

Eastern (EUPCAC) & Western (WUPCAC) Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils
Annual Joint Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2013
6:00-8:30pm EST
Northern Michigan University's University Center, Marquette, MI

Eastern Council Members Present

Tom Buckingham, Secretary
Jim Duke
Gary Ellenwood
Al Garavaglia
Ginny Giddings
Gary Gorniak
Bernie Hubbard
Michael Lawless
Glenn Moll, Vice-Chair
Dick Pershinske, Chair
Chad Radka
Rich Serfass
Sara Wall

Eastern Council Members Absent

Bill Becks	Jim Hoy
Phil Dennis	Mike Patrick
Jason Garvon	Jim Shutt
Tim Hass	

Guests

Eric Bacon, DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program (via conference call)
Sarah LeSage, DEQ Aquatic Invasive Species Program (via conference call)
John Madigan, Natural Resources Commissioner
Bill Moritz, Natural Resources Deputy
Dave Nyberg, Director of Governor Snyder's Northern Michigan Office
JR Richardson, Natural Resources Commissioner

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Greg Andrews, Economic Development, Marquette
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Lt. Skip Hagy, District Law Supervisor-Eastern UP, Newberry
Rich Hill, Parks & Recreation Division-Straits District, Newberry
Darren Kramer, Fisheries Division, Escanaba
Tim Melko, Finance & Operations Division-Western UP, Marquette
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Marquette
Debbie Munson Badini, Marketing & Outreach Division/Public Information Office, Marquette
Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division-Western UP, Marquette
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Anna Sylvester, Parks & Recreation Division, Roscommon
Jan VanAmberg, Fisheries Division, Marquette
Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Lt. Pete Wright, District Law Supervisor-Western UP, Marquette

Western Council Members Present

David Anderson	George Lindquist
David Anthony	Rory Mattson
Ken Buchholtz	Chauncey Moran
Jerry Divine	Terry Reed
Floyd Dropps	Robert "Skip" Schulz
Larry Heathman	Travis Smith
Mike Holmes	Warren Suchovsky, Co-Facilitator
Katie Kruse	Phil Wirtanen, Facilitator

Western Council Members Absent

Mick Jarvi
Dave Johnson
Jim Lorensen
Jim Schmierer

Welcome & Introductions

Facilitator Wirtanen, WUPCAC, began the meeting with introductions of guests present: Dr. Bill Moritz, Natural Resources Deputy; Mr. John Madigan, Natural Resources Commissioner; Mr. JR Richardson, Natural Resources Commissioner; and Mr. David Nyberg, Director of Governor Snyder's Northern Michigan Office. Members of both the East and West Councils introduced themselves and indicated which stakeholder group they represent.

Facilitator Wirtanen provided an overview of the purpose of the DNR's Citizen Advisory Councils, which is to represent the citizen's perspective in offering advisement on DNR initiatives, projects, and programs. Both Councils have surveyed members and items from the surveys are discussed as agenda items. Council members also bring topics to meetings that derive from their stakeholder groups or the public at large. The Councils meet every other month and members have 4-year staggered terms. Anyone interested in applying to serve on the council when openings occur can do so anytime (applications are available on the website at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-39002_50009---,00.html). He thanked everyone for their support and presence.

Chair Pershinske, EUPCAC, stated he has had the honor of being Chair of the EUPCAC since it started in 2008 and he is very proud of their accomplishments. The EUPCAC has 6 new Council members and is now at full strength with 20 members. The Council is a great group, and there is a several DNR staff to support them and attend meetings regularly. Currently, the three directors from the Departments of Environmental Quality, Agriculture and Natural Resources all share the same thoughts as to the direction of these departments and this is important to the Councils. The Councils welcome any input from all citizens. He stated he appreciates the volunteer efforts of Council members and DNR staff.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division Reports

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on March 11, 2013. The following are current updates to those reports.

- **Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator**: **Ms. Welling Haughey** thanked the audience for attending and the Council members for their volunteer time. In addition to her written report, a colored map has been included in the member packets showing land ownership patterns (tax reverted land, game and fish fund purchased land, trust fund purchased land, state game fund purchased land, and general purchased land). This is an item that the Councils could have as a future agenda item if desired.
- **Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer**: **Ms. Munson Badini** noted a reporter from WLUC-TV6 was here doing a live feed at the start of the meeting; it will be aired on the 11pm news.
- **Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resource Division**: **Mr. Stampfly** stated he had no additions to his report.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division**: **Mr. Minzey** added two short updates regarding the wolf issue. First, the DNR is moving forward with developing a recommendation to present to the NRC on a wolf hunt. The NRC has moved up the request for information to April. Information will be on the website in two weeks. Second, the State of Michigan has decided to join the US Fish & Wildlife Service in a lawsuit brought forth against them by the Human Society of the United States, who would like to restore federal protections for gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region that were lifted last year.

- **Ms. Giddings** asked for clarification on the lawsuit; **Mr. Minzey** replied. Ms. Giddings also asked about the potential license fee increase and what is meant by additional benefits. **Mr. Minzey** indicated a presentation will be provided later on the agenda which will answer her questions.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked about the state of the deer herd with the current winter conditions and if there will be any change in winter feeding regulations. **Mr. Minzey** indicated there will be no changes to the regulations. The Wildlife Division is concerned with the deer herd; this is only the second winter in the last 20 years where conditions have escalated late in the season.
- **Mr. Gorniak** asked when the wolf survey will be completed; **Mr. Minzey** replied the survey will be done April 1st, and the review should be completed by mid-April.
- **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked what the basis is for the Humane Society's lawsuit. **Mr. Minzey** replied that they do not know the exact basis this time as it changes for each lawsuit they bring forth.
- Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Paquin** stated a meeting was held this afternoon with ORV sponsors. There was a good turnout and legislative updates were provided. The main concern discussed at length amongst attendees was the proposed ORV fee increase. Overall, the focus needs to be, rather than becoming a trails state, Michigan is already a trails state.
 - **Mr. Schulz** stated one issue the Council brought up 2-3 years ago was consistent ORV trails signing. Planning was moving forward, however, he found out this afternoon the planning was dropped. He stated clubs all over the U.P. supported the proposal which was started 7 years ago and today he finds out it's dropped. **Mr. Paquin** replied it was determined by the ORV Advisory Workgroup at its March 6, 2013 meeting that the proposal wasn't supported. It was the user groups who made the decision, not the DNR.
- Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division: **Mr. Spieles** stated he had no additions to his report.
- Greg Andrews, Economic Development: **Mr. Andrews** stated he has been working on economic development and special projects. He noted Mr. Buchholz from the WUPCAC is attending the Accessibility Advisory Council meeting in Lansing next month.
- Jan VanAmberg, Fisheries Division: **Mr. VanAmberg**, representing the hatcheries, indicated a summary is provided in the written report and he had no additions.
- Darren Kramer, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Kramer**, fisheries biologist from Escanaba, referenced the fishing regulations public meetings listed in the written Fisheries Division report, noting that there are two additional meetings not mentioned: April 9 at Bay de Noc College in Escanaba, and April 11 at Bay College West in Iron Mountain, both from 6-8pm local time. Meeting information is also listed on the website.
- Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division: **Lt. Wright** stated he had no additions to his report.
- Rich Hill, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Hill** stated he had no additions to his report.
 - **Mr. Gorniak** asked for the status of the Pine River launch. **Mr. Hill** replied there is no update to report. He stated the division is focusing on dredging issues at this time.
- Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division: **Lt. Hagy** stated the snowmobiling season is still going strong. Last year at this time, there were smelting issues; however, this year doesn't look like it will be a problem with the winter conditions still in full force.
- Tim Melko, Facilities & Operations Division: **Mr. Melko** noted that the new hunting and fishing licenses went on sale March 1st.

Call To Order

The Annual Joint Meeting between the Eastern (EUPCAC) & Western (WUPCAC) Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils was formally called to order at 6:30 pm EST by **Facilitator Wirtanen**.

Approval of Agenda

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Suchovsky motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Mattson seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Bill Becks, Phil Dennis, Jason Garvon, Tim Hass, Jim Hoy, Mick Jarvi, Dave Johnson, Jim Lorenson, Mike Patrick, Jim Schmierer, and Jim Shutt. Motion carried.**

Aquatic Invasive Presentation (via conference call)

Facilitator Wirtanen announced Ms. Sarah LeSage and Mr. Eric Bacon from the Department of Environmental Quality with DEQ, via conference call, will present information about aquatic invasives, which has been a recent topic of common interest to both Councils.

Ms. LeSage, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator with the DEQ Water Resources Division, began with an overview of authorities and background.

- **Definition of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**: A species not native and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. A chart was shown with a wide-variety of species included in the AIS definition. There are 184 non-native species identified.
- **AIS Recently Verified as Established in the Great Lakes Basin**: Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and bloody-red shrimp.
- **Effects of AIS**: AIS competes with native species for food and habitat or indirectly harm native species. The economic effects can cause a decrease in commercial and recreational fishers, property values, tourism and have an effect on utilities and other industries.
- **Sea Lamprey**: Major impacts on the food web include collapse of the lake trout fishery, and explosion and collapse of the alewife population. Sea Lamprey are now under control with management efforts costing \$20 million each year.
- **Phragmites**: Crowd out native plants and animals, effects property values, reduces access for recreation and creates a fire hazard. They are difficult to eradicate.
- **Cost of Control**: Costs of management and control of AIS can be \$10 million to \$25 million each year with a total cost of over \$2.5 billion over 20 years. This includes staff time, lost hatchery capacity, research projects and development of diagnostic tests.
- **Current Costs**: The cost of all AIS in the Great Lakes region totals \$5.7 billion per year. The cost for both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species nationally is \$137 billion per year.
- **State of Michigan AIS Team**: The AIS program is not centralized. It is spread across different divisions (Departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Agriculture) and can be confusing. Others include the Department of Transportation and the Attorney General.
- **AIS Program Priorities**: Plan update and implementation, priority pathways and vectors (canals—focus on the Chicago area waterway system and Asian Carp, ballast water control, and organisms in trade).
- **AIS State Management Plan**: The four goals include:
 - Goal I: Prevent new introductions of AIS into Michigan waters.
 - Goal II: Limit the spread of established populations of AIS into un-infested waters of the state.

- Goal III: Develop an early detection and rapid response program to address new AIS invasions.
- Goal IV: Manage and control AIS to lessen the harmful ecological, economic, social and public health impacts resulting from infestation of AIS.
- Management Options: All stages of invasion are being reviewed. The area with most success is prevention.
- Vector and Pathway Concept: A focus is on the pathway in which the species arrive in Michigan waters: shipping and boating, habitat alteration, and use and trade of organisms.
- Introduction of Aquatic Non-Native Species to the Great Lakes: Historically, ballast water is the main mode of transportation to the Great Lakes. Canals via waterways are another main pathway.
- Organisms in Trade: This is a variable pathway, intentional or unintentional, such as aquaculture, live food/fish markets, bait trade, aquariums, and the water garden industry.
- Water Recreation: This is the last pathway that can be a real problem. The main way to deal with this pathway is through education and outreach, such as billboards.
- AIS Advisory Council: The Council, chaired by DEQ, was established by law in 2011 with appointed members and meets monthly in Lansing or Roscommon. The group's objective is to satisfy the statutory requirement to make recommendations to the state government, legislature, and Governor. They hope to wrap up in June 2013.

Mr. Bacon, Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Coordinator with the DEQ Water Resources Division, presented the permitting aspects in the use of chemicals to control AIS.

- DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program (ANC): The program is managed by state law. Any applications of chemicals to any water body (pond, lake, or exposed Great Lakes bottomlands) require a permit.
- ANC Permitting: There are several permitting mechanisms: General permit with Certificate of Coverage, Individual Permit, or Standard Permit.
- How Does Permitting Work: There are 4 staff in Lansing who handled 2,504 applications in 2012 with 2,600 expected in 2013. Once an application—including site information, target plants, proposed herbicides, and location map—is submitted to DEQ, a review is conducted with a decision required within 30/15 business days for permits/COC's, respectively. The DEQ permit indicates herbicides, rates/amounts, locations, and any special conditions. A new permit/COC is required each year; some multi-year options are available for certain categories of treatment introduced for 2013.
- Practical Advice for Treatments: Individual(s), homeowners associations, applicators, consultants, units of government, etc. can apply. Applying the herbicide treatment can be done individually, depending on the herbicide as some require certification, or by a hired licensed applicator. A list of companies can be found at www.michigan.gov/anc. Treatment methods were also discussed.
- Common ANC Questions: Application fees are based on the statute. Most herbicides are safe as long as they are applied according to permit and label requirements. An area treated will have signs posted and written notification will be sent. Not all vegetation can be treated.
- Available Resources: There are several helpful guides available which can be viewed online at www.michigan.gov/deqaquaticinvasives.
- Contact Information: Web: www.michigan.gov/ANC, phone 517-241-1554, or via email at DEQ-WRD-ANC@michigan.gov

Facilitator Wirtanen thanked the presenters and opened the floor for Council questions.

- **Mr. Schulz** asked if spring run-off has an effect on invasive species; **Mr. Bacon** indicated that if an infected body of water floods during spring run-off into another body of water, it could have an effect.
- **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if phragmites are transported by ducks to inland sites. **Mr. Bacon** stated they are not sure how it's moving so quickly, aside from seeds. They spread by runners or shoots that go through shallow soils. If the soils are disturbed, the fragments can be moved around, for example, with construction equipment working in an affected area moving to another area without being washed. It is possible wildlife could transport it, but it's more human based. **Ms. LeSage** stated that a recent Wisconsin study indicated recreational traffic and an increase in earth movement are found to be the cause.
- **Mr. Serfass** asked if a permit is needed for a private pond with no connection to other waterways. **Mr. Bacon** replied that if the following five requirements are met: no outlet, no record of endangered species, the water body has a surface area of less than 10 acres, management of the pond is in the same manner, and the owner agrees to post treatment of the pond, then the pond can be treated without a permit. **Mr. Serfass** also asked if the AIS Council has explored commercial end uses for the invasive species. **Ms. LeSage** stated the Council has recently discussed the beneficial end uses and is being investigated, such as the use of zebra mussels for fertilizer. There are no recommendations at this point.
- **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the AIS program is working in partnership with other Great Lake states or provinces. **Ms. LeSage** stated yes, through participation in a task force and regional panels under the national invasive species act. Michigan participates in a panel to provide regional collaboration.
- **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated that he brought copies of an executive summary from Dean Premeau, Ph.D., President of White Water Associates of Amasa. He is a consultant who has been working on an invasive species project with Wisconsin, as AIS does not recognize state lines. The copies are available on the entry table. **Ms. LeSage** stated the DEQ was able to fund a very small portion of that project and she has read the summary. **Facilitator Wirtanen** also mentioned the preventative work of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Group.
- **Mr. Holmes** asked if fish native to the Great lakes and connecting waters, but not native to inland lakes (such as muskie), are taken to a lake with no inland or outlet that fish can swim through, does it fall under Goal I (prevent new introductions of AIS into Michigan waters) of the AIS State Management Plan. **Ms. LeSage** stated without a real example, she is not sure if the state would consider it invasive. It is a good question for the AIS core team. **Mr. Kramer** added an explanation of range expansion.
- **Mr. Dropps** asked if there are any plans, with regards to the license fee increase, to utilize some of the boater's registration fees for invasive species prevention. **Ms. LeSage** stated the AIS Council is tasked with making recommendations for funding levels and sources, determining funding for specific activities with organisms and trade. Recently, the Council has reviewed how other states have approached the problem. There are more user based fees or an across the board tax. All options are being reviewed.
- **Mr. Moran** asked if fish kill numbers after applications are being maintained, especially with the amount of chemicals being used in mill ponds in lakes and streams in southeast Michigan with no consideration of the temperature of the day of application. **Mr. Bacon** stated they receive very few reports of fish kill with the use of approved chemicals. They encourage groups to use a professional for treatment so they are applied safely and effectively.

- **Facilitator Wirtanen** mentioned on Lake Gogebic, they have found an alternate source from the National Forest Service for boat washing services. Mitigation monies are available (FERC).
- **Mr. Wendt**, from the audience, noted he is vice president of the Lakeguards of Watersmeet. They have 400 members with a budget of \$124,000. They have been doing a couple of treatments, one full lake treatment, and they offer boat washing on Lake Gogebic. The group provides very heavy public education. He would like to publicly thank the DEQ (Lisa & Eric) who are doing a great job with permits, and also Mrs. Welling Haughey, who helped put him in contact with Mr. Bill Doan and his staff; they are also doing an excellent job. He stated it is comforting to know there are people in the government who are giving the help they need. **Mr. Wendt** also asked Mr. Bacon if the proposal the Lakeguards submitted last year asking for lakes to be identified and recorded as problem lakes was still active; **Mr. Bacon** stated he was not familiar with the proposal but will investigate.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked if there are any specific issues, other than funding, that might be appropriate for the UPCAC's involvement or action. **Ms. LeSage** stated they are always looking for feedback. For example, are the billboards effective? Is there anything they can do differently to educate the public? Any ideas for public outreach are encouraged and can be sent to her.
- **Ms. Welling Haughey** noted that a comprehensive contact list for aquatic invasive species information in Michigan is included in the meeting packet.

Overview of the Governor's Proposed License Fee Package

Facilitator Wirtanen introduced **Dr. Bill Moritz**, Natural Resources Deputy, and **Mr. Dave Nyberg**, Director of Governor Snyder's Northern Michigan Office, who will present an overview of the Governor's proposed license fee package. **Dr. Moritz** noted his work history, indicating he previously worked with the Safari Club International and came back to the DNR about a year ago.

Dr. Moritz provided a presentation, which focused on the following:

- **DNR Mission**: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.
- **DNR Strategic Goals**: Protect natural and cultural resources, ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment, enable strong natural resource-based economies, improve and build strong relationships and partnerships, foster effective business practices and good governance.
- **FY 2014 Executive Recommendation**: The Governor has put together a package of new revenue sources and general fund increases.
- **New Revenue**: A breakdown of proposed new revenue dollars was shown for areas such as Emergency Dredging (\$9.4 million), Great Lakes Research Vessel (\$2 million), New Conservation Officers (\$3.5 million), Belle Isle Operation (\$3.7 million), Hunting and Fishing Recreation (\$11.365 million), Off-Road Vehicle Recreation (\$2.7 million), and Aquatic Invasive Species (\$150,000).
- **General Fund**: A proposed increase of new general fund dollars total \$13.35 million. This funding would be utilized for the hiring and training of new conservation officers, aquatic invasive species prevention, the creation of a disaster and emergency fund—which is primarily for fighting fires, and support for Belle Isle.
- **Restricted Funds**: Under restricted funds, a restructure of the hunting and fishing licensing has been proposed. The last restructure occurred 17 years ago. The proposal reduces the current 277 license types to 31. License prices were benchmarked with surrounding states. A \$10

base license includes small game, waterfowl, and migratory birds. A hunting and fishing proposal of restricted funds totals \$18.1 million and includes grants to partners and a customer service component. An ORV permit fee increase is proposed, adjusting the base vehicle permit from \$16.25 to \$26.25 with an additional charge for riding designated trails of \$10.00. Revenue from this increase would be distributed according to the statutory formula to ORV trail improvement grants, law enforcement, parks and recreation, and administration. In the transportation proposal, \$11.7 million additional revenue would be distributed (also according to statutory formula) to the waterways fund, snowmobile trail improvement fund and the recreation improvement fund.

- FY 2013 Supplemental Resources: For 2013, there is a dire need for emergency dredging after a survey was conducted of all boat harbors around the state. As a result, monies from the general fund and waterways fund will be redirected to dredging.
- Outcomes & Metrics: **Dr. Moritz** indicated in the meeting packets is a set of outcomes that indicate where the additional \$18.1 million (hunting and fishing proposal) in revenue will go—the intent is *“boots on the ground and waders in the water”*.
- Expected Outcomes & Metrics from all Funding Sources:
 - Technical assistance for fish habitat on cold water and lake streams, creel surveys and assessments on inland lake and streams, rearing and stocking with hatchery infrastructure improvements.
 - At least one CO in every county with increased presence in rural areas, education/outreach/public safety contacts by CO, greater focus on ballast water, Asian Carp, etc., state of the art assessment capability for aquatic invasives, ability to respond during a disaster.
 - Outreach to perch, bluegill, and bass anglers, grants to partners to improve habitat in inland lakes and streams, habitat management and maintenance on game areas and state forest lands, grants to partners for habitat management and maintenance.
 - Enhance partnership with Pure Michigan to promote recreational opportunities, expand natural resource outreach programs, improve customer license-buying experience, expand customer service, be a good neighbor-make Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).
 - Make Michigan the #1 trail state, harbors of refuge safety network are maintained, Great Lakes are accessible, improved recreational boating statewide, economic prosperity in local communities.
- License Fee Package-Changes in the Works: Changes have already occurred to the original package as it was proposed. The managed waterfowl would be dropped and a duck stamp would be added, costing \$12. Based on feedback, the one-day fishing license needs to be reduced to \$10. A three-day fishing license was added back in. A crop damage deer permit was added. Free tags for fisher martin, bobcat, and otter need to be added. Also working on the potential for a combination license, which includes the base license, two deer tags and a fishing license for \$80.

Dr. Moritz opened the floor for Council questions pertaining to his presentation.

- **Mr. Smith** asked what the impact will be on the increase of non-resident license fees to the overall number of them purchased. **Dr. Moritz** replied that a small game license will be given to every deer hunter, so they are hoping to increase small game hunting. However, there is concern for the \$150 non-resident base license for those coming to only small game hunt, so a 7-day non-resident small game license is being proposed.

- **Mr. Moran** asked if a lifetime license, which used to be in existence long ago, is being considered. **Dr. Moritz** replied no, that it was a good pulse of money the first year, but not afterwards. **Mr. Moran** also asked the status of Senate Bill 78 regarding biodiversity. **Dr. Moritz** stated a bill analysis has been done and the Administration has taken a neutral position.
- **Mr. Schulz** stated it was mentioned that prices were compared to surrounding states; however, the ORV permit increase was not determined in that manner. **Dr. Moritz** stated a different process was utilized for ORVs than what was used for hunting and fishing licenses. At this time, it is a proposal and it may be good to reduce the impact on the users, but yet an increase in the number of dollars available to maintenance groups is wanted as well.
- **Mr. Lindquist** asked if the increase in acres of public game areas is referring to state game areas or hunting lands with game funds; there are no state game areas in the U.P. **Dr. Moritz** stated the language is applicable to all type of land areas. As the legislature deals with the budget, the DNR will be adding more specific details.
- **Mr. Mattson** asked if the outcomes listed are from the Governor's office. **Dr. Moritz** replied that the Governor takes a lot of policy recommendations from the DNR. A proposal was submitted by the DNR as requested, and the Governor came back with suggestions for change. The DNR heard concerns from the sportsmen's community and developed a proposal to make more transparency; accountability was added, and the DNR will have to deliver on these outcomes before a renewal can be requested. **Mr. Mattson** stated that he received over 7,000 responses on a survey he put out and there is not much support for the license fee increase; it will probably be 15,000 responses by the next UPSA meeting. He stated people want more game and fish. Although some money is listed as being put towards habitat and fisheries, etc., more money is being steered towards other things like outreach, marketing, research for surveys, and law enforcement. He feels the proposal is spending just as much or more telling the story rather than doing it.
- **Mr. Dropps** stated he would like to see the license increase as he doesn't mind paying if he will get something out of it. He feels that if the DNR will be coming back to the sports groups to do more of the work, bigger metropolitan areas with more clubs will get better fish and game areas. **Dr. Moritz** stated that will not happen, and provided an example of a project with MUCC last week in which people drove four hours to work on building brush piles; people willing to help will show up for projects.
- **Mr. Ellenwood** stated he feels some of the ratios in the funding could be adjusted, as the percentage going to the Wildlife Division seems low. He also noted the loss of CO's as well as wildlife biologists and fire officers. **Dr. Moritz** agreed there has been a loss of staff from all divisions. It is an ongoing conversation on how to meet the needs of a world class natural resources. The Wildlife Division has several other funding sources not shown in the proposal resulting in a lower percentage. He stated this proposal by no means makes the DNR whole, it is a first effort.
- **Ms. Giddings** stated the proposal noted the expansion of big game hunting adventures and recreational shooting opportunities and asked what that means. **Dr. Moritz** stated he doesn't have all the specifics of the language, however, more Pittman Robertson funding in recent years has been geared towards recreational shooters, and it may mean more shooting ranges.

Dr. Moritz turned the presentation over to Mr. Nyberg for additional insight from the Governor's Office. **Mr. Nyberg** thanked the UPCAC's for their input, stating this process is critically important in delivering customer service to the government. This is the third budget in a row proposed, and hopefully it will be passed by the legislature and the Governor. Recreation is critical to the state's

economy and this budget reflects that. It is largely based on outcomes the Governor would like to achieve. \$3.4 billion is spent by Michigan residents for hunting and fishing. Add to that wildlife viewing and silent sports. There will be some give and take on the proposal and it is expected. Changes to the proposal occur as a result of input like this.

- **Mr. Radka** asked what is being done for birdwatchers, bikers, etc. to make sure they chip in for their fair share in the maintenance of trails, etc. **Dr. Moritz** replied that one distant idea is to expand the use of the recreation passport and require it to use all public land. The DNR manages state owned lands for everyone and having a way for everyone to contribute is important.
- **Mr. Garavaglia** asked for the justification in doubling the ORV fees. **Dr. Moritz** stated he will take the feedback from the earlier Trails Meeting and this meeting to Lansing for review. It is only a proposal at this stage.
- **Mr. Anderson** feels that the proposed budget, in terms of cold water stream preservation, is not enough. He stated the DNR needs to create better relationships with those who use the resources and want to put the money back in. **Mr. Nyberg** stated it is a good point and is exactly in line with where the Governor wants to go—removing liabilities and creating more partnerships. **Dr. Moritz** stated the DNR recognizes the need to do a better job with partnerships.
- **Mr. Suchovsky** stated that measuring success in the future is very important. The Governor is very big on measures and metrics and feels that it may be difficult for the DNR to do this for all that they do. Revenue and objectives need to line up and match with the Governor's goals.

Public Comments

- Mr. Jack Herrick stated that he'd like to see trappers included in a wolf hunt. **Mr. Minzey** replied that a decision has not yet been made. The DNR will make recommendations to the NRC, but it will be up to the NRC to make the final determination in regards to a hunt. Mr. Herrick stated his thoughts on biodiversity stewardship and feels it would keep people off of state land.
- Mr. Dave Nelson welcomed Buck LaVasseur (in the audience) to the meeting. Mr. Nelson stated he feels the DNR is top-heavy, has too many staff in Lansing and not enough in the U.P. Until there is better wildlife management in the U.P., he will not be supportive of a license fee increase.

Closing Comments from the Council

- **Mr. Lindquist** feels it is real important to create a united voice on the license fee package to allow it to work. There is a lot of support for doing a better job of getting boots on the ground. U.P. Whitetails are a strong supporter in getting more conservation officers in the field. It's very important to work together, despite having differences on how the money is disbursed.
- **Mr. Schulz** reiterated his disappointment with the decision to drop the ORV signing proposal after 7 years of work. It was noted again the decision was made by the ORV Advisory Workgroup who represents the user groups.
- **Mr. Mattson** stated since he represents certain people, the example Dr. Moritz gave with small game is a big concern with those in the U.P. Using monies to market the area and telling people how good it is here is not needed; providing the game will bring people back.
- **Ms. Giddings** stated she's been following the wolf process for over 10 years and she expressed her dismay on the current movement towards a wolf hunt. She attended the public hearing at NMU and feels that decisions have been made on personal preferences and not on facts. She

doesn't feel wolves are a problem and those that are, were resolved through the DNR depredation grant. She stated there doesn't need to be a hunt because the numbers are back to where they were.

- **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated he attended the Ironwood wolf meeting and his takeaway is that a wolf hunt, if there is one, will be based on science. There won't be a hunt if there is no need to have one.
- **Chair Pershinske** has been involved in the wolf issue for a very long time. He had one of the first incidences of depredation in his township. On the Wolf Advisory Council are several individuals with the same position as Ms. Giddings, as well as some who favor a hunt. The debate amongst the Council will be passionate and lengthy and they will do so in a respectful fashion. The Council will agree on a recommendation, whether there is a hunt or not.
- **Ms. Giddings** stated that trapping was not being addressed with the wolf hunt. **Mr. Minzey** replied the NRC will be making a determination on a hunt. There are chronic wolf problems in certain areas; it is not completely under control. If a hunt is approved, it would be according to the wolf management plan and would not be a recreational hunt. The DNR is not interested in reducing the viability of the wolf in the U.P.
- **Mr. Holmes** stated he sees wolves routinely on one of the railroad grades through his property. It's nice to see the wolves; however, he is 100% behind proper management. If wolves are going to be accepted in the U.P., a harvest of some sort will be needed, whether through depredation or not. On a separate note, **Mr. Holmes** also mentioned a bill in the legislature that would give the NRC the same authority over the Fisheries Division as it does over the Wildlife Division. He is hoping it will pass because he feels the Fisheries Division has gone in the opposite direction as Wildlife. **Mr. Moritz** commented that there has been discussion of a bill, but nothing has been introduced yet.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm EST.