

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 19, 2014
6:30-8:30pm EST
Manistique Community Building, Manistique, MI

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

Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich
Ivan Darling
Phil Dennis
Jim Duke
Al Garavaglia
Jason Garvon

Ginny Giddings
Gary Gorniak
Tim Hass
Jim Hoy
Bernie Hubbard
Michael Lawless

Glenn Moll
Dick Pershinske
Richard Serfass
Jim Shutt
Mark Spencer

Council Members Excused/Absent

Tom Buckingham
Gary Ellenwood

Chad Radka

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Lee Vaughn, Parks & Recreation Division, Indian Lake State Park
Stacy Welling Haughey, U.P. Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Jon Spieles, Marketing and Outreach Division, Newberry
Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:31pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. Council members introduced themselves and indicated the group they represent.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Pershinske asked if there were any revisions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Lawless** motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; **Mr. Gorniak** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Ellenwood, Mr. Radka, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the April 17, 2014 EUPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Lawless** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; **Mr. Moll** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Ellenwood, Mr. Radka, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske stated he did not have any comments to share; however, it has been a very busy time.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske invited the audience to provide comments at this time; none were brought forth. He reminded everyone he typically allows comments to come to the floor during the business portion of the meeting; however, this evening, comments will be held until the public comment period at the end of the meeting.

Reports

1. **Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Haughey** introduced herself and thanked the Manistique area and Sheila and Mark Aldrich for hosting the meeting at the community building. This is the second time in six years that the EUPCAC meeting has been held outside of Newberry. She noted the EUPCAC has its first Schoolcraft County member on the council, Mr. Keith Aldrich. Anyone interested in applying to become a member can fill out an application online. She provided an update on the following items:

- The National Trappers Association Annual Convention is coming to Escanaba July 24-27 at the UP State Fairgrounds. **Mr. Aldrich** added the event is more than a convention; hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor recreation, kayaking, etc. will be featured with over 300 vendors. All 10 buildings will have vendors in them, a live auction will be held, and a live band and dance will be held on Saturday. **Mrs. Haughey** stated she has a flyer if anyone is interested.
- She and Mr. Greg Andrews have been working with a Veteran's Partnership group, and this group is partnering with the South Shore Fishing Association to hold a veterans fishing event. They are working with several boat captains to offer a charter, with donated services, bands, and a pig roast. For more information, contact the Marquette DNR office. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.
- The Natural Resources Commission will hold their annual U.P. meeting on August 14 in Munising. She encouraged all to attend.
- She received a call from Ms. Kerry Wieber of the Forest Resources Division regarding an additional application that was just received and filed by Graymont for a mineral exchange of 1,700 acres. This is not a surface land transaction. This new information came about earlier today. She reviewed a few key points of the application. If anyone would like copies, she has them available.
- In regards to the existing Graymont land transaction, the DNR's Land Exchange Review Committee (LERC) met this morning and again tabled any action on the original proposal citing the need for additional information. The next LERC meeting will be held August 21, unless a special meeting is called. As a result, the proposal is at the same step in the process as was reported at the last meeting. She also noted that Graymont did their own hydrology study in May and the content is published on their website (<http://rextonproject.com>). In addition, Graymont submitted another proposal to exchange more than 1,700 acres of mineral rights with the DNR near the Rexton area. The offered minerals are under state-managed surface and the desired minerals are located under federally-owned surface within the Hiawatha National Forest. This proposal will

receive a similar review and decision process as the original Graymont land transaction application. Comments on the proposal are still being accepted on the website.

- **Chair Pershinske** asked if the tabled proposal means that more information from those in the field is needed. **Mrs. Haughey** stated they have gone back to the field twice; however, this new delay was because more hydrological information was needed. The group felt there still wasn't adequate information to make a decision. It means there is a thoughtful process occurring and the DNR is taking their time to be thorough.
- **Mr. Garavaglia** asked where the hydrology report can be found. **Mrs. Haughey** stated she will have Mrs. Dahlstrom send the Graymont's website link and the DNR's website link on the proposal to the Council.
- Staff from Graymont (present) indicated Mrs. Haughey explained it well. The new application fits in the boundaries of what they've been talking about all along. They have always stated the scope of the project is 13,000 acres made up of different ownerships. The new proposal is a mineral rights exchange. **Mr. Scott** asked about Hiawatha National Forest permits. Graymont staff indicated they weren't sure. A member of the audience stated the three square miles for the mineral exchange was not included in any of the maps that had been distributed. Graymont staff stated they did not put in the maps anything that wasn't pertinent to the application at the time. They noted there will be an open house at their new office on June 25th from 4-7pm at the country store location. Several staff will be available for questions that evening.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked the Council what direction they would like to take on the issue.
 - **Ms. Giddings** stated it sounds like the DNR is still waiting for test results and she'd like to review them first before making a recommendation.
 - **Mr. Moll** noted confusion about the new application. It was explained that there are now two separate applications, the first one being a land exchange and the second one being a mineral exchange.
 - **Mr. Garavaglia** stated the original proposal impacts his community immensely. He's met with everyone involved. Roads are a big issue with the proposed increase in truck traffic. He stated he would like assurances from Graymont they will take care of the roads.
 - **Chair Pershinske** stated there are huge consequences and possible benefits, depending on which side one takes. School districts are another example.
 - **Mr. Hass** stated a vote is difficult to do since it is not known what the State plans to do on their end. **Mrs. Haughey** clarified when a proposal/application is received, the DNR reviews it and it is either approved, denied, or countered. It is a real estate transaction process through the DNR. This is strictly a proposal for a land transaction, and there are no other state agencies involved in this process. Anything other than the land transaction, the DNR is not involved.
 - **Chair Pershinske** stated the Council was put in place to be an advisory group on DNR issues. This is one of the most important issues that have been put forth to them. Lots of time has been spent by the Council on this subject and he is not sure what the next step should be. He suggested having the Council officers meet with DNR staff to get an in-depth update to bring back to the Council and to hold any recommendations until the public meeting is held. **Mrs. Haughey** agreed.

- **Mr. Lawless** indicated his frustration in having discussed this issue for weeks. He feels it should be tabled until there is something more concrete to discuss. **He motioned to table further discussion on the Graymont proposal until the DNR makes a recommendation; Mr. Hass seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Ellenwood, Mr. Radka, and Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

- 2. **DNR Division Reports:** Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on June 12, 2014. The following are current updates or comments provided.
 - **Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer:** **Mrs. Badini** stated that an inquiry has been received by Camp Grayling to acquire more state land in the Lower Peninsula and in the U.P. for infantry encampment and light training. No actual proposal has been received; rather a feasibility assessment is being done for the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. The website for more information is: www.michigan.gov/campgraylingproposal. She noted Pure Michigan is doing a promotion on Instagram for submissions of favorite Michigan beach photos. In addition, the area around this Manistique community building was paid for by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Michigan Department of Community Health updated their Eat Safe Fish Guide this week.
 - **Chair Pershinske** asked if there was any feedback on the new digest. **Mrs. Badini** stated she has only heard positive comments. Some information was removed, but most people seem to like the smaller size. If there are any suggestions, please send them to her.
 - **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the council that was appointed to promote hunting and fishing has been chosen. **Mrs. Badini** explained the additional \$1.00 in the new license fees was created by legislation to develop a campaign to promote hunting and fishing in Michigan using an outside marketing firm. The concept was based on a successful campaign in Colorado. The council has been chosen and results will probably not be seen until next fiscal year when the appropriation comes through.
 - **Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Scott** stated he did not have anything to add to his report.
 - **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the late ice affected any of the hatcheries. **Mr. Scott** stated that everything on the books has been stocked out. Some back road streams were later than normal, but there have been no problems that he is aware of. The walleye ponds are still being harvested.
 - **Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division:** **Mr. Stampfly** noted that he did not have any additions to his report.
 - **Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division:** **Mr. Spieles** stated he did not have any additions to his report.
 - **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** stated he had three updates. This is the time of year where livestock depredation from wolves occurs. The first one was in Schoolcraft County a few weeks ago involving two calves and an adult cow. They are working with the landowner and have placed donkeys on his farm. With the winter conditions this past season, the Wildlife Division made a recommendation to the NRC on antlerless harvest.

Only three management units in the U.P. have been designated on private land only (in Menominee, Dickinson, and Delta Counties). This accounts for a 70% reduction in antlerless tags. This should be acted upon at the next NRC meeting. The bear tetracycline survey will begin soon, and they are adding a trail cam study as well.

- **Mr. Serfass** asked about [REDACTED] in tribal areas. **Mr. Minzey** stated they have posed it to them, but have not received an answer.
- **Lee Vaughn, Parks & Recreation Division:** **Mr. Vaughn** stated he is filling in for Mr. Tom Paquin and has no additions to the report submitted.

Old Business

1. **U.P. Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT) Update:** **Mr. Minzey** explained the concept of the UPDAT has been shifted, whereas increased stakeholder input will now come from meetings held between wildlife biologists and local sportsman's groups, called sportsman's coalitions. He stated the existing coalition meetings have been very productive in obtaining a better connection with local groups versus the UPDAT periodic meetings in which attendance and travel was proving to be limited, not providing a good cross section of hunter's perceptions across the entire U.P. In addition, the UPDAT had been in existence for 3 years with many member terms due to expire. They will still operate with the UPDAT concept but through the coalition meetings instead. He stated not all of the details have been determined, however, there will be semi-annual press releases and meetings will be listed on the website. The quarterly meeting dates will be formalized so that a year schedule will be available.
2. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Subcommittee Report:** **Dr. Garvon** provided a report in Mr. Buckingham's (chair of the subcommittee) absence. He stated one meeting was held by conference call to establish the subcommittee's goal. Mr. Craig Albright from the Wildlife Division in Escanaba attended the call and was very helpful. The group will be scheduling another conference call, to include Dr. Dan O'Brien who provided the CWD presentation at the March Joint UPCAC meeting. He will be able to answer the questions the subcommittee has and help them think about getting information out about the disease. **Mr. Darling** added the problem hunter's face once it moves across the state line, which is not far off with a confirmed case in Wisconsin, is accepting strict moves that will have to be made. There has to be extensive communication so the hunting population realizes what changes in lifestyle will be needed if CWD comes to the U.P. Because of the U.P.'s unique situation with winter herding of deer, once it's in the environment, it could spread like wildfire. **Chair Pershinske** stated this is an important subject for the Council.

New Business

1. **White Nose Syndrome Presentation:** **Mr. Bill Scullon**, wildlife biologist and private land specialist, provided a presentation on the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) being found in species of bats across the nation. He noted he coordinates all the field activity in Michigan with regards to WNS and also works with Dr. Dan O'Brien in Lansing who handles the disease aspect. The presentation included highlights of the following:
 - **Economic Value of Bats:** In Michigan alone, the economic benefit to farmers is \$528 million to \$1.2 billion annually. They feed on lots of insects that cost money to control otherwise.

- WNS: “WNS is a devastating disease of hibernating bats that has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history.”
- Cause: It is caused by an invasive fungus. It was first found in 2006 in an Albany, NY cave. The fungus derived from central northern Europe.
- Transmission & Spread: The disease is spread from bat-to-bat or anthropogenically (human-assisted transportation), meaning on clothes, equipment, boots, etc. of people who enter contaminated caves or mines.
- Bats as Hosts: Bats live 20-30+ years and raise only 1-2 pups per year. The species is not equipped to absorb a massive mortality event.
- What other animals are affected? No other wildlife species, domestic animals, people or pets are affected. Only bats.
- Affected Bats: Nationally, the Little brown bat, Tricolored bat, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, Big Brown bat, Eastern small-footed myotis are affected with WNS. All 5 colonial species native to Michigan are known to be affected: Little brown bat, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, Northern pipistrelle, and the Bit brown bat. It is estimated that 7 million bats have died due to WNS in North American since 2006.
- Environment: Colonial bat species hibernate in locations where temperatures are close to, but above, freezing and have high relative humidity, which are perfect conditions for growth of the fungus.
- Maps: Progressive maps were shown depicting the movement of the disease from 2006 to present. It has been confirmed in 26 states and 5 Canadian provinces.
- Affected U.P. Counties: Cases of WNS have now been confirmed in Mackinac, Delta, Dickinson, and Keweenaw Counties (also Alpena County in the lower peninsula). There is also a suspected case in Ontonagon County.
- WNS Signs: Pictures were shown of what the disease looks like on bats and abnormal behavior was discussed.
- Ecological Effects: It is estimated that 660-1320 metric tons of insects (mostly crop and forest pests) may no longer be consumed in WNS areas.
 - It was asked if the lack of bats is the reason why there are so many mosquitos. Mr. Scullon stated that only 10% of a bat’s diet is mosquitos. The mosquito hatch is most likely due to the long winter and heavy spring run-off.
- Next Steps: Several sites are now gated. A Land Use Order of the Director was put in place effective 4/10/2014 prohibiting entry to caves and abandoned mines within department-administered land and facilities. Outreach and education will occur with partners and winter hibernacula surveys will continue. The Michigan WNS response plan is available online at:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/MichiganWNSPlanFINAL122010342261_7.pdf.
- Cure: There currently is no cure. There are agents available to control and inhibit the fungus, but nothing is strong enough that won’t harm the animals.
- Research & Funding: **Mr. Scullon** also discussed research projects with state and national agencies and how the Michigan bat program is funded through the US Fish and Wildlife Service and grants with no matching funds.

Mr. Scullon opened the floor for questions.

- **Mr. Darling** asked about the private use of bat houses and if they will promote the disease. **Mr. Scullon** stated they are still encouraging the use of bat houses. Lysol can be used to spray the houses. Most bats do not hibernate in houses, so they provide a good use during the spring, summer and fall months.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked about working with the private sector. **Mr. Scullon** stated they do work with a number of groups to educate the private sector and a lot of outreach is done. **Chair Pershinske** thanked him for the presentation.
- **Mr. Minzey** asked the Council to think about the diseases that have surfaced the last couple of years, i.e. Chronic Wasting Disease, WNS, etc. and what is being done to the natural resources, how the diseases are spreading and who is ultimately responsible.

2. *DNR's Shipboard Experience for Kids*: **Mr. Spieles** stated education is a critical link to Michigan's natural resources. Two examples are the projects in Detroit, with Belle Isle becoming a state park and the new Outdoor Adventure Center building across the street. The building has been renovated to provide office space for the Southfield Operations Service Center as well as exhibit space for kids and families to come and learn about the outdoors. There is a waterfall and a big oak tree kids can climb in. Other examples are the shipboard experience programs for kids. There are several: the Inland Seas Education Association (SEA) out of Suttons Bay active since 1998, the Great Lakes Education Program on Lake St. Clair educating over 100,000 kids, the BaySail program on the Saginaw River, and the newest one, the Marquette Shipboard Education Program. This program is in concert with the Marquette Harbor Cruises utilizing a boat named the Island Queen. He spoke with several partners to get the program going: Moosewood Nature Center, NMU, Marquette Public Schools, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lake Superior Watershed Partnership. Last year was the first year with two different groups of 4th graders taken out to learn about invasive species, the importance of the great lakes, visit the water treatment facility outflow to do sampling, as well water intake for samples. Samples of fish are taken out of the lake for dissection. Pictures of kids holding zebra mussels and showing them sea lamprey's were displayed. There have been 7 trips with 60 kids each, totaling over 400 4th graders this year. Grants to pay for all of these trips have been provided by the Watershed Community Foundation, Walmart, and other community entities.
 - **Chair Pershinske** stated the Council hears of all these great projects that are happening, however, it doesn't seem to carry over to the general public. He asked how the message can get out. **Mr. Spieles** stated it's a struggle as the more the programs grow, the more resources it takes to provide them. **Mrs. Badini** added that she is currently writing a story on Mr. Spieles' program that will be shared throughout the state. **Mrs. Haughey** noted that Council members are encouraged to share this information with their stakeholder groups, friends, families and neighbors about these types of programs as well.
 - An audience member asked if Mr. Spieles reached out to the local schools. **Mr. Spieles** stated that funding is always a factor with new programs and who will do the fundraising is a good question.
 - **Mr. Hass** stated he was surprised at how many teachers and college kids indicated they had a fish program (Salmon in the Classroom) in school. **Mr. Spieles** indicated 35 new schools signed on board to this program, closing in on the 250 school mark.

- **Mr. Minzey** stated if the minutes and division reports were forward to each person's stakeholder group with this information listed, 500 people could easily be informed.
- 3. Lyme Disease Information (Handouts): **Mrs. Haughey** noted there were handouts in the meeting packets about Lyme Disease, courtesy of Mr. Bob Heyd, Forest Health, at the Marquette DNR office.
- 4. Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan & Wildlife Division 2013 Annual Report (Handouts): Copies of these reports were distributed to the group.

Next Meeting

1. Next Meeting Date: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, August 21st at the Comfort Inn Conference Room in Newberry.
2. Topics for Next Meeting Agenda: No topics were mentioned.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for additional public comments.

1. A member of the audience thanked the Council for coming to Manistique.
2. A member of the audience asked how the Northern Long-eared Bat, if it becomes an endangered species, will affect him with bats in his house. **Mr. Scullon** explained the handout and why they are being considered for listing as an endangered species. If the status of the bat changes, the law will become effective and they cannot be harmed in any way. The State of Michigan and other states are asking that they do not change the status to endangered, but rather as a threatened species. **Mr. Minzey** added the DNR Director and Wildlife Division chief have taken a very strong position on this issue to make sure it doesn't affect Michigan's timber industry. **Mr. Scullon** noted the reason for the listing is the disease, and is not habitat related.
3. Mrs. Kathy English registered to comment about the Graymont proposal. She stated she has learned new information at a citizens group and still has a lot of concerns about the proposal. She stated that the majority of citizens in the affected area do not feel they are being represented well by their elected officials. She feels local officials (i.e. the store owner where Graymont has set up an office) have something to gain in approving and supporting the resolutions that support the proposal. She also feels the legislators, committees, and others are being railroaded by incorrect information. She stated they received notice that their PILT is being reduced but yet another increased due to a new way of measuring, conflicting each other. She respectfully asked, if a group is convened to look at this, that the citizens be included. She thanked the council for their time and attention.
 - **Mr. Garavaglia** noted that when she talks about local officials having a vested interest, this is attacking their township (Hudson). He is making sure the township doesn't lose anything. The township won't be making any money on this proposal.
 - **Chair Pershinske** stated further discussion on this issue will be tabled until sufficient information is available.

Closing Comments from the Council

1. **Mr. Hoy** asked why the Graymont representatives were in attendance. They responded stating they came to answer any questions.
2. **Mr. Aldrich** thanked everyone for coming to Manistique and welcomed the Council back at any time. **Chair Pershinske** thanked him for his hospitality.
3. **Mr. Moll** stated, in regards to the Graymont proposal, for him to make any kind of decision, if the Council decides to initiate a resolution, he would have to totally understand what he is basing his decision on. At this time, there isn't enough specific information to collectively weigh in on the issue. He also noted an issue moving across the U.P. with mature balsam stands and needle loss.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm EST.

Approved 10/16/14