

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2016

6:30-8:30pm EST

Pentland Township Hall, Newberry

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

Council Members Present

Allan Augustyn

Tom Buckingham

Ivan Darling

Grant Dewitt

Jim Duke

Al Garavaglia

Jason Garvon

Gary Gorniak

Tim Hass

Jim Hoy

Bernie Hubbard

Travis Kangas

Michael Lawless

Glenn Moll

Dick Pershinske

Chad Radka

Council Members Excused/Absent

Keith Aldrich

Mark Spencer

Hawk Erickson

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette

Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations Division, Newberry

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming

Charlie Maltby, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry

Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Shingleton

Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry

Jon Spieles, Acting U.P. Regional Coordinator, Newberry

Special Guests

Jim Hammill, Michigan Wildlife Council Member

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:32pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**. Introductions of Council members were made. **Chair Pershinske** noted the meeting may go longer due to multiple agenda items and asked the Council for their consent to continue through the items rather than defer them; the Council agreed.

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. Darling** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Spencer. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the February 4, 2016 EUPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Duke** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; **Mr. Hass** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Spencer. Motion carried.**

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the March 3, 2016 Joint CAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Darling motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Buckingham seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Spencer. Motion carried.**

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske read a thank you letter from the Council to Mr. Steve Scott, DNR Fisheries Division, who has served on the EUPCAC since it began in 2008 and is retiring. He thanked Mr. Scott and wished him well in retirement. Congratulations were given.

Chair Pershinske referenced an article, "Natural Resources Based on Economic Development", written by Mr. Joel Schultz, Executive Director of the Central UP Planning and Development Regional Commission, which covered the activities of the DNR over the past year (a copy was in the meeting packets). He knows Mr. Schultz well, being from Naubinway; he sent him a thank you for the nicely written article.

Chair Pershinske stated he attended the bear meeting at the RAM center, conducted by Mr. Adam Bump, DNR's furbearer specialist. One of the issues discussed at length was whether the bobcat population has stayed the same or increased and whether regulations should change.

Chair Pershinske noted a snowy owl in the Engadine area. **Mr. Minzey** stated several sightings of snowy owls have been reported. The owls are migrating more south when they are not able to find food sources in Canada.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for public comments. No comments were brought forth from the audience.

Reports

1. **Jon Spieles, Acting UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mr. Spieles**, who is covering for Mrs. Haughey while on leave, provided the following updates:
 - The DNR's Parks and Recreation Division are in the midst of their strategic planning. Public meetings where input on the plan can be provided are being held on May 11 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette and on June 21 at Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord.
 - There are several legislative updates in the division reports. Senate Bill 635, the return home to hunt for non-residents bill, is not included in those updates as it has not yet been taken up in legislative committee. Any updates on this bill will be shared with the Council.
 - Some items of interest from recent NRC meetings include the approval of an extended coyote season, nighttime predator hunting regulations and the approval of bear harvest allocations and elk license quotas.
 - After 20 years, NOAA has recently reopened the process to nominate new national marine sanctuaries, two of which involve Lake Superior. The primary purpose of the sanctuaries is education, protection and research. The process involves asking clubs and groups to identify places on the Great Lakes to establish sanctuaries. The groups then get local support and

submit their nomination to NOAA. NOAA then reviews it and either accepts, declines, or sends the proposal back for more information. If accepted, there is potential designation, which then starts another process and includes several public meetings. The two Lake Superior proposals are Whitefish Point (Grand Marais to Whitefish Bay) and around the Keweenaw Peninsula. Neither proposal was generated by the DNR. The Whitefish Point proposal focuses on shipwrecks and the Keweenaw proposal focuses on the unique geology of that region. The impact to commercial and recreational fishing opportunities is very low as the proposals are now drafted. Both proposals are seeking support from the state which would include recommendation from DNR to the Governor's office. **Mr. Hoy** asked if the proposal would prohibit fishing; **Mr. Spieles** replied "not as now drafted".

- **Mr. Spieles** mentioned the passing of a young, lower Michigan conservation officer due to a health condition. Lt. Hagy and law staff are participating in the ceremonies and not here at the meeting.

2. DNR Division Reports: Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on April 14, 2016. The following are verbal additions to those reports:

- Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division: **Mr. Minzey** added the following:
 - A new wildlife technician, Ms. Jayne Meinhard, began working at the Newberry Office. It has been since the 1970's that a tech was stationed at this location.
 - There have been FOIA requests for ruffed grouse surveys. It has been found that individuals are using the surveys to target prime hunting areas. As a result, the surveys will not be run this year.
 - An open forum meeting will be held on Drummond Island on April 25 to review deer regulations and management plan. It has been three years since the plan was implemented.
 - The Wildlife Division has updated its five-year-old strategic plan. If available, copies will be brought to the next meeting, along with copies of the completed annual report.
 - **Mr. Hoy** asked if there was an update on wolves at the federal level. **Mr. Minzey** stated the legislation passed the House and may be in Senate committee. This year's wolf survey has been completed and minimum estimate numbers may be available the end of April.
- Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division: **Mr. Stampfly** stated he did not have anything additional to report.
- Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations Division: **Mrs. Hammill** stated her report is up to date.
- Charlie Maltby, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Maltby** stated he was attending on behalf of Mr. Tom Paquin and had nothing additional to report. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if ORV trails have been designated through the townships yet; **Mr. Maltby** replied he would check and get back to him.
- Steve Scott, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Scott** stated he will provide an update on cormorants later in the meeting.

Old Business

1. *Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update:* **Mr. Minzey** stated there has now been 7 contaminated deer with CWD, all found in lower Michigan. All 7 cases are related to, at least, one of the other deer found (3 different family units). He described the age class of the last 2 deer found. There are now 5 counties in the lower peninsula impacted by the surveillance zone. Beginning soon in the U.P., a sample of 300 deer (road kill, crop damage deer, etc.) in 4 of the Wisconsin border counties (Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson and Menominee) will be tested for CWD. **Chair Pershinske** asked how close was the last Wisconsin CWD-infected deer found; **Mr. Minzey** stated the location was about 25-30 miles from the U.P. border. **Mr. Moll** asked if the Wisconsin deer was from a facility; **Mr. Minzey** explained the facility located in Three Lakes, Wisconsin (Oneida County).

2. *Deer Subcommittee Update:* **Chair Pershinske** stated of all the activity he has been involved with the last few weeks, deer management is on the high end of interest. **Mr. Buckingham** indicated the subcommittee met on February 22 with 9 people and Mr. Minzey in attendance. There were 11 items on the agenda for discussion with the main purpose being to establish resolutions for the Council to consider approving and submitting/recommending to the DNR in order to address the current U.P. deer hunting regulations and seasons pertaining to the diminishing deer herd. Some of the items had a lengthy debate. **Mr. Buckingham** reviewed the proposed resolutions with the Council, which related to seasons, APR requirements, method of take, tribal tags, antlerless deer, and DMAP's.
 - **Mr. Hoy** asked about the negotiation of the 2 consent decrees. **Mr. Scott** explained one consent decree, which mainly deals with fisheries, will expire in 2020 and negotiations are already in process. The 2007 consent decree does not have an expiration date. **Mr. Minzey** noted it will not be negotiated unless one of the two parties requests it through a court process.
 - **Dr. Garvon** asked if the proposed resolutions could be emailed to the Council for review, with a deadline for comments and suggestions; **Mr. Buckingham** agreed. **Mr. Scott** suggested that Council members get feedback from their stakeholder groups as well.
 - **Mr. Minzey** added when reviewing and discussing these options, consider that there was no antlerless harvest in the eastern U.P. and he doesn't believe there were any DMAP requests approved.
 - **Mr. Lawless** asked for further clarification; **Mr. Buckingham** explained some of the rationale. **Chair Pershinske** commended the subcommittee for the comprehensive report and discussion. With the Council's suggestion, he asked Mr. Buckingham to prepare each resolution separately in final form and email it Council members for their review and suggestions. He will also add them to the next meeting agenda for discussion and consideration/approval.

3. *Graymont Update:* **Mr. Spieles** stated that Graymont is in the process of getting stone tested. The land exchanges as part of the agreement are still in process and there is no new information to pass along. Mr. Stoll, a representative of Graymont who was present, stated they are still in the process of identifying properties and that nothing has changed with the agreement. **Chair Pershinske** added the formal announcements for the grantees from the economic development fund established by Graymont will be announced soon by the Mackinac Economic Development

Alliance. **Mr. DeWitt** asked if Graymont purchased the Wilwin Lodge property in Trout Lake; Mr. Stoll replied yes.

New Business

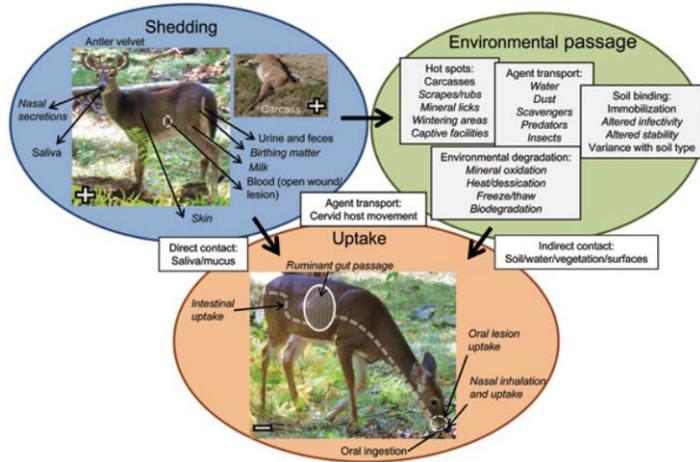
1. **Michigan Wildlife Council Update:** **Mr. Hammill**, a member of the Michigan Wildlife Council, provided a presentation on the Council and its latest work.
 - He provided a brief history of the Council, explaining it was created in 2013 to implement and oversee a public education campaign about the importance of conservation and wildlife management to Michigan's natural resources and outdoor traditions. The Council is a governor-appointed, 9-member public body (the only DNR person on the Council is the Director) established by Michigan Public Act No. 246 of 2013. The legislation updated the hunting and fishing license fee structure and requires the state Department of Natural Resources to use \$1 from the sale of every license to fund the Michigan Wildlife Council public education campaign. Their challenge has been to find a marketing firm to promote hunting and fishing in Michigan with a budget of about \$2 million. GUD Marketing has been hired and they are very good. A website has now been established and contains a lot of information (<http://HereForMIOutdoors.org>). This Council will be very important to Michigan since it is one of 14 states that are a referendum state and referendums can affect how we recreate.
 - The Michigan Wildlife Council's mission is to develop and implement, in conjunction with a third-party marketing or advertising agency, a comprehensive media-based public information program to promote the essential role that sportsmen and sportswomen play in furthering wildlife conservation and to educate the general public about hunting, fishing, and the taking of game.
 - Research Process: A lot of research has been done. Approximately 800 questionnaires were sent throughout Michigan and results of the research have a margin of error of +/- 3%.
 - Approval of Hunting: Approval of hunting is high, but knowledge of hunting is low. 47% strongly supports hunting, 7% are considered anti-hunters, and 46% either moderately approve hunting or are neutral toward hunting. The approval rate goes down substantially when asked "do you approve of hunters". How we conduct ourselves as hunters is extremely important to a large number of people. 74% of suburban mothers feel it is important to respect traditional customs and beliefs. 78% of urban millennials (18-36 year olds living in the city) feel it's important to learn new things throughout their life. These people spend 20 hours per week on the internet, self-identify as liberals, value community, family and creativity in their work. These are the targets. Urban city dwellers/empty nesters mostly utilize public transportation and TV is the main source of their entertainment. Internet and TV will be extremely important to get the message across (TV is also very expensive).
 - Campaign Audience: The focus is on two zones: southeastern Michigan and western Michigan is Zone 1, and statewide is Zone 2.
 - Campaign Audience Beliefs: Neutral (not committed, don't know, don't care, no connections) and moderately approve (don't always approve, vulnerable to persuasion, low understanding, highly misinformed). Both of these categories, however, believe it's important to protect wildlife.
 - Language is Critical: When we say wildlife, they hear nature. When we say wild, they hear lions. When we say hunting, they hear deer. When we say sportsmen, they hear athletes. When we say fees, they hear taxes. A completely different language has to be utilized with those mindsets.
 - One Message Unites our Audiences: "Wildlife should be managed for the use and enjoyment of future generations."
 - Message Exploration Findings: Michigan has a strong foundation, positive word associations, need to establish credibility, imagery is powerful, limited engagement-not on radar.
 - Year One: The priority will be to set the foundation: introduce the Council, capture their attention, and set the stage for acceptance. In year one, there will not be an image of hunters, because those in zone 1 don't have any connection to hunters.

- Long Term Messaging: Five-year timeline shown to move opinions and educate the public. Attract, inform, engage and encourage.
- Billboards: A picture of the current billboard in lower Michigan was shown. “Here. For Generations. Our Heritage.” The images used will bring the target audience closer to us.
- Stakeholder Support: Share the “Here. For Generations.” Campaign, be conscious of language and visuals used in your public materials, and build knowledge within the sportsman/woman communities.
- Educating Sportsmen/Sportswomen: Correct misconceptions, educate more deeply on hunting, fishing, and trapping benefits and role in Michigan, create more effective advocates for communicating with non-sportsmen/women.
- Sportsmen/Sportswomen Misconceptions: Several misconception statements were reviewed with the Council. For example: “The protection of wildlife and their habitat is largely funded by the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses.” 34% of sportsmen/women don’t know or disagree with the statement. Another, “Everyone in Michigan pays to protect our natural resources, including wildlife, through taxes.” 66% of sportsmen/women believe this to be true. Only 7% of sportsmen/women disagree. Essentially, there is a fair amount of internal education to do.
- Approval of Trapping by Sportsmen/Sportswomen: 39% of sportsmen/women do not approve or are neutral toward trapping.
- Discussion: **Mr. Hammill** stated that he believes the Council will be very successful. There have been hard decisions made. They are receiving comments through the website on a daily basis. He and Director Moritz will be responsible for the scientific data on the website. He encouraged people to ask questions on the website.
 - **Mr. Scott** discussed the effect baby boomers, who currently hunt and fish, will have on future revenue and the need to encourage future generations to utilize and enjoy the natural resources so that revenue is not lost. He feels not only the DNR, but the Council and stakeholder groups have a role to help educate. He suggested a canned presentation or laminated sheet that stakeholders can use. **Chair Pershinske** agreed if the EUPCAC can provide any assistance, let him know. **Mr. Hammill** stated he liked the idea of a canned presentation to share.
 - **Chair Pershinske** stated agriculture is going through a similar misconception issue in that people these days think all of their food comes from a grocery store.
 - Discussion continued about hunter/hunting images portrayed by people/songs/movies/hunting shows, etc. and how much harm this does in creating misconceptions. **Mr. Augustyn** asked about the Michigan Wildlife Council’s budget; **Mr. Hammill** replied their budget is \$1.6 million with 80-90% of that going to advertisements and it is not subject to sunset.

Chair Pershinske thanked Mr. Hammill for the excellent presentation. He offered a standing invitation to come back and provide more information any time.

2. *An Introduction to PRIONS and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)*: **Dr. Garvon** stated with the increased interest in understanding PRIONS and CWD, he offered to provide a general background and history from a biological perspective.
 - What is a PRION? It is a proteinaceous infectious particle, made only of protein and reproduced via refolding in structure with the ability to convert molecules into the abnormal form. It is the cause of many diseases in humans and livestock. It is resistant to destruction from heat, radiation and formalin.
 - PRION Diseases: A list of diseases was shown. Some are human diseases and some affect other animals. They include scrapie, mad cow disease, CWD, CJD (human form of mad cow disease), etc.
 - Discovery: A PRION disease was first discovered in New Guinea. It can take 20 years to develop in humans.

- History: Scrapie appeared in 1730. The discovery that PRIONS were contagious occurred in the 1960's and CWD was discovered in Colorado. Mad cow disease was found in 1986 which by 2000, over 180,000 cattle had been infected.
- CWD: A 2006 map was shown indicating CWD among free-ranging cervids by county in the U.S. compared to a 2016 map, which showed the large growth of CWD. A USGS map of the CWD outbreak was shown including Canada.
- CWD & Deer Populations/What is Known about CWD: 100% fatal, no known vaccination (trials), incubation period is 17 months, infection is through direct and indirect contact.
- Shedding PRIONS: Saliva, urine, feces, blood, velvet. In aerosol form, >20 fold lower than oral dose. Greater in later clinical phase (wks-4 mos). Carcasses remain infective greater than 2 years. Biologically available in the environment at least 2.5 years.
- Host Behavior & CWD: Migration is a major factor in spreading CWD. CWD infected mule deer = less social.
- Modeling a Disease: There is no immunity to CWD.
- People & CWD: CJD from venison? Long-term surveillance needed. If consuming venison, consult, avoid, consider, protect. When processing a deer, avoid the brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, and eyes.
- Questions: **Mr. Darling** asked, in response to the aerosol statistic, once there are abundant deer herds with PRIONS, if ATVs can be used. **Dr. Garvon** replied humans should not pick it up. **Mr. Augustyn** asked if there were any studies on the effects to scavengers; **Dr. Garvon** stated there are some studies but nothing conclusive yet. Discussion and questions ensued. It was mentioned that in Wyoming, the deer herd has declined 19% due to CWD.



Chair Pershinske thanked Dr. Garvon for his presentation. He indicated he will plan to keep a CWD update as a continued item on the agenda.

3. **Mandatory Deer Check:** To further respond to Mr. Augustyn and NRC Commissioner Matonich's discussion at the Joint UPCAC Meeting in March about Mr. Augustyn's desire for mandatory deer checks, **Mr. Minzey** explained a mandatory check system was tested in 1991-1992. The results indicated the system was within five (5) deer of their estimated system and was not found to be beneficial. The cost benefit analysis is also not favorable and there is no budget dollars to provide for it. A regional deer management plan will be developed which will take into consideration several factors that can be adjusted as needed. **Mr. Augustyn** noted he did a quick research of 7 states who do mandatory checks; many have instituted internet reporting. He stated he's beginning to think the DNR does not want to know the results. **Mr. Minzey** replied the Wildlife Division does not agree that mandatory checks will produce the data to make a difference in management. **Chair Pershinske** stated it seems there is enough interest on this topic and referred it to the deer subcommittee to entertain further discussion if needed.
4. **Lake Superior Basin Management Team Update:** **Mr. Scott** mentioned Mr. Cory Kovacs will be taking his place on the EUPCAC when he retires. Mr. Kovacs is on the Ask the DNR program this

evening. He stated the Fisheries Division has been holding meetings all over the state to garner input from those interested in fisheries. The following Fisheries Division update was provided at those UP meetings and updated for the Eastern UP:

- More Waders on the Ground: A number of new fisheries employees have been hired across the U.P. in the last two years: Ms. Jennifer Johnson (Biologist, Crystal Falls), Mr. Tyler Walls and Mr. Jerek Gutierrez (Technicians, Crystal Falls), Ms. Elle Gulotty (Fish Analyst, Marquette), and Mr. John Bauman (Biologist, Escanaba).
- Fishing Guide: The latest fishing guide is a two-year guide for 2016 & 2017. Updates to the regulations will be online.
- New Multi-Species Un-Combined Possession Limit: For bass, walleye, pike, and flathead catfish. The former regulation was five (5) total fish in any combination but no more than two (2) northern pike. The new regulation is five (5) each of bass (large and smallmouth combined), walleye, flathead catfish, and two (2) northern pike.
- Fishing Tournament Registration for Bass Tournaments: This is a new requirement for all bass fishing tournaments to be registered with the DNR and provide basic participation and catch data after the tournament is complete. There are over 1,000 tournaments scheduled this summer.
- Tahquamenon River Muskies Regulation Change: The minimum size limit for muskellunge is now 38 inches. Only one (1) muskellunge per angler per year may be taken with a harvest tag.
- 10 Fish Bag Brook Trout Review: Data was shown for Tahquamenon River and Rock River from 2013-2015.
- Upcoming 2016 Fisheries Surveys: Surveys on waterbodies in Alger, Marquette, Schoolcraft and Delta Counties were displayed.
- Planned 2016 Stocking Waters for Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit: Waterbodies for Marquette and Alger County were displayed.
- Good News: Increased production of steelhead at Thompson State Fish Hatchery.
- More Good News: The Governor's budget included approximately \$12.2 million for fish production infrastructure improvements that would boost steelhead and coolwater fish production, including those at Thompson State Fish Hatchery.
- Launch of the R/V Tanner: The new research vessel will be launched in the next month.
- Free Fishing Weekend: June 11-12, 2016.

5. Cormorant Update: **Mr. Scott** explained the lawsuit filed against the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the depredation of cormorants. A judge recently ruled with the group plaintiff requiring a response from both sides by April 20th after which a judgement will be rendered. The depredation program in Michigan could be compromised as a result.

Next Meeting

1. Next Meeting Date: **Chair Pershinske** noted the next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16th at the Central Community Center in Munising.
2. Topics for Joint Meeting & Next EUPCAC Meeting Agenda: **Chair Pershinske** stated agenda items for the next agenda were determined throughout the meeting.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for additional public comments.

- **Mr. Stephen King** asked questions about cormorants and zebra mussels; **Mr. Scott** replied.

Closing Comments from the Council

- **Mr. Garavaglia** mentioned the Mackinac County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association will be meeting in Engadine on April 25 at 7:00pm. Senator Casperson and Brett French from ATC are planned presenters. All are welcome to attend.
- **Mr. Hoy** stated the US Fish & Wildlife Service is seeking comments about the remaining two wolves on Isle Royale. To provide comments, see the WCMU news article at <https://wcmu.org/news/?p=23054>.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm EST.

Approved 6/16/16