craig Krepps, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Keith Magnusson, Forest Resources Division, Marquette  
Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Division, Newberry  
Jon Spieles, Marking & Outreach Division, Newberry

**Special Guests**

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 6:30pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. Introductions of Council members were made. **Chair Pershinske** welcomed Mrs. Welling Haughey back, and welcomed Lake Superior State University students in attendance. Thanks was given to Mr. Spieles for doing an excellent job in Mrs. Welling Haughey's absence.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. **Mr. Moll** asked if the Forestry presentation could be moved up to accommodate the speaker. **Chair Pershinske** moved the item after Division Reports. **Mr. Ellenwood motioned to adopt the agenda as**

**amended; Mr. Hass seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Garvon, Mr. Serfass, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

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

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the August 15<sup>th</sup> EUPCAC minutes. **Mr. Garavaglia** noted on page 5, it states 87% of land in Mackinac County is state land; it should be 87% of Hudson Township is state land. **Mr. Duke motioned to approve the minutes with the noted correction; Mr. Gorniak seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Garvon, Mr. Serfass, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** stated he has been answering several emails and phone calls regarding the upcoming wolf hunt. There is a lot of interest in people coming north from the lower peninsula. In addition, he will be interviewed by Channels 9 & 10 later this month, as a representative of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the DNR's Wolf Advisory Council, and as a contact with local farmers in his area, to talk about the wolf situation.

### **Public Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for public comments; none were brought forth.

### **Reports**

1. **Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated she wanted to thank Mr. Spieles and Mrs. Dahlstrom for everything they did while she was gone. She also welcomed back Mrs. Munson Badini from her leave. She thanked the Lake State Lakers for attending and asked them to introduce themselves. She encouraged them to ask questions at any time. She stated several items the Council has discussed in the past are now coming to fruition. The license sales for the wolf hunt have occurred; she was at the Marquette office on the day of the sale. The license fee package has passed; information is included in the meeting packets. The land plan update is coming out in final form and the DNR will be seeking approval from legislators. The plan addresses who and why the state is managing the land (4.6 million acres of state land) the way they are. She stated it was nice to see several East and West UPCAC members at the NRC meeting in Iron Mountain on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Mr. Ellenwood** asked for a Graymont update. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated the company is looking at 15,000 square acres for limestone mining. The proposals are going back and forth and there isn't one in final form yet. At this time, the opportunity is being explored and the proposals are being reviewed. **Mr. Ellenwood** asked if the DNR is going to sell the property to Graymont. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated at one time the proposal was to lease the property, and another proposal included purchasing the property. A final proposal has not yet been determined. When one is submitted, a thorough consideration will be made. Discussion ensued. She stated she will contact the DNR's Real Estate staff to find out the exact position on the proposal and report back to the Council. **Mr. Ellenwood** asked if the Council will get an opportunity to comment on this project; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated yes, as the land transaction process does provide a public comment component at the NRC meetings.

- **Mr. Garavaglia** stated that his township (Hudson Township) met with Graymont yesterday and Graymont has scheduled a townhall meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hudson Township Hall. It was noted this was not a DNR sponsored meeting.
  - **Chair Pershinske** asked **Mrs. Welling Haughey** to send out an update, once known, to the Council via email, since the next meeting is not until December. Discussion ensued regarding public review for land transactions. She listed the eight steps in the land transaction process and stated she will send the Council a copy of the guide.
2. DNR Division Reports: Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on October 9, 2013. The following were current updates or comments provided.
- Debbie Munson Badini, Public Information Office: **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated she handles the DNR's social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The Ask the DNR TV show is coming up soon. For those that do not get WNMU-TV13, the station posts episodes on their website after the show. **Chair Pershinske** stated the division reports are very comprehensive and asked how much of this information gets out to the average citizen and suggested possible press releases. **Mrs. Munson Badini** noted the GovDelivery system that anyone can subscribe to, which will send releases out via email as they become available. **Mr. Duke** mentioned he brings the information to his stakeholder group each time.
  - Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Division: **Ms. Sitar** stated she is attending for Mr. Minzey. She added an update to the bear harvest, stating it has improved somewhat with harvest down at about 15%.
    - **Mr. Gorniak** stated he has been receiving a lot of calls about dog/wolf conflicts, specifically in the northeast end of Lake Gogebic and in Trenary. He described the reports he's receiving. **Ms. Sitar** stated the most recent dog depredation in the eastern U.P. was in the Trout Lake area; she is not familiar with those happening in the western U.P. Discussion ensued. She indicated there is a lack in reporting these instances making it difficult for the staff to know about them. **Mr. Gorniak** stated he thinks the wolf population is growing as he does a spotlight deer survey for the DNR every year and this year the best was eight deer when previously there were 20 or more. **Ms. Sitar** stated not to attribute less deer with more wolves. Deer numbers will be down due to the extreme winter last year.
    - **Mr. Buckingham** asked about a bear consumed by a wolf. **Ms. Sitar** noted she did hear of this case.
    - **Ms. Sitar** was asked about the grouse season so far this year. She stated it is a downward cycle for grouse causing it to be down this year. However, hunters seem relatively happy about their grouse hunting so far.
    - **Mrs. Munson Badini** noted there is a map online with wolf/dog conflicts. If the wolf/dog conflict is reported and it's documented, it will be added to the map. A link to the map will be sent to Council members.
  - Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division: **Mr. Spieles** stated there were no updates to his report.
  - Craig Krepps, Parks & Recreation Division: Mr. Krepps, reporting for Mr. Paquin, stated several capital outlay projects have received funding. A little over \$2.5 million is being spent in the eastern U.P. He named several projects.

- **Chair Pershinske** asked for a follow-up report on the Naubinway project. Mr. Krepps stated the engineering is in place, however, the harbor improvement funding will not happen this fall (most likely fiscal year 2015 due to funding). The marina was dredged as part of the emergency dredging plan. The project is ongoing.
  - **Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Scott** stated he did not have any additions to the Fisheries written report.
  - **Greg Andrews, Special Projects:** **Mr. Andrews** stated he is the ADA coordinator and also works on special projects. The main project he is working on now is a program for veterans, linking up with stakeholders who want to help veterans who have disabilities enjoy recreational opportunities.
    - **Mr. Hass** stated just before the government shutdown, the National Park Service embarked on a major initiative to improve access on all trails for people with handicaps. The trail west of Munising will be a test.
3. **NRC Youth Conservation Council Member Report:** **Mr. Sigurd Utych** reported the youth council's main mission is to get kids involved in outdoor activities. One of the first tasks the council worked on was creating a blog for council members to keep them involved. It may be completed in the next month. Another project is a photo contest for kids to be able to submit items the way they see it in the outdoors. It is hoped that this will be in development by their next meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. **Mr. Utych** answered a few questions. He indicated there were 18 youths on the council with two being from the U.P. The council meets every month by phone and two meetings a year are in person. **Chair Pershinske** thanked Mr. Utych for providing the update and stated the EUPCAC appreciates his involvement.

### **Old Business**

1. **Forestry Subcommittee Report:** **Mr. Moll** introduced Mr. Bill Cook from the MSU Extension who will provide the third in a series of educational presentations on behalf of the Forestry Subcommittee. This session is on Social Issues. **Mr. Cook** covered the following slides:
- Why bother managing forests? Management gives us more stuff. Goods, environmental services, health, recreation and many other things. Three blocks of wood were shown to represent how much wood we use every day.
  - Managing forests is a critical economic driver. Figures on employment, logging, trucking, primary and secondary manufacturing were shown.
  - The average weekly compensation in different industries in the U.P. were shared. This is not what most people are interested in about forests.
  - Other things people think about with forests, not as an economic driver: to enjoy beauty, a residence or camp, privacy, hunting and fishing, nature protection/diversity, family legacy, other types of recreation, and investment.
  - How to achieve all the goods and services that forest provide? Keep forest lands intact. This is increasingly difficult due to parcelization and development, invasive species (increasingly more important today), change in human perception, benign neglect, loss of forest industry.

- Loss of forest industry, job losses compared from 2005 to 2011. How does this result in a threat from the forest? Society product demand, forest industry response, need for feedstock, forest management, more productive, healthier, more resilient forests.
- We manage forests to benefit society. People need forests.
- Visual quality is a lousy measure of forest health and diversity. Many people think that if a forest looks good, it's healthy. This is not true.
- Forest disturbance is the main ecological driver for regeneration and diversity (disturbance is our friend).
- Carbon is an up and coming ecological issue. Science clearly shows forest carbon is "positive" (a good thing) when a full LCA (assessment) is used.
- Where does carbon go (from the log)? Atmosphere, storage, replaces fossil fuels, uses less energy in processing.
- There are no raw materials more "green" than wood. A chart of carbon emissions was shown.
- It is a certainty that demands on the world's forest lands will become greater while the area available for forest production will decrease.

**Mr. Cook** opened the floor for comments.

- **Mr. Caswell** from the audience spoke about overseeing Michigan's forest products.
- **Mr. Cameron** from the audience asked for a status on beech, what the state is doing to replace it, and what big game will survive on. **Mr. Cook** stated that beech is on its way out as a resource. **Mr. Magnusson** stated they are trying to introduce oak and they are working on developing a resistant beech. **Ms. Sitar** discussed the hard mast and what the DNR is doing to work towards that.
- **Ms. Giddings** stated she is worried about the large maples that have been removed and the lack of maple seeds in the forest now and sees this as a huge loss of a food source. **Mr. Magnusson** stated they are managing to perpetuate the resource. He asked Ms. Giddings to seek him out after the meeting to answer more questions and pinpoint the location she is referring to.

**Mr. Moll** stated the next educational session planned for the December meeting will be a financial analysis on how forest management works. He will talk with Mr. Magnusson and/or Mr. Stampfly for assistance.

2. *New Revenue Update (Proposed License Fee Package)*: **Ms. Welling Haughey** referenced a handout in the meeting packets listing the new hunting, fishing, and ORV license fees that will take effect on March 1, 2014. The DNR website has a nice informative section on how the additional revenue will be used: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10363\\_14518\\_65243---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10363_14518_65243---,00.html).
3. *Limited UP Wolf Hunting Season Update*: **Chair Perhsinske** asked if there was any evidence that the licenses were purchased by non-hunters. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated that only 2% of people who purchased a license had not had a prior hunting license, but they did possess hunter's safety. A handout in the meeting packets shows a breakdown of those who had

purchased licenses, based on resident and non-resident, venues where licenses were sold, purchaser profiles (region, gender, age), hunting license history, and sales by county of residence. A total of 56% of licenses were sold to residents from the southern lower peninsula, however, when looking at general hunting license history, 73% of other licenses were purchased by residents the lower peninsula as well. There is no indication of anything different or suspicious. Only 8% of U.P. residents are license buyers, and for wolf licenses, 25% were U.P. residents. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated she will be available after the meeting for any additional questions.

➤ **Mr. Caswell** from the audience asked about trapping during the wolf hunting season. **Ms. Sitar** stated that trapping is not a legal method of harvesting a wolf during this hunt; this was a legislative decision, not the DNR's decision.

4. **Bear Harvest Update:** **Ms. Sitar** stated in years of soft and hard mast crops, bear harvest is usually down. They are not surprised in the lower harvest numbers this year. The DNR did reduce the bear quota in 2012 and kept the same this year.

➤ **Mr. Gorniak** asked how the mast crop affects bear harvest. **Ms. Sitar** explained when there is a more hardy mast crop, bears will not go to bait piles.

➤ **Mr. Cameron** from the audience asked if it's true when bears go into dens fat, then there would be 3 or 4 cubs the following year, but if they are not fat, they've been known to abort the pregnancy or have only one cub. **Ms. Sitar** stated when a sow goes into their dens, they are usually already pregnant. If they are not healthy, they may abort cubs. Any animal in good condition will be able to support as many cubs as they can.

➤ **Mr. Ellenwood** asked for an explanation of the hardy mast versus no beech. **Ms. Sitar** stated it was a great acorn year and acorns are very important to bear as well.

### **New Business**

1. **Council Membership Update:** **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated that a map in the meeting packets indicates the breakdown of the EUPCAC membership from each of the 5 eastern counties. There are currently 3 openings for the EUPCAC. She challenged each council member to recruit one person to submit an application (blank ones were provided). Keep in mind the counties and stakeholder groups already represented. There are currently no members from Schoolcraft County.

2. **Council Evaluation Summary:** **Chair Pershinske** stated a summary of the council evaluation forms that were completed is in the meeting packets. This is the first time the council has performed an evaluation of itself. There may be some ways to improve as a result of the ratings and comments. He opened the floor for discussion.

➤ **Mr. Ellenwood** stated he is glad the meeting is held in Newberry; however, it would be beneficial to move around the eastern U.P. to get more response from the public and see different faces. **Mr. Moll** stated depending on how many locations are chosen for the meetings those outside of Newberry will have to drive farther 50% of the time. **Mr. Scott** stated he does sense a positive benefit in holding meetings in outlying cities a couple times of year. **Mr. Duke** noted the Council may have to look at which is more beneficial in deciding meeting locations, more council members attending or more public attending.

**Chair Pershinske** stated the meeting schedule for 2014 will be slated for discussion at the December meeting.

- **Chair Pershinske** stated the comments mentioned too much discussion on the wolf issue. He agrees there has been a major focus from a few council members and audience members, but it's a recurring issue.
- **Mr. Gorsuch**, sitting in for Mr. Shutt, stated attending this meeting has opened his eyes to a lot of things, however, as someone who hasn't attended before, he suggested providing a short summary of the issues for those who are not familiar with the background information. He stated it's also difficult to know who each council member represents. A suggestion was offered to add the division reports to the website to share the information presented by staff with the public. It was noted that GovDelivery is another avenue to receive all sorts of DNR information and press releases. **Mr. Gorsuch** stated there is nothing in the St. Ignace news about DNR items, except wolf issues.

3. *Council Attendance at Wildlife Division's Sportsman's Coalition Meetings*: **Chair Pershinske** stated it would be helpful for council members to attend these meetings. **Mr. Gorniak** indicated he attends the Far East Sportsman's Coalition and he provides a summary about EUPCAC activities. **Ms. Sitar** stated the next coalition meeting in the eastern U.P. is on October 29<sup>th</sup>. **Chair Pershinske** stated he would like to try and get as much information out there as possible.
4. *LSSU Student Feedback*: **Chair Pershinske** offered this time for the LSSU students in attendance to ask questions. Dr. Sheri Glowinski, Assistant Professor of Biology at LSSU, thanked the Council for hosting the students and stated they will likely attend other meetings in the future.

### **Next Meeting**

1. *Next Meeting Date*: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Newberry.
2. *Topics for Next Agenda*: **Chair Pershinske** stated there are a number of follow-up items from this meeting that will be on the agenda. Meeting dates and locations for 2014 will also be slated for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

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

- Mr. Grant DeWitt from the Chippewa County SORVA spoke about trails and the ORV fees. He stated Senate Bill 50 has passed and they will be working with officials on what roads they would like to open to ORV's. There are 12 trial places ready for signing along a few corridors. They will also be working with townships and city officials to get more of M-123 available. They will work with one small area first, and then get the template to work with other SORVA groups. There are already 3 through the Hiawatha National Forest. **Mr. Paquin** stated he had a meeting with MDOT. MDOT is the lead agency on this bill, not the DNR. Connector routes will start with signs tomorrow. Paperwork is coming out, and they are moving forward fast. Maps will be provided through MDOT.

- Mr. Joe Caswell asked if four-wheelers will be allowed on groomed snowmobile trails now that they are able to use county roads. It was stated that ORV's are not allowed on groomed snowmobile trails.

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

- **Mr. Moll** discussed the recent legislation passed to open M-roads and allowing county commissions to open some or all of their roads to ORV users. Event permit requirements were also addressed in passed legislation. **Mr. Moll** also discussed use on different forest service roads. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated she will provide a summary of the legislation at the next meeting. **Mr. Moll** also stated he sent out an email earlier today with an article, "*Regulated Commercial Harvest to Manage Overabundant White-Tailed Deer: An Idea to Consider?*". He thought it was very interesting. **Chair Pershinske** and **Mr. Moll** asked if the Wildlife Division would like to comment on it at the next meeting; **Ms. Sitar** stated she will review it.
- **Mr. Hoy** asked if an updated report on the Graymont project could be provided at the next meeting; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated she will provide one prior to the December meeting. **Mr. Hoy** also asked for a report on the biodiversity issue and suggested the Council possibly take a position on it; **Mrs. Welling Haughey** will have an update at the next meeting.
- **Mr. Garavaglia** mentioned the Belle Isle to Wisconsin trail initiative. He stated the Mackinac County Commission approved a resolution for a southern route to this trail. **Mrs. Welling Haughey** stated there has been a push by one of the southern county commissioners in getting resolutions from other southern counties. The Governor's office and the NRC has told this commissioner that they will be working together and it's not a north vs. south route. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if ORV's would be allowed on this trail. **Mr. Hass** stated the North Country Trail is working with this initiative and the NCT will remain a foot trail.
- **Mr. Buckingham** mentioned a recent successful bear hunt in the Newberry area with a child who was fully disabled on a ventilator. He recognized the guide who facilitated the hunt in the audience. **Ms. Sitar** stated she checked the bear at the office and the child was very excited.
- **Mr. Dennis** stated there weren't many fingerlings out of the ponds this year and asked if it will affect the walleye fishing. **Mr. Scott** stated all the lakes were still able to be stocked with help from other ponds.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm EST.