

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2015
6:30-8:30pm EST
LMAS District Health Department Conference Room, Newberry

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

Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich	Gary Gorniak	Glenn Moll
Tom Buckingham	Tim Hass	Bridget Nodurft
Ivan Darling	Jim Hoy	Chad Radka
Jim Duke	Bernie Hubbard	Dick Pershinske
Al Garavaglia	Michael Lawless	Mark Spencer

Council Members Excused/Absent

Allan Augustyn
Jason Garvon
Jim Shutt

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry
Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations Division, Newberry
Stacy Haughey, U.P. Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry
John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Shingleton
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:31pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. He thanked all the members present. Introductions were made.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Pershinske asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. There were none. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Garavaglia seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the March 16, 2015 Joint UPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Duke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Buckingham seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.**

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the April 16, 2015 EUPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Lawless motioned to approve the minutes as submitted;**

Mr. Duke seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Shutt. Motion carried.

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske thanked Mrs. Haughey and Mr. Minzey for the extra work sessions held outside of the council meeting. One was regarding deer management with the deer subcommittee and the other involved a resolution that will be discussed later in this meeting. He also mentioned the recent news of a confirmed CWD case in lower Michigan and a joint CAC resolution submitted on deer regulations. He noted there has been discussion about creating a citizen's advisory council in the lower peninsula, discussion with Mrs. Haughey on a council survey, and there will be a joint venture with the WUPCAC regarding suggestions for the hunting digest to make it more user friendly.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Dan Browning from Graymont provided a brief update. They are still in the permitting process for the project at this time. They are also working on the economic development fund that was part of the land transaction. A community appreciation day will be held on July 25 and all are invited. He said Council Member Mr. Garavaglia from Hudson Township helped with arrangements, which will include a fishing contest at Garnet Lake from 7am to 12noon, dessert contest, and food. They also plan to stock Garnet Lake in the fall when species become available (permitted out of Escanaba for stocking). He thanked everyone for their support.
- Mr. Dan Blough, representative for Congressman Dan Benishek, stated he came to the meeting to hear updates on the deer herd and wolves. There have been several issues with ORV's in their office and a trespass in the Hiawatha Forest. He stated he now has a mobile office and is no longer located in Traverse City. He appreciates the updates as it is the one way he can relay information back to the Congressman.

Reports

1. **Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Haughey** provided the following updates:
 - Marquette Staff: **Mrs. Haughey** introduced Mr. John Pepin, the new Deputy Public Information Officer, working out of the Marquette office. This position was vacated by Ms. Debbie Munson-Badini who is now working for the Minnesota DNR. In addition, Mr. Greg Andrews has moved on to another position outside of the DNR.
 - At the last meeting, the daily bag limit of geese was discussed. A DNR staff person is available to provide a presentation at the August meeting if interested.
 - The NRC passed the U.P. deer regulations and the updated wolf management plan at their June meeting. Information is available on the deer regulations in the meeting packet.
2. **DNR Division Reports:** Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on June 11, 2015. The following are current updates or comments provided.
 - **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** introduced new wildlife biologist Mr. Cody Norton who is working out of the Shingleton office. **Mr. Norton** provided a brief overview of his background and indicated he has been working with the Michigan predatory prey study. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if the study is available online; **Mr. Norton** responded there is a website

and Facebook page and both can be found by searching the web for Michigan predatory prey study. The host agency is Mississippi State University. **Mr. Minzey** indicated if a presentation is desired, Mr. Dean Beyer or a graduate student may be able to provide it. **Mr. Minzey** provided the following updates to his report:

- Preliminary information for 2014 of bucks harvested per square mile per deer management unit in the U.P. indicated a 33% drop (a chart was shown). In 2013, there were 28,900 bucks harvested and in 2014, there were 14,900 bucks harvested.
- There has been an outbreak of avian influenza in waterfowl in the Detroit area. Waterfowl carry several different varieties of avian influenza, but this is highly pathogenic. Avian influenza is a virus infecting wild birds and waterfowl as well as domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese. He stated Minnesota has euthanized about 10 million poultry and Iowa is up around 30 million. He reminded folks this is not a human health issue, but it is devastating to the poultry industry. This will be a huge drain on the division's budget. As a result of this and CWD, the filling of the wildlife tech position in Newberry is on hold until the effect on the budget is known. There is no test as birds generally die quickly. If a larger amount of dead birds is found, please report it promptly. There are currently no cases in the U.P. Domestic poultry and geese are mostly affected at this time and it hasn't been discussed in cormorants or wild turkeys. **Mrs. Haughey** noted that Michigan produces all the eggs for McDonald's restaurants east of the Mississippi. **Chair Pershinske** stated the 4H clubs have banned all birds at fair events and there is already a vast shortage of eggs in the western U.S.
- The U.P. Wildlife Habitat Workgroup will be meeting next week and a draft management plan for the first winter habitat site near Lake Gogebic will be presented. EUPCAC member Mr. Hubbard is a member of the workgroup.
- There is \$3.6 million available in grant funding for invasive species work. More emphasis is being given for terrestrial invasives; however, aquatic invasive projects are eligible.
- The updated wolf management plan has been approved by the NRC. **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the deer management plan in the U.P. was going to be completely revised. **Mr. Minzey** stated it is a statewide management plan and not specific to the U.P. **Mr. Gorniak** stated he'd like to see if it can be regionalized. **Chair Pershinske** stated this will be a high priority item for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

- Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Paquin** noted the following state park updates:
- Phase 1 of the erosion project at Indian Lake State Park is occurring.
 - Palms Book toilet project is almost complete.
 - New shower buildings at Straits State Park will be open in the lower campground after Labor Day. New stalls and cold storage will be completed after July 4th.
 - At Taquamenon Falls, a bridge across to the island will be handicap accessible.
 - At Fayette, the toilet and shower building and dump station is being worked on and will be completed next year.
 - Several boating access sites are having work done.
 - Beaver dams have been an issue, along with washouts on trails.

Mr. Garavaglia asked about the status of funding for the Naubinway marina. **Mr. Paquin** stated funding will not be lost; Mr. Paul Peterson has asked for an extension. **Chair Pershinske** asked what role the DNR holds for the marina funding; **Mr. Paquin** stated the DNR

is the funding agent only. The township hires the professional that oversees the project. **Mr. Moll** asked what a CORA permit is; **Mr. Paquin** stated it is a tribal permit as the DNR works with them on state-owned facilities.

- **John Pepin, Public Information Office:** **Mr. Pepin** noted he came from 21 years at The Mining Journal and provided a brief background. He stated he would like to publicize the CAC's on its mission and work and is hoping the Council will help him do that. **Chair Pershinske** welcomed Mr. Pepin and offered the Council's help at any time.
- **Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Scott** stated he found out today that the Governor signed the 2016 budget and there is \$150,000 for cormorant control next year. For 2015, headway is being made at Bays de noc with the same amount of funding received. He noted the federal lawsuit is still pending. He explained the USDA Wildlife Services performs the control work through a grant provided by the DNR and they do it well.
- **Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations Division:** **Mrs. Hammill** stated she did not have any additions to her report.
- **Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division:** **Mr. Stampfly** stated he did not have any additions to his report. **Mr. Moll** asked a few questions about the forest service having the DNR to do work. **Mr. Minzey** stated it is a staffing issue for them; experienced DNR staff are able to help mark and sell timber for them. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked about timber sales. **Mr. Stampfly** explained there is no budget for maintenance of roads on state land. They do what they can with the help of timber sales. **Mr. Garavaglia** noted he was concerned about the county roads and the poor condition of them in his township.
- **Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division:** **Lt. Hagy** stated the division is in a promotional process with the announcement of new sergeants occurring soon, and he may lose a few CO's to positions in the lower peninsula. The new CO's are doing their apprentice training now. **Mr. Gorniak** asked how long it will be before the division is at full staff. **Lt. Hagy** stated they are slowly keeping up with attrition from retirement and will be having another Academy in January. **Ms. Nodurft** asked about the authority of CO's to give tickets on trails to snowmobilers. **Lt. Hagy** stated it's not enforceable if there isn't a Director's Order prohibiting non-motorized use.

Old Business

1. **UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update:** **Mr. Hubbard** reported workgroup members will review some of the draft management plans at their meeting next week. He reviewed the mission. He stated the group has been referred to a couple of different names. It started about a year ago and there have been 5-6 meetings. They have classified three different deer wintering complexes: one each in the west, east, and central U.P. Most of these complexes are on private land, not state land. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that members are a passionate group of sportsmen, professionals, and land managers; he listed the areas represented in the group. **Mr. Garavaglia** stated he attended a grant workshop and was surprised that a grant has to be reported as income. **Mr. Gorniak** asked when the final management plan will be available to the CAC. **Mr. Minzey** stated the intent is to draft a plan for each wintering complex (there are about 27) so it will take some time. He also explained the part-time position involved with the workgroup. **Mr. Gorniak** stated part-time doesn't seem to be enough.

2. Wolf Update:

- *Appeal Update:* **Mr. Minzey** indicated the appeal has not yet moved forward. Mr. Dan Blough, representative for Congressman Benishek, stated there has been a rider attached to an appropriation bill to exempt the wolf from the Endangered Species Act in Michigan. He indicated there is a lot of optimism that it will get through this congressional session. He stated the Congressman and DNR Director Creagh have spoken several times on the issue. **Mr. Minzey** added this exact process was used in Montana and Idaho.
- *Review of Response to March Joint UPCAC Meeting Resolutions:* **Mrs. Haughey** stated the response indicates the DNR's process for updating the DNR wolf management plan. **Chair Pershinske** stated there will be some advisory function and public process, but it will not operate on a consensus basis.
- *New Resolution for Council Consideration:* **Chair Pershinske** stated that Mr. Minzey, Mrs. Haughey, Council Member Mr. Hoy and Mr. Swanson met last week to discuss Mr. Hoy's resolution. He stated he feels Mr. Hoy has a compelling stance on the subject. He turned the floor to Mr. Hoy. **Mr. Hoy** asked Mr. Blough how far in the process is the appropriation bill, because if passed, it would make his resolution a moot point. Mr. Blough indicated he is not sure if it came out of committee yet; however, it is being seriously considered. **Chair Pershinske** stated once it comes out of committee, it could be stalled. **Mrs. Haughey** encouraged Mr. Hoy to proceed with his presentation; if the Council passes the resolution, the DNR Director will have a response. Mr. Blough stated, if passed, he will share the resolution with the legislative director and will report back.

Mr. Hoy explained the background behind his proposed resolution, which asks the DNR to not prosecute individuals for the taking of a wolf and to not work with federal agencies in providing information about individuals taking a wolf until Congress removes them from the Endangered Species List. He presented a chart of wolf depredations since 1996 when the first one was reported. In 2002, depredations increased substantially, resulting in 13 years of no resolve. He stated since 2002, there has been countless meetings, court hearings, appeals, legislation, a tremendous amount of work on a wolf plan and by personnel, voting referendums, and hiring of staff, and he feels the U.P. is worse off now than back then. He feels it's a loss of personal rights to watch wolves eat pets and livestock. He also feels the wolves are a direct correlation with the loss of deer and the loss of camp property values as a result. He stated he doubts Congress will move to remove them from the list because it is an election year in 2016. He also pointed out the U.P. has only one representative in Congress and 12 of the 14 state congressional representatives have their state offices on or south of a line from Flint to Grand Rapids, and this is the area of counties that voted down the issue of allowing the DNR to manage wolves. He doubts Michigan in Congress can present a united front to remove wolves from the Endangered Species List, and without a united front and he further doubts the U.P./Michigan can convince Congress to remove the wolves.

Chair Pershinske asked if Mr. Hoy would like to put forth a motion on the resolution. **Mr. Hoy motioned to submit the resolution as presented; Mr. Darling seconded the motion. Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for discussion on the motion. Each Council member provided

their input and thoughts on the matter. Overall, discussion indicated agreement with the intent behind the resolution; however, most were concerned with a recommendation to not follow current laws. With discussion concluded, Chair Pershinske called for a vote on the motion. **Ayes: 2. Nays: 16. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Shutt. Motion failed.**

Chair Pershinske asked if the Council had any further input into this issue. **Mr. Garavaglia** stated he thinks this discussion should be relayed by Mr. Blough to Congressman Benishek. Mr. Blough agreed to do so by way of Mrs. Haughey providing a brief summary to him to share.

Mr. Gorniak feels something should be done and motioned to prepare a resolution indicating the Council's frustration with the process as the issue affects the entire U.P.; Mr. Garavaglia seconded the motion. Discussion followed. **Chair Pershinske** asked if the Council would be interested in forming a subcommittee to put together a resolution; the Council agreed. **Mr. Gorniak amended his motion to include the formation of a subcommittee to develop a resolution.** **Mrs. Haughey** noted the response to the Joint UPCAC resolution passed in March regarding wolves is in the meeting packets for reference. **Vote on the motion did not occur.** **Mr. Lawless** stated a copy of the minutes would be appropriate in relaying the Council's concerns and he feels the majority has spoken.

New Business

1. **Confirmed CWD Case in Lower Peninsula:** **Mr. Minzey** stated a recent press release indicated that a confirmed CWD case was found in the lower peninsula (6-year old infected doe). USDA-Wildlife Services are currently taking bucks in the area (no does or fawns). Road kills are also being tested. No new positives have been found so far. A much larger sample will be available near deer season. There will be extra check stations in the 3-county/9-township region. Minnesota has also found one confirmed animal and began a very aggressive plan; no more has been found. If the disease is found outside of the 9 townships, it will be an indicator that the disease is probably established and is cause for larger concern.
 - **EUPCAC CWD Subcommittee Update:** **Mr. Buckingham** suggested, with the Council's approval, to rewrite the flyer they developed to include the new CWD case. **Mr. Minzey** indicated because the confirmed case is still 200 miles from the U.P., the likelihood of it spreading from Wisconsin is still greater than from the lower peninsula. It was agreed to leave the flyer as written and to obtain Mr. Pepin's help in distributing it to U.P. media. **Mr. Minzey** asked that Ms. Kelly Carter from the Wildlife Division be included in the effort. **Mr. Darling** indicated he comes from the newly confirmed infected area, and he said the sportsmen there said they've been told there will be unlimited taking of does come hunting season. **Mr. Lawless** indicated doe permits in that area go unused.
2. **UP Deer Management Options for 2015:** **Mr. Minzey** indicated information on the options approved is included in the meeting packets and is covered thoroughly. **Mr. Garavaglia** suggested a letter be sent to the tribal units indicating the poor survival rate of the deer herd. **Chair Pershinske** indicated he will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

3. EUPCAC Member Survey: **Chair Pershinske** stated he'd like to survey the council members regarding the performance of the council as was done in previous years. A draft copy of the survey was included in the meeting packets. One concern he has is whether the information received from staff at the meetings is disseminated to stakeholder groups and the public. If there are any suggestions to revise any portion of the survey, let him know. It will be sent to council members for completion soon.

Next Meeting

1. Next Meeting Date: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be held on Thursday, August 27th in St. Ignace at the Little Bear Arena conference room.
2. Topics for Next Meeting Agenda: **Chair Pershinske** noted two suggestions for meeting topics at the next meeting: 1) regionalization of the deer management plan; and 2) tribal deer tags. Other topics he felt may be important to add to future meeting agendas are the land management plan, council member survey results, and the predator prey study.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for additional public comments. There were no comments brought forth.

Closing Comments from the Council

Council members were thanked for their comments on an emotional topic (wolf resolution). **Chair Pershinske** thanked Mr. Hoy for taking the time to research and preparing his resolution.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm EST.