

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2008 6:30 p.m.  
LMAS District Health Department, Newberry, MI

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Pershinske

Council Members present: Steve Walker, Jim Duke, Scott Hickman, Doug Scheuneman, Lester Livermore, Richard Pershinski, Brenda Owen, Jim Rutledge, Bill Borst, Glenn Moll, Thomas Schweitzer, Steve Rodock, Bob DeVillez, Al Colegrove, Dale Dufour

Council Members absent: Lisa Denboer, Michael Lawless

Adoption of the Agenda with a change to New Business adding Drummond Island as a discussion point.

Review of the minutes with some grammatical corrections noted by Moll on pages 3 and 5 and another noted by DeVillez on page 3 as well.

Moved by Rutledge and seconded by Borst to adopt the minutes with corrections noted. No further discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman offered time for public comment: no public present, no comments.

Steve Scott with Fisheries Division of MDNR was present on behalf of Tom Courchaine who was unable to attend the meeting. Scott gave a brief update on how the Western UP group is doing. They have a draft of bylaws and are willing to share with us if we'd like. It was agreed that it was a good idea to utilize their draft.

Tim Melko, MDNR staff provided a synopsis of what his division does. Terry Minzey, MDNR staff, provided an update on Chronic Wasting Disease. If the disease is found in the Upper Peninsula it will be handled in the same way as the Lower Peninsula. All baiting and feeding will be prohibited. A Deer Management Symposium is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Pleasant.

Gary Ellenwood recapped the summer season noting a 5% decline in Park visitation statewide and an 8% decline in Park visitation in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Boater nights at the Harbors are down 8%.

Mike Paluda, MDNR staff, recapped the summer fire season. There were 41 wildfires in the Upper Peninsula, all less than 100 acres.

Steve Scott, MDNR staff, provided information on the Echo and Duck Lake proposed fish regulation changes on Grand Island in Alger County. The item will be discussed further on in the meeting.

Rich Stevenson, MDNR forester, went over the work being done on Regional State Forest Plans. There are 33 management areas selected in the EUP. The goal is to have the plan complete by September of 2010.

Half of the group was asked at the previous meeting to provide a brief “resume” of what their representing group does and/or what the Council member feels is their area of representation. Some provided a typed handout and others ad-libbed.

#### Old Business

Chairman Pershinske requested that Council determine the process for public input. Guests wishing to address the Council would be allowed 3-5 minutes to present their issue unless they have requested to be on the agenda ahead of time. If someone is unable to attend but has an issue for discussion they would need to funnel that information to a Council member who is then responsible for getting it to the Chairman in time for it to be placed on the agenda.

General consensus of the group was that attendance at meetings by Council members, replacement of any members, and a structure for Committees would need to be addressed clearly in the by-laws.

Discussion about the 3 vacancies on the Council currently. It was noted that the spots would remain open and if interested persons arose they were to be directed to Tom Courchaine for application/review. Councilman Colegrove noted a void in membership from Chippewa County.

Regarding the need to utilize by-laws, Councilmen Walker and Rodock volunteered to review the draft by-laws from the Western Council before the next meeting. All council members will receive copies of the draft by-laws prior to the next meeting as well.

Discussion on the process to formalize recommendations to the MDNR and what the implications of the recommendations are.

It was noted that currently the meetings will remain in the general Newberry area until the Council is more formally organized and needs to rotate to different counties addressing various issues.

Council Secretary Owen will be setting up a Yahoo email account for citizens to email issues and information or requests to be on the agenda directly to the Council.

Councilman Walker went over a well detailed and quite noteworthy Drummond Island Use Map in its rough draft stage.

Steve Scott began the review of the proposed changes to the Echo Lake and Duck Lake in Alger County. The following regulations are being recommended:

- Continue catch and release of all smallmouth bass

- Northern Pike regulations would change to standard statewide regulations;
  1. Minimum size limit of 24 inches
  2. Possession limit of 2
  3. Spearing would be allowed
  4. Bait would be allowed

Doug Scheuneman motioned “We the EUP-CAC concur with these changes for Echo and Duck Lakes”

Motion seconded by Glenn Moll. Further discussion – none. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the LMAS District Health Department in Newberry.

Scott Hickman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Motion seconded by Doug Scheuneman. All ayes, motion carried.