

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 25, 2016

6:30-8:30pm EST

LMAS Health Department Conference Room, Newberry

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

Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich	Al Garavaglia	Glenn Moll
Allan Augustyn	Gary Gorniak	Dick Pershinske
Tom Buckingham	Tim Hass	Chad Radka
Grant Dewitt	Bernie Hubbard	Mark Spencer

Council Members Excused/Absent

Ivan Darling	Jim Hoy
Jim Duke	Travis Kangas
Hawk Erickson	Michael Lawless
Jason Garvon	

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Division 2
Christina Hammill, Facilities & Operations Division, Newberry
Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Shingleton

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:32pm EST by **Chair Pershinske**.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Pershinske asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. Mr. Spencer stated he'd like to discuss center fire at night; Chair Pershinske added it under new business. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to adopt the agenda with the addition; Mr. Radka seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Darling, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Kangas, and Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the June 16, 2016 EUPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Aldrich motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Buckingham seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Darling, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Kangas, and Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske mentioned the new subcommittee he will touch on later in the agenda and feels the group could have a great impact as it deals with current outreach issues. He added there hasn't been much information about the wolf legislation on the federal level; **Mr. Minzey** stated there is a hearing scheduled on October 18th for the Michigan appeal.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Stephen King stated he will reserve his comments until the later comment period in the meeting.

Reports

1. **Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Haughey** stated she's glad to return after her leave and thanked Mr. Spieles and Mrs. Dahlstrom for covering. She provided the following updates since the last meeting:
 - Director Keith Creagh is back with the DNR from serving as interim DEQ Director during the last six months. Deputy Moritz and Chief O'Neill will also return to their original positions.
 - Last week during his annual visit to the U.P. during fair week, the Governor stopped to visit the DNR's Newberry Customer Service Center and Field Office. Director Creagh also visited the U.P. a portion of last week as well with several stops at various venues.
 - The interest by the EUPCAC to invite a tribal biologist to a future council meeting is moving forward. The biologist is reviewing his schedule to possibly attend in October or December. In addition, 2014 and 2015 harvest reports from the Sault tribe were forwarded to council members via email on July 14.
 - The WUPCAC will be meeting on September 7th in conjunction with the September 8th NRC Meeting in Ironwood. This is similar to the format of the EUPCAC and NRC meetings held last year in Cedarville, although held on separate days to alleviate such a long meeting day. All EUPCAC members are welcome to attend one or both meetings. **Chair Pershinske** encouraged council members to attend as it is a great opportunity to interact with the NRC commissioners and DNR leadership, as well as the WUPCAC council members all in one setting.
2. **DNR Division Reports:** Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on August 18, 2016. The following are verbal additions to those reports:
 - **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** stated the division is going through a federal audit by the Office of the Auditor General, which occurs every five years to review spending of Pittman-Robertson (PR) and Dingle Johnson federal aid. Approximately \$20 million is received each year, which is 50% of the division's budget. Items they review include equipment inventory, share cropping agreements, coding of time, co-management arrangements, etc. The auditors will be in the Soo and in Newberry tomorrow for the day, with the overall audit concluding in a week. It is not known when the results will be available. **Mr. Moll** asked if this audit was different than certification audits; **Mr. Minzey** replied yes and explained. **Mr. Minzey** also mentioned a dedication ceremony/celebration for the southern Marquette

County GEMS in honor of former DNR Wildlife Division employee Bill Rollo being held at the site on September 9th; all are welcome to attend.

- Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division: **Mr. Spieles** noted a week-long program called ANR North (Academy of Natural Resources) was initially held at the RAM Center in which school teachers are taught natural resource management to help them teach Michigan ecology to their students. A recent session of ANR North was held at the Ford Center near Baraga in partnership with MTU for 20 school teachers from the UP and lower peninsula. This was the first time the program was held in a different location/venue. **Chair Pershinske** asked if the teachers are surveyed years later to evaluate the value of the program; **Mr. Spieles** stated they do stay in touch with the teachers and further explained. **Mr. Moll** stated it is an outstanding program. Discussion ensued on the publicity of the program.
- Christina Hammill, Finance & Operations Division: **Mrs. Hammill** stated she did not have any additions to her report.
- Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division: **Lt. Hagy** mentioned a new patrol safe boat dedication held yesterday in the Soo which was named after one of the past chiefs of the LED. The boat was obtained through a port security grant. **Chair Pershinske** asked if a hunting dog is able to be retrieved if it ran onto private property. **Lt. Hagy** responded as long as the person does not have a firearm on them, there is no law against it. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Augustyn** stated he has a radio listener from lower Michigan who has a camp in the UP and he was upset that the UP only received one conservation officer (CO) out of the last graduating class. **Lt. Hagy** stated the UP actually received five CO's—four in the western UP and one in the eastern UP. Out of 21 that started the academy, 15 CO's graduated. **Mr. Augustyn** also stated a listener asked about the use of general law enforcement for a recent gathering. **Lt. Hagy** stated there are general fund dollars available/used for this. **Lt. Hagy** distributed a copy of the newest LED strategic plan, along with a handout of responsibilities and appropriations. The plan is the result of a very long process and it is also available online. He explained the recent CO vacancies and transfers occurring in District 2 (eastern UP), and stated the LED's goal is to have at least two officers in every county and three in the more populated counties in the lower peninsula. **Chair Pershinske** mentioned a good customer service example regarding local boaters without personal flotation devices. He stated he appreciates the detailed LED division reports as well. **Lt. Hagy** also mentioned an Outdoor Channel reality TV show "Wardens" is filming in the UP with LED along with several other divisions.
- Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division: **Mr. Stampfly** added the certification audit is complete for the year and it resulted in one minor citing, which has since been corrected. There were no findings in field operations. He explained external audits are held every year and they pick where they want to go. This year, auditors were in the Soo (east side) and then headed to the lower peninsula. **Mr. Moll** asked about the surplus mentioned in the division report; **Mr. Stampfly** stated there is a lot of activity right now; however, markets are tight and there is also a lot of wood hanging around.
- Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Kovacs** stated the federal lawsuit involving the control of cormorants is in the midst of a 60-day appeal process. **Mr. Augustyn** asked for an update on the fishing season; **Mr. Kovacs** explained the success rates at various locations around the eastern UP. **Mr. Augustyn** asked who provides the information for the weekly fishing report the DNR sends out; **Mr. Kovacs** replied the report is a compilation of information received

from conservation officers, creel clerks, boat captains, and fish biologists. He added the website report is very well received. **Mr. Augustyn** concurred, stating he has not heard any complaints about it from his radio listeners.

- **Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division:** **Mr. Cowing** introduced himself, stating he began on August 1st, after Mr. Tom Paquin retired. He's been with the DNR since 1994. He has been visiting the state parks on the eastern end of the U.P. Parks have had difficulty hiring staff this year, and park attendance and camping numbers have both increased this year.

Old Business

1. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update:** **Mr. Minzey** indicated testing began along the four counties bordering Wisconsin with over 100 deer being sent in for testing. These deer were the results of crop damage permits or road kill only. No sampling is being done outside of these methods. Volunteer monitoring will also be offered this fall during hunting season. A short-term worker was hired to assist with pick-up and delivery of animals to be tested. The official count of confirmed CWD-infected deer in Michigan is still at 7. Approximately 5,000 deer have been tested in southern Michigan, most of which are hunter-killed deer. He also stated a second Sika deer (considered an exotic animal) has escaped from Wisconsin into Michigan. Sightings of it have been reported, but it has not yet been found. When the deer is killed, it is required to be turned in for testing.
2. **Naubinway Marina Update:** **Mr. Cowing** stated he reached out to Mr. Paquin and there is no new information since the last meeting, where it was reported the township was having trouble with the designer they had hired and it was causing delays. **Chair Pershinske** added information about the pre-bid meeting date and Mr. Stephen King from the audience spoke about some of the township concerns.
3. **Deer Subcommittee Report:** **Mr. Buckingham** reported a response was received by Director Creagh in regards to the four resolutions (see below) on deer management submitted after the last council meeting. Members reviewed a copy of the response.
 - **Resolution #1:** *The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR contact tribal natural resource departments for those treaty areas in the Upper Peninsula to request they consider voluntarily reducing the number of whitetail permits issued to tribal hunters.*
 - **Resolution #2:** *The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR identify and provide a method or "trigger" on timber harvesting certain lands adjacent to a deer yard when the winter index hits a certain level.*
 - **Resolution #3:** *The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR, through the necessary channels, support the return of a bounty on coyotes.*
 - **Resolution #4:** *The EUPCAC recommends the MDNR end all current whitetail hunting seasons in the Upper Peninsula as they currently exist and replace them with the following: 1) one season, 30 to 45 days long, ending on November 30 (the season can be divided up—bow, rifle, etc., within the 30 to 45 days) ; 2) all legal methods of take allowed; 3) bag/tag's as currently provided; 4) combo tags or single tags; 5) no change to APR's; 6) no doe hunting UP-wide; and*

7) those areas encompassed within Delta, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties under the direct control of the MDNR's biologist having the ability to issue DMAP's only in those areas.

Mr. Gorniak indicated he felt Resolution #2 was taken the wrong way according to the response letter, which referred to the UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup. He doesn't feel the resolution has anything to do with that group, who are working on a long-term solution. The resolution focused on a short-term solution. **Mr. Minzey** explained a number of issues that would make the concept in resolution #2 impractical, such as the current timber sales planning process and harvesters having their jobs planned out in advance. **Mr. Stampfly** described how the Shingleton deer yard area was harvested in resolution #2's suggested manner years ago and how impractical it became. It would be very difficult and challenging to do. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Moll** asked if resolution #2 isn't an option, what can be done to improve things for deer on a short-term basis. **Mrs. Haughey** stated when she worked with the Director on the response letter, it was indicated these are questions and conversations the Habitat Workgroup is having. **Mr. Hubbard** agreed, indicating that all UP-wide stakeholders at the Workgroup meetings are discussing both short and long-term solutions and there are not a lot of short-term options.

Chair Pershinske suggested a continued dialogue and the need for the subcommittee to analyze the responses to the resolutions. **Mr. Buckingham** agreed the situation warrants further discussion, adding he understands how difficult #2 would be on the loggers. **Mr. Radka** stated he is looking forward to a tribal perspective and overview at a future meeting.

Continued discussion pertained to an update from the Habitat Workgroup, trigger points, land ownership of deer yard areas, logger union rules, reduction of license sales and ramifications to Pittman-Robertson (PR) funding, and loss of local hunting clubs due to lack of deer.

Chair Pershinske summarized the discussion, indicating the next steps will be for the subcommittee to reconvene prior to the next meeting in October and scheduling a tribal biologist to attend upcoming council meeting. **Mr. Augustyn** expressed his disagreement with the Director's response to Resolution #3 as he strongly believes it would reduce the coyote population.

New Business

1. **Chumming Regulation Update:** **Mr. Kovacs** mentioned a copy of the press release regarding the regulation approved by the NRC in July is included in the meeting packet. Chumming is the use of fish eggs, rice, maggots, noodles, etc. to attract certain species of fish and has been a topic for the past few years, primarily downstate. He explained the process by which this issue came before the NRC. Public meetings were held in 2015 and it went to the NRC as a social issue. The Fisheries Division assessed the impact of chumming on fish and it was found to have no biological impact. However, there were problems with some of the type of chum used which negatively affected fish. As a result of the Division's review, four options were presented to the NRC in June. After the NRC's review and many public comments, it was sent back to the NRC in July with five options, ranging from not regulating chumming to regulating amounts of chum allowed to be possessed by anglers or restricting chum only on specific waters. The NRC's decision was to close chumming on all designated trout streams (anglers will be prohibited from using organic chum

material on any designated trout streams, types 1-4). **Chair Pershinske** asked if the decision was based on color and social impact; **Mr. Kovacs** stated preservatives were a very small part of the decision; rather it is mostly due to the unfair advantage. **Mr. Augustyn** stated Mr. Dean, who read a letter to the council at the last EUPCAC meeting in Munising about chumming, was asking the DNR to look into the dye used in fish eggs which was being transmitted to the fish being caught; the regulation decision does not address that concern. **Mr. Kovacs** stated that Mr. Dean's letter was sent to Chief Dexter who would respond directly to him. **Mr. Buckingham** asked if PR funds come from hunting licenses and/or fishing licenses; **Mr. Kovacs** stated PR funds pertain to hunting and Dingle Johnson funds pertain to fishing. **Chair Pershinske** asked if there was any impact on the decision by negative press. **Mr. Kovacs** stated there were comments made at the August NRC meeting after the decision was made and it may continue. **Mr. Dewitt** asked if it was true that a commercial fisherman has to go on land to clean their fish, but those chumming can clean their fish and throw it back in the water; **Mr. Kovacs** said this was true.

2. Information & Outreach Education Subcommittee: **Chair Pershinske** stated Mr. Jim Hammill's presentation of the Michigan Wildlife Council and the research that has been done by that group has prompted him to implement this subcommittee. The research indicated that regardless of what is done, there is a segment of the population that will not change their perception of hunting. He indicated he met with Mr. Spieles to discuss potential goals of the subcommittee and a possible plan of action. He appreciates the three council members who volunteered to be part of this group: Dr. Garvon, Mr. Dewitt, and Mr. Hubbard. **Mr. Spieles** provided an overview presentation of the DNR's education goals to help further discussion on this topic.

- DNR Education Goals: Michigan citizens will understand: 1) that the sound management of natural and cultural resources is critical to building healthy ecosystems, strong economies, and opportunities for high quality of life within Michigan; 2) that Michigan's natural and cultural resources belong to them, in public trust, and are managed professionally by DNR staff using current best practices and scientific evidence to ensure balanced use and ongoing health for current and future generations; 3) that outdoor recreation and use of our natural resources is enjoyable for all ages and abilities. Recreation connects Michigan's citizens and visitors to the outdoors and provides support for DNR's conservation efforts.
- Natural Resources Stewardship Progression Pyramid: From the bottom of the pyramid to the top: Entry level-awareness/interest/appreciation; Ownership level-knowledge and skills; Empowerment level-citizenship/service; Top-stewardship.
- Threading educational goals through...park interpretation, recreation programming, recruitment and retention, additional agency goals (such as invasive species), and statewide programs.
- Michigan Wildlife Council (MWC): 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.
- MWC: One message unites our audience, "Wildlife should be managed for the use and enjoyment of future generations". Experiencing wildlife, revenue generated for natural

resource protection, economic revenue, jobs, healthy and thriving wildlife, habitat maintenance, and management by scientists. **Mr. Spieles** stated this is the mission statement.

- MWC: Stakeholder Support. Share the “Here. For Generations.” campaign. Be conscious of language and visuals used in your public materials. Build knowledge within the sportsmen community.
- MWC: Educating Sportsmen. Correct misconceptions, educate more deeply on hunting, fishing and trapping benefits and role in Michigan. Create more effective advocates for communicating with non-sportsmen.
- Action Plan-Recruit/Retain/Reactivate (R3): Several national groups put together this action plan: <http://r3nationalplan.ning.com/>. **Mr. Spieles** stated there are a million people out there who didn’t buy a license this year, but did in the last five years.
- R3 Flowchart shown.

Chair Pershinske stated he believes the council can make an important contribution to this effort. He will ask one of the three volunteers to chair the group. **Mr. Hass** indicated he can volunteer periodically when available. **Chair Pershinske** suggested to Mr. Augustyn that he may provide a valuable contribution with his media background. It was noted that natural resource activities involving children this summer received a large amount of press coverage, such as fingerling releases, etc., and any programs that can be tied in with the schools will be positive. **Chair Pershinske** stated that the goal is for the subcommittee to focus on the eastern UP, to start small. **Mr. Radka** noted the Pure Michigan campaign is very successful; although sightseeing is good, animals are needed in order to hunt. With a bit of education and work on the deer management program, it can help. **Mr. Minzey** added studies show if kids start with big game hunting, it is where they stay. If they start out small game hunting, such as bird or grouse hunting, there is more success to keep them in the sport. Plus, it’s easier to get kids involved with small game. The Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS) are a perfect opportunity to get kids involved. **Chair Pershinske** stated although he worked with Mr. Spieles initially, since it’s his specialty, any other division members are welcome to play a part. He feels this will be a very positive mission for the council.

3. *Additional Agenda Items Added by Council – Center Fire at Night:* **Mr. Spencer** stated he brought this topic to the NRC last fall and also to the Upper Peninsula Sportmen’s Alliance (UPSA). He said in May of this year, the NRC asked Chief Mason of the Wildlife Division to conduct a study in surrounding states on who is using center fire at night. All five surrounding states allow it. One state has a 25 caliber limit and the other four do not have a limit. The NRC is slated to make a decision in December; however, he indicated that Chief Mason wants to shift it to January. He stated there is no reason why it cannot be used and it may help the overabundance of coyotes. He would like to find out from the NRC if they will make a decision before December so that coyote hunters can get more animals and make more money. **Mr. Minzey** replied it is a multi-divisional issue, which includes the Law Enforcement Division (LED). He stated one concern from the Wildlife Division is eye shine at night can produce a high probability of shooting the wrong target animal, which could potentially be a wolf. This could pose a problem since the wolf is on the endangered species list. Noise, deer violations, etc. are additional issues. **Chair Pershinske** asked Mr. Minzey if he would obtain a response from Chief Mason on the issue; **Mr. Minzey**

stated he will seek a multi-divisional response. **Mr. Augustyn** encouraged Mr. Spencer to attend the Ironwood NRC meeting to voice his opinion; **Mr. Spencer** stated MUCC and Predator Calls have already expressed their views to them.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Chair Pershinske** noted the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20th at the Community Center in Manistique.
2. **Topics for Next EUPCAC Meeting Agenda:** **Chair Pershinske** stated topics for the next agenda will be taken from this meeting and from Council suggestions.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for additional public comments.

- In response to Mr. Stephen King's question at the last meeting about the fishing rates compared to the number of licenses sold, it was noted that license sales are up this year in virtually every category. When the legislators passed the license package, the non-resident fishing license did increase and it caused a fairly steep decline in the number of non-resident fishing licenses sold; this was anticipated. However, there was a simultaneous increase in the number of single day licenses sold. Over time, it is thought that those customers who decided not to buy when the increase occurred will eventually come back and purchase. Overall, sales have leveled out to date. Mr. King asked if there were any statistics on fishing license sales this year; **Chair Pershinske** stated this can be put on a future agenda for further discussion.

Closing Comments from the Council

- **Mr. Dewitt** asked if the DNR is talking with other states about a reciprocal agreement so that when rates are raised, other states will follow. **Mr. Minzey** indicated there would have to be a legislative movement in order for this to occur. Discussion ensued.
- **Mr. Augustyn** mentioned the National Trapper's Association won their bid to hold their convention and outdoor show again at the UP State Fairgrounds in Escanaba July 26-28, 2018. Also, in speaking with Sgt. Fitzgibbon, hunting safety courses will be held September 8 & 9 in the schools.
- **Mr. Spencer** noted Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvester's will hold their annual convention in Kinross on September 23 and 24.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm EST.