

Eastern (EUPCAC) & Western (WUPCAC) Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils
Annual Joint Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016
5:30-8:00 pm EST
Marquette Township Community Center, Marquette

Eastern Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich	Gary Gorniak
Allan Augustyn	Bernard Hubbard
Tom Buckingham, Secretary	Glenn Moll, Vice-Chair
Ivan Darling	Dick Pershinske, Chair
Grant Dewitt	Mark Spencer

Eastern Council Members Absent

Jim Duke	Jim Hoy
Hawk Erickson	Travis Kangas
Allyn Garavaglia	Michael Lawless
Jason Garvon	Chad Radka
Tim Hass	

Western Council Members Present

Dave Anthony	Bob Stinson
Ken Buchholtz	Horst Schmidt
Anthony Campbell	Robert "Skip" Schulz
Floyd Dropps	Vicki Schwab
Joan Duncan	Travis Smith
Larry Heathman	Warren Suchovsky, Co-Facilitator
George Lindquist	Phil Wirtanen, Facilitator
Jim Lorenson	

Western Council Members Absent

Mike Holmes	Katie Kruse
Mick Jarvi	Chauncey Moran
Dave Johnson	

Guests

John Matonich, Chair, Natural Resources Commission
Chad Stewart, DNR Deer, Moose & Elk Management Specialist (via conference call)

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry
David Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist, Sault Ste. Marie
Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga
Tim Melko, Facilities & Operation Division, Marquette
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming
John Pepin, Public Information Office, Marquette
Steve Scott, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Shingleton
Stacy Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Sgt. Ryan Aho, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette

Call To Order

The Annual Joint Meeting between the Eastern (EUPCAC) & Western (WUPCAC) Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) was called to order by **Chair Pershinske** at 5:34 pm EST. He welcomed everyone in attendance.

Welcome & Introductions

Mrs. Haughey began the meeting with a few housekeeping items and an introduction of Mr. John Matonich, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). **Commissioner Matonich** stated he appreciates the opportunity to attend the Joint CAC meeting and thanked everyone for their time and efforts. He stated both the EUPCAC and WUPCAC are very important to the NRC. The commissioners pay close attention to both CAC's input and value their opinions.

WUPCAC **Facilitator Wirtanen** welcomed everyone to the annual joint meeting of the EUPCAC and WUPCAC. He stated the councils look forward to the opportunity to discuss a broader range of issues that may not be region-specific. The Councils are intended to be a liaison between the citizen's perspective and the DNR, and that relationship over the years has proven to be very effective. From what has been said, the Council's time is much appreciated, and the Councils have a high level of appreciation for the professionalism and capabilities of the DNR. He appreciates the staff's presence this evening.

EUPCAC **Chair Pershinske** echoed Facilitator Wirtanen's comments. He stated he's reviewed some of the issues the Councils have addressed over the years and he declares the work of the Councils a success. He noted he has been involved since the creation of the CAC's eight years ago and in the beginning there was skepticism between the staff and the Council members on whether or not this process would work. There is always a DNR staff person willing to help resolve an issue. Both CAC's have worked jointly together on many items. Over the eight years, 67 resolutions have been forwarded from the CAC's. He welcomed everyone and said he extends a great amount of appreciation for the staff being here this evening as well.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Pershinske asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. **Mr. Lorensen** stated he would like to add a recommendation of commendation; **Chair Pershinske** stated it will be added after item 10 (Post Deer Season Wrap-Up). **Mr. Suchovsky motioned to adopt the agenda with the addition; Mr. Lindquist seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Garavaglia, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Hass, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Jarvi, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kangas, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Moran, and Mr. Radka. Motion carried.**

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division Reports

Written staff reports were emailed to Council members on February 25, 2016. The following are current updates to those reports.

- **Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** **Mrs. Haughey** asked the DNR staff to stand. She stated this is the 8th Joint CAC meeting and acknowledged the DNR staff from the entire UP present. She thanked both the Council members and the DNR staff for their commitment to these meetings. She provided a brief recap of some of the articles on the CAC's throughout the years and displayed current group photos of both the EUPCAC and WUPCAC, reiterating the 67 resolutions passed and noted a cumulative 86 members have served on the CAC's over the years. She noted several media entities present that will help spread the word about these meetings and encourage the sharing of information.
- **Tim Melko, Finance & Operations Division-Western UP:** **Mr. Melko** stated March 1st is the beginning of the 2016 license season. Stop in to any of the offices or license vendors and get your licenses for the year.
- **George Madison & Steve Scott, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Madison** noted the open water fishing season will soon begin. Conversation and Coffee with the Fisheries Division will again be held this year across the state and listed the areas in the UP where the sessions will be held. It is an opportunity to talk to people about the fishing seasons and regulations. **Mr. Scott** introduced himself.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** asked about the spring stocking levels mentioned in the report. It was noted that Level 2 is the target level; Level 3 is 10% above and Level 1 is 10% below.
 - **Chair Pershinske** mentioned that **Mr. Scott** is retiring in April.
- **Don Mankee & Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division-Western & Eastern UP:** **Mr. Mankee** noted the Forest Resources Division is adding personnel (technicians and foresters) to the Gwinn and Crystal Falls locations to help keep up with the workload and the outbreak of forest health issues.
 - **Mr. Suchovsky** asked about the cords of timber mentioned in the reports. **Mr. Mankee** replied it represents an accumulation of open timber sale contracts on the books.

- **Mr. Schmidt** asked if the soft timber sales are affecting the budget. **Mr. Mankee** stated sales have good competition right now.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked if spruce budworm is affecting work plans. **Mr. Mankee** replied it certainly is and it will be a concern for a few years.
- **Mr. Stampfly** added a few fire officers are being hired and approximately \$670,000 is being spent on new equipment. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if the new equipment has applications in developing fire lines quickly; **Mr. Stampfly** replied it's possible.
- Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP: **Mr. Paquin** mentioned Mr. Doan's (Western U.P. Supervisor) transfer to a location in the lower peninsula and stated they will be hiring a replacement in the near future. **Mr. Schulz** asked questions related to sound enforcement; **Lt. Hagy** stated he will cover that topic in his report.
- John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer: **Mr. Pepin** touched on the DNR showcasing stories published on a weekly basis, Media Meet, and a program on emerald ash borer. **Chair Pershinske** stated the effort to get information out is appreciated.
- Lt. Skip Hagy (District 2) and Sgt. Ryan Aho (District 1), Law Enforcement Division-Eastern & Western UP: **Lt. Hagy** stated there has been a big push across the UP. and the state for snowmobile sound enforcement, with good support from user groups and the Michigan Snowmobile Association. Approximately 50 tickets have been issued throughout the UP. A public sound testing date was held last week in Marquette, Newberry, and Gaylord. Sleds that have been ticketed are found to have aftermarket equipment which increases the noise level. **Sgt. Aho** added those who receive warning for sound levels and not a ticket are due to the sound meter not being set up. **Lt. Hagy** also noted the number of snowmobile deaths at 15 for the UP (7 in the west and 8 in the east), with speed being the main cause. Enforcement has increased along corners and at stop signs.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if speed limits are enforced where posted; **Lt. Hagy** replied radar is used and tickets for speed and carelessness are given.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked how the UP compares to other areas in snowmobile deaths. **Lt. Hagy** stated he is not sure how Michigan compares to Wisconsin. To date, there have been 21 deaths statewide, with 15 of those being in the UP. **Mr. Melko** added that Wisconsin has 9 deaths so far according to a Wisconsin website. **Lt. Hagy** stated better snow conditions are why users come to the UP. Discussion continued.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** asked for an update on manpower; **Lt. Hagy** stated another academy is running now with 20 recruits (as of 3/3/16). It is currently not known how many of those who graduate will be placed in the UP. Currently, there are 30 conservation officers assigned in the UP.
- Jon Spieles, Marketing and Outreach Division-UP: **Mr. Spieles** mentioned an Archery in the Schools program state tournament being held at Central Michigan University with 800 shooters on March 12. A tournament has been added in Gwinn with 150 shooters to be held concurrently with the one downstate. There are currently 70 schools in the UP. that have archery equipment and are signed up with the program, although it is not known how many are active.
 - **Mr. Smith** asked how he can get the program in his school in Marquette; **Mr. Spieles** explained. Discussion ensued regarding follow-up with schools who may not be actively participating.
 - **Chair Pershinske** reminded the group that Mr. Spieles will be covering for Mrs. Haughey while she is on maternity leave March-June.
- Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division-UP: **Mr. Minzey** stated that Mr. Steve Chadwick has been named the new assistant chief for the Wildlife Division in Lansing. He also noted that wildlife technician positions will be or have been filled in Marquette, Newberry and Crystal Falls. He stated the Southern Marquette County GEMS area will be dedicated this summer to Bill Rollo who passed away at the Marquette DNR office in January. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Lindquist and Mr. Suchovsky of the CAC's are part of the UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup, which is an effort to improve winter deer habitat around the UP. This evening there is a meeting in Marenisco with local landowners who are interested in helping with the projects.

- **Mr. Campbell** stated he is very appreciative that the DNR has asked the conservation district to be a part of this program. **Mr. Minzey** noted the conservation districts will be a key in the success.
- **Mr. Augustyn** asked how the wolf survey is being executed. **Mr. Minzey** explained how the UP is sectioned, and the means to record wolf tracks, evidence of breeding, and air counts. They try to keep 40 animals with radio collars on. He stated the count is a minimum estimate on the landscape at a particular point in time, not a minimum count. The estimate is a pre-breeding number.
- **Mr. Gorniak** asked how the current 14 winter habitat plans are being prioritized. **Mr. Minzey** stated ownership (state or federal), size of the area it services, and snowfall zone all play a part in prioritization. They started with the west UP first as the forest service, who owns part of the land, was ready to begin management actions, as was a large portion owned by GMO. He noted also in the west UP, the winter deer habitat complexes are hemlock-based, the central UP is spruce/fir/cedar base, and the east UP is primarily cedar. The moose survey alternates with the wolf survey (the moose survey was last year).
- **Mr. Moll** asked if there was any credibility to the letter regarding the wolf problem in the west UP. **Mr. Minzey** stated Rep. Dianda held a few deer meetings over the holidays and one was in Marenisco. The police chief there documented all the reports of wolf activity in the township; however, they were asked to contact the DNR to validate reports at the time of occurrence and this was not done. **Mr. Minzey** indicated there are wolves in town and it would help greatly if the residents stop feeding the deer to detract wolves from following. He stated the DNR is working with the township on possible control measures.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for public comments on specific agenda items. No comments were brought forth from the audience.

DNR Response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Chair Pershinske welcomed Mr. Chad Stewart, DNR Deer, Moose & Elk Management Specialist, who joined the meeting via conference call to discuss the DNR's response plan to CWD. **Mr. Stewart** first discussed the disease and its effects to the brain in deer. The prions causing the disease are indestructible. Transmission can occur between deer either through direct or indirect contact via saliva, urine, blood and/or feces. Since deer are social animals, transmission through saliva at a shared food site is the most common occurrence. Soil particles in plant tissue are another cause of spread. He stated the main goal is to prevent it from coming to the UP. He reference the CWD response plan, which was utilized in the lower peninsula with the recent cases found there. If CWD is identified, the following measures will be taken: 1) animals will be tested, 2) a CWD management zone will be established, 3) a feeding and baiting ban will be implemented, 4) movement will be prohibited, and 5) surveillance efforts will be intensified with mandatory checks. He indicated additional plans have been put in place to increase surveillance along the southern region of the UP along the Wisconsin border through road kill and samples. They will be taking 300 samples from this core area to help create a better understanding of the threat from Wisconsin.

- **Chair Pershinske** asked if there is any type of research being done on a vaccine or an indication of resistance within the heard from natural selection. **Mr. Stewart** stated there is a government institution out west trialing a vaccine; however, it has not gone well. He added there has not been any document has seen indicating a resistance in whitetail deer. Some types of deer can live with the disease longer, but eventually they die from it.
- **Mr. Lindquist** noted the difference between deer in the lower peninsula who don't migrate compared to the U.P. deer who do. He asked what the DNR will do if CWD reaches one of the UP deer wintering complexes. **Mr. Stewart** stated this is the major concern with the herd in the UP. In the lower peninsula, deer stay within a ¼ to ½ mile their entire lives. If it reaches the UP, it will spread fast. From a management standpoint, they would like to prevent the disease from entering the UP, which is why the additional surveillance has been put in place.

- **Mr. Schulz** asked about deer corn purchased from an infected area. **Mr. Stewart** stated the transfer of the prion through bait is a concern. He referenced a study published in the last year indicating the prion can be picked up in plant material. Currently, no state has documented transmission in this way, since there is no realistic test for grains on such a broad scale.
- **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked if there is any consideration to making the UP a no baiting and feeding zone as a proactive measure. **Mr. Stewart** stated there have been no discussions on that issue at the moment. He indicated it would certainly be something for the CAC's and other sportsmen's groups to discuss.

Chair Pershinske thanked Mr. Stewart for his time and information. **Mr. Stewart** thanked the group for allowing him to discuss the issue. He added it is a disease the UP definitely does not want as it will affect generations of hunters and deer.

Chair Pershinske stated the CWD Subcommittee of the EUPCAC developed a flyer over a year ago in the hopes to educate the UP on the effects of CWD to deer and he believes it has helped bring this issue to the forefront. **Mrs. Haughey** discussed the Wildlife Division-funded CWD placemat development and recent distribution of 2500 pieces to sportsmen banquets across the UP. (A copy of the placement was provided to all Council members and the public.) **Mr. Lindquist** stated the placemat was a great piece to refer to during Mr. Minzey's presentation at the UP Whitetail banquet to drive the message home.

Your License Dollars at Work

Mrs. Haughey thanked the Council members and groups they represent who helped to get the license package passed two years ago. She stated she wanted to address a few key points regarding the how the dollars on the ground have been utilized since the package passed. First, staff indicated during the division reports they are hiring more staff. Second, over \$700,000 in the Wildlife Habitat Grant program have been awarded. Third, in 2015, over \$1,060,000 was invested in on the ground habitat work. Many sportsmen groups have applied. **Mr. Minzey** explained there were just short of 30 applications this year compared to only 12 submitted last year. **Mr. Lindquist** mentioned there have been some changes on how the grants are set up. **Mr. Minzey** clarified the Deer Habitat Partnership Grant and the Wildlife Habitat Grant programs have different requirements and match dollars. The Wildlife Division is working to simplify the Wildlife Habitat Grant program; grant booklets come out in June. **Mrs. Haughey** also mentioned the legislation currently proposed under Senate Bill 635. The verification of previous residence or land ownership, for example, is lacking. She stated the bill was written similar to Montana's structure; however, she noted the differences between the two. She stated this bill will be watched cautiously.

- **Mr. Schulz** asked if the Pure Michigan ads and the DNR could work together. He sees commercials from Pure Michigan on all forms of recreation except for fishing and hunting. **Mrs. Haughey** stated there has been extensive coverage of hunting and fishing; however, **Commissioner Matonich** noted the vast majority of ads are shown elsewhere in the country, not in Michigan.
- **Mr. Dewitt** asked if the DNR was working towards a reciprocal agreement with Montana. **Mrs. Haughey** clarified she was using Montana's process as a comparison to the current bill because it is similar. **Mr. Dewitt** also asked about requirements for brush piles with firewood permits. **Mr. Stampfly** responded there is no requirement for brush piles with commercial timber sales.
- **Mr. Lorensen** asked about the history of license sales for non-residents. **Mr. Scott** stated the number of non-resident licenses decreased, but the number of 3-day licenses increased quite a bit to offset the reduction. **Mr. Minzey** added hunting licenses have dropped 11%, although there are variables. He stated when the license package was passed, license sales were anticipated to drop. Another package will need to pass or there will be no revenue in 2018. **Mrs. Haughey** reminded the group that the bill is just a proposal at this point. The DNR is always looking for ways to recruit additional hunters, but the cost must be considered.

- **Mr. Dropps** asked how free fishing weekends affect sales. He stated he knows of Wisconsin residents who come over to Michigan to fish just that weekend and never buy a license. **Mrs. Haughey** stated the Marketing Division has data on this subject and she will get the information to him.
- **Commissioner Matonich** stated the Michigan Wildlife Council was created to study the impact on hunting and fishing in general and to make recommendations on what the DNR can do to recruit and retain hunters and fishermen. That Council has been utilizing their time to develop a proposal to hire a marketing firm with no built-in prejudices and to conduct a study not only on natural resource users but Michigan residents in general. Over 65% of residents support hunting and 60+/-% support hunters. The Wildlife Council's role is to educate the citizens of Michigan on hunting and fishing resource management. **Mrs. Haughey** indicated she will have an update on the Michigan Wildlife Council for the next meeting.
- **Mr. Stinson** stated he feels society has become more urbanized and there is a generation of people who don't know where their food comes from. **Chair Pershinske** stated he just attended a three-day conference by the Michigan Farm Bureau and there is a huge effort to educate people on where their food comes from. **Mr. Minzey** stated people in general support hunting, but they don't care for how hunters portray themselves, and they feel the word "management" means "manipulation". **Chair Pershinske** stated this topic may be a good agenda item in the future.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund's 40th Anniversary & Its Impact on the UP

Mr. Pepin stated the Trust Fund will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and events are being planned throughout the state this summer. He provided the following highlights:

- The Michigan Land Trust Fund was created in 1976 to provide a source of funding for the public acquisition of lands for resources protection and public outdoor recreation.
- In 1984, Michigan voters amended the state constitution, creating the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund as we know it today, requiring oil, gas and other mineral lease and royalty payments be put into the fund to acquire and develop public recreation lands.
- The Trust Fund has awarded over \$1 billion in grants to local units of government and state agencies for projects throughout all 83 counties in Michigan.
- In the UP, \$33.8 million has been granted directly to counties for projects or acquisitions. Additional money has also been spent through the fund in the region on projects where the DNR was the grantee. A breakdown per county was shown.
- Grant requests received for the 2015 grant cycle were explained. Of these, the Trust Fund board recommended nearly \$28 million in land acquisition and development projects, which will go to the Michigan legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the legislature forwards a bill to the Governor for his signature.

Mr. Pepin opened the floor for questions.

- **Mr. Lindquist** asked if the monies received in Keweenaw County are areas actively managed there. **Mrs. Haughey** stated a majority of trust fund projects are community projects and are not DNR-owned properties.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked if there is any connection between the Trust Fund and the land cap. **Mrs. Haughey** replied if the local unit of government is the applicant, the land cap does not apply. If the applicant is the DNR, the land cap does apply.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked what happens once the Trust Fund is capped at \$500 million. **Mrs. Haughey** responded the royalty payments go into the State Park Endowment Fund.

DNR/US Forest Service Good Neighbor Authority Agreement

Mr. Stampfly reviewed several highlights of the recent Good Neighbor Authority Agreement between the US Forest Service and the Michigan DNR (a handout was included in the meeting packets). The agreement was signed on October 28, 2015. Staff from all three Michigan national forests and the DNR are working together to complete a common Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) template, which is to be

completed in about a month. He stated the Forest Resources Division will have acres on federal land prepared by September. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated his understanding is the program income will stay local. He asked how this would impact payments to schools and for roads; **Mr. Stampfly** replied that he did not know. **Mr. Moll** asked if the timber that will be managed by the DNR would've not been managed otherwise. **Mr. Stampfly** stated typically, these are cases where over time, they no longer have the capacity to put that wood on the market. Discussion continued regarding management of the federal forests and fire management. **Ms. Duncan** asked if there will be an equivalent compartment review process; **Mr. Stampfly** stated it should be announced through their normal method and suggested she contact the forest service to be placed on their email list.

Post Deer Season Wrap-Up

Mr. Jentoft, Wildlife Biologist from the Sault Ste. Marie office, was present to provide an overview of the 2015 deer camp survey.

- This survey is a collaborative effort by hunters who contribute data from the 16-day firearm season. DNR staff analyze the data and report back to participants, providing a regional and DMU-level perspective. Data submitted includes sightings, harvest, effort results, and hunter opinions.
- A copy of the actual survey form and sighting chart was displayed. The survey was sent out just prior to the start of firearm season.
- A map was displayed showing the distribution of camps across the UP. The division line indicated eastern and western areas for results.
- Participation has increased over the years. About 2,300 hunters are currently involved in the survey.
- U.P. summary results have been collected since 2012. In 2015, 14% of hunters took a buck on average, which is a decrease from 19% in 2014. 93% of hunters rated the 2015 season as fair to poor.
- The western UP results and trends will be highlighted for this report since it's a larger DMU area.
- The western UP deer observation rate was 1.6 deer observed per hunter day. This rate is tied to that of 1997.
- In the western UP, the number of fawns per 100 does was 50 in 2015, compared to 40 in 2014.
- Western UP camps were asked to compare the deer herd to last year. 82% indicated that deer numbers were down around their camp or location. A majority (76%) rated the season as poor.
- The western UP season ratings of good to excellent from 1996-2015 show higher ratings with mild winters. Lower ratings match harsh winters after 2012.
- A deer observation rate map was shown. Very generally speaking, areas further north and in higher snowfall areas tend to have a lower deer sighting rate.
- For buck hunter success, the south central UP had a higher buck kill success rate.
- Fawns seen per 100 does was lowest in Keweenaw County compared to UP-wide.
- The western central UP had higher does seen per buck on opening day.
- The survey also asks for other wildlife sightings. Coyote topped the list this year. Wolves came in second and marten came in third. Fisher, bobcat and fox rounded out other furbearer sightings.
- For furbearer sighting trends over time, coyote sighting rates fluctuate over the years. Wolf sightings have been on an increasing trend and seem to be plateauing. Bobcat sightings have remained steady.
- For an overall summary, there has been a decrease in deer sightings, a decrease in buck hunter success, an increase in the fawn-to-doe ratio, and a decrease in season satisfaction ratings.

Mr. Jentoft opened the floor for questions.

- **Mr. Smith** asked if there is any relation on why deer observation rates vary considerably in DMU areas. **Mr. Jentoft** stated hunter density could be a factor as well as not waiting for a larger buck.
- **Mr. Augustyn** noted the surveys come from less than 4% of the total number of hunters. **Mr. Jentoft** stated it is only a sample; the distribution across the UP is pretty decent.
- **Mr. Schmidt** asked what an increase in the fawn-to-doe ratio is. **Mr. Jentoft** explained a higher fawn-to-doe ratio means more fawns recruited into the population and better population growth. A hunter day means when a hunter goes out and spends time afield.

- **Mr. Lindquist** stated he appreciates the synopsis and he has participated in the survey for many years. He asked Mr. Jentoft to send the entire report out to the Council; **Mr. Jentoft** indicated he will. **Mr. Lindquist** also mentioned the success rate statewide is 41%; however, in the UP, it is 14% and some DMU's in the UP are only at 3%. If these low rates were downstate, he feels there may be a different response. He stated it is up to UP residents/hunters to turn it around with predator control and habitat work. **Mr. Minzey** stated the reality is the UP is not great deer country and with the last three harsh winters, deer were not going to survive; however, there is room for improvement.

Chair Pershinske thanked Mr. Jentoft for providing the summary.

Resolution for Consideration

Facilitator Wirtanen stated Mr. Lorensen, who added the recommendation for commendation to the agenda, had to leave; however, WUPCAC members can now consider the resolution. The commendation is for Mr. Bill Doan, former Western UP Parks & Recreation Supervisor who recently took a position in the lower peninsula. **Facilitator Wirtanen** read the commendation which was prepared and submitted by the WUPCAC Trails/Recreation/Law Committee for Council approval. He stated, while the WUPCAC recognizes the overall performance of all DNR staff, they recognize Mr. Doan's time spent with them in the committee as exceptional and it demands exceptional recognition. The committee acknowledges all that he accomplished in their group in a short period of time. **Mr. Schulz** added a few comments on the projects and issues Mr. Doan succeeded in bringing to fruition. **Mr. Schulz motioned to approve the resolution of commendation; Ms. Duncan seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Garavaglia, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Hass, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Jarvi, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kangas, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Moran, and Mr. Radka. Motion carried.**

Public Comments

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

Closing Comments from Council Members

- **Mr. Schmidt** asked council members to keep in mind that in order to have a pure Michigan, there needs to be a healthy environment.
- **Mr. Dropps** stated it's nice to see the Council's counterparts in the east UP. He thanked everyone for coming and noted it's beneficial to get together.
- **Ms. Duncan** stated that Mr. Bill Doan is the reason the horse campground and trail is moving along and Mr. Ron Yesney is the reason the proposal for the trailhead is progressing.
- **Mr. Buchholtz** stated the UP Sportsman Coalition meeting held in Escanaba during the muzzleloading season did not go well. He suggested holding it next year after the holidays.
- **Mr. Lindquist** noted in the eight years that the CAC's have been together, it has really developed over time and he remembers the big arguments lasting until 9pm. He thanked Mrs. Haughey for all her work with the CAC's. He complimented the division report and understands the amount of work that goes into providing all the information in it. He stated he has shown the DNR Director the report and has asked why the entire state doesn't do a report like that. He stated the UP is leading the way and he thanked Mrs. Haughey again; a round of applause was given.
- **Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated it's always a pleasure to discuss issues with the large group once a year.
- **Mr. Buckingham** stated he concurs with Mr. Lindquist's comments and many others. It is a great experience with a lot of members around the table.
- **Mr. Hubbard** stated that a deer winter habitat plan has been done for the east UP from Gulliver to the Hiawatha Club. He indicated he is a retired DNR employee, and if there were CAC's before he retired, it would've made a positive difference for DNR employees.
- **Mr. Aldrich** stated this is his first joint meeting and he learned many things.

- **Mr. Dewitt** noted it is his first joint meeting as well. He works with trails and working together makes things happen in a certain trail situation.
- **Mr. Darling** stated he represents the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club and is over 80 years old. He said CWD is probably not going to affect him, but he's scared to death his grandkids aren't going to be able to do the outdoor things that he's done all his life. If CWD filters into the UP, he hopes Council members will do what it takes to combat it.
- **Mr. Augustyn** stated he participates on the Council because all of Michigan's natural resources are important to him. He stated there are always lots of comments on his radio program, some negative, and he always asks questions back. He indicated he doesn't understand why mandatory registration of whitetail deer, which could help potential CWD identification, is not being done in Michigan like it is in Wisconsin. **NRC Chair Matonich** explained most hunters in Wisconsin don't like it and many don't do it. He stated he feels the Michigan DNR has very accurate numbers which are compiled by top statisticians. **Mr. Augustyn** stated he hunted in Wisconsin for many years and it was enforced if a deer wasn't registered. Discussion ensued. **Chair Pershinske** suggested the historical perspective behind the decision to not mandate deer registration be a future agenda item.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm EST.

Approved 5/19/16