

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 24, 2011  
6:30-8:30 p.m. EST (5:30-7:30 CST)  
Forest Park School, 801 Forest Parkway, Crystal Falls, Michigan

**Council Members Present:**

David Anthony  
Robert Black  
Donald Britton  
Gerald Divine  
Floyd Dropps  
Larry Heathman  
Fred "Mick" Jarvi  
Michelle Jarvie  
David Johnson  
Martin Johnson  
George Lindquist  
Jim Lorensen  
Rory Mattson  
G. Dale McNamee  
Chauncey Moran  
James Schmierer  
Robert "Skip" Schulz  
Warren Suchovsky  
Philip Wirtanen

**Council Members Absent:**

David Anderson

**Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Staff Liaisons:**

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula (UP) Regional Director, Marquette  
Craig Albright, Wildlife Division, Escanaba  
Debbie Munson Badini, Communications Representative, Marquette  
Debbie Begalle, Forest Management Division (FMD), Marquette  
Jim Caron, Water Resource Division, Crystal Falls  
Clif Clark, Remediation Division, Gwinn  
Joe Maki, Office of Geological Survey, Gwinn  
Tim Melko, Administration Division, Marquette  
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division, Escanaba  
Thomas Paquin, Recreation Division, Marquette  
Sergeant Marc Pomroy, Law Enforcement Division (LED), Crystal Falls  
Chuck Thomas, Environmental Resource Management Division, Gwinn  
Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

The Western Upper Peninsula (WUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. (EST) by Facilitator **Warren Suchovsky**.

**Introduction of New Council Members:** Stacy Welling, UP Regional Director introduced the new Council members:

- David Anthony, Hannahville Indian Community, Delta County

- Gerald Divine, Iron County Conservation District, Iron County
- Larry Heathman, Ruffed Grouse Society, Dickinson County
- Michelle Jarvie, Cliffs Natural Resources, Marquette County
- Jim Lorensen, Multiple Groups/ Gogebic Community College, Gogebic County

Stacy said Council members are selected based on geographical distribution and agency distribution with current members. The selection committee is comprised of three members from outside agencies and three DNRE staff members.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda:**

**Warren Suchovsky** said according to the bylaws, new election of officers shall be conducted at the beginning of the calendar year. Since there are several new Council members, Warren suggested amending the agenda by moving the Election of Officers to the May CAC meeting.

**Chauncey Moran** added recognition of former Director Rebecca Humphries to the agenda. **Phil Wirtanen** made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. **Dave Johnson** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: David Anderson. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

**Jim Schmierer** made a motion to approve the November 8, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. Motion was supported by several Council members. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: David Anderson. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Richard Sloat** said laws are only as strong as the will to enforce them. **Mr. Sloat** said the State mining team doesn't follow the laws when they approve mining permits. **Mr. Sloat** submitted a written statement that will be shared with appropriate Department staff for any follow-up.

**Bob Rivera Talerico** said there is iron mine pollution in the Iron River Basin. He feels it is contaminated from the Buck Mine and the State of Michigan isn't testing for contaminants on a regular basis for uranites, or minerals containing potential radioactive components.

**Jeff Pytlarz** said he is a member of Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW), an organization trying to combat aquatic invasive species. **Mr. Pytlarz** said his organization has completed many projects and has some projects that are currently in progress. The problem is funding, **Mr. Pytlarz** said since aquatic invasive species are spread by boats, he proposes a boat and trailer fee to help fund the control. He added the DEQ permitting fees are expensive.

**Jessica Mistak** said DEQ has hired an aquatic invasive species specialist. Plus staff is required to track how much of their time is spent on aquatic invasive species in hopes to gain some federal funding to hire additional biologists. **Skip Schulz** asked if the funding could come from the marine gas tax. **Warren Suchovsky** asked Jessica to follow-up on the marine gas tax.

#### **Reports:**

**Warren Suchovsky**, Facilitator said public meetings on Biodiversity Stewardship Area's (BSA's) will be scheduled soon. **Debbie Begalle** said the public meetings will probably take place late spring or early summer. **Rory Mattson** added the public meetings need to be well advertised to maximize attendance.

Warren said legislatively there has been some discussion about transferring Forest Management Division to the Department of Agriculture. Warren added Representative Matt Huuki has been appointed to chair of a new subcommittee on Forestry and Mining.

**Stacy Welling**, UP Regional Director said the scope of the Councils is to help provide information to the Department on emerging issues in the Western UP. The Council members represent different user groups and they bring information back to their groups. The Councils are advisory in nature, they make recommendations to the Department and the Department responds to those recommendations. The CAC's are on the Department organizational chart. The Department made a commitment to have staff representatives at the meetings. When the Department merged with the Department of Environmental Quality, the environmental staff also attended the meetings, which increased the number of staff at the meetings. After the agencies split on March 13, 2011 the DNR will retain the CAC's, the CAC's will be resource based and once again the original DNR staff will attend the CAC meetings.

**Skip Schulz** asked the status of changing the event permit requirement from 20 to 75 participants. **Debbie Begalle** said the suggested changes were included in the review process. Debbie said the Department took the Council's resolution under consideration but she doesn't believe there is a recommendation to change the number of participants from 20 to 75.

**Establishing a Moose Hunting Advisory Council – Public Act 366:**

**Craig Albright** said moose are a native animal to Michigan. By the 1900's, moose were extirpated in the Lower Peninsula and if not in the Upper Peninsula, at the very least, the population was substantially reduced. By the mid 1980's conditions had improved that Ontario and the MDNR felt moose could sustain. In 1985 and 1987, 59 moose were translocated from Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario to Marquette County. There were about 420 moose in the WUP in 2009, with an aerial survey currently being conducted. In the EUP the current population size is about 100 moose. On average the growth rate in the WUP, has been about 10% each year for the last ten years. Moose are listed as a game species in Michigan.

Craig said Senate Bill 1013 authorizes the NRC to establish a hunting season if they want to. The bill establishes a moose hunting license at a cost of \$100 and sets the price of an application fee at \$4. It creates a seven member moose hunting advisory council, 6 of those members are appointed by the DNR Director. One member representing an organization that promotes conservation. Two members representing organizations that promote hunting and fishing. One member appointed by the director from a list of three names provided by the speaker of the House of Representatives. One member appointed by the director from a list of three names provided by the majority leader of the Senate. One member from the Inter-Tribal Council. The first council meeting must take place within 60 days after the effective date of the bill. Within 12 months the council shall submit to the department, commission and legislature a report with recommendations on whether a moose hunt should be established.

Craig said Wildlife Division hasn't been asked for recommendations for a moose hunt in 2011. We didn't sponsor the bill; the Department basically supported the bill with possibly looking at a small harvest of 3-5 bulls maybe every other year. Questions and answers followed.

**Walleye Update:** **Jessica Mistak** said a decision was made in December to reinstate much of their Division's walleye hatchery production. This decision came about after extensive VHS testing of various species and the development of technique to disinfect walleye eggs that, together, allow them to proceed without unnecessary risk to their hatcheries or fish production program. Jessica said they were able to share this news with the WUP CAC Walleye Subcommittee prior to the official press release and look forward to working with members of the committee to get the walleye rearing program up and ready for 2011.

The Northern Lake Michigan Walleye Plan is complete and Jessica shared copies with the Council members. Jessica said the plan incorporates a lot of the subcommittee's priority lakes and fish stocking prescriptions. **Floyd Dropps** said they were supposed to be able to review the plan before it was final. **Stacy Welling** said if we promised we were going to give you a draft before the plan was approved, we will have a meeting with whoever needs to be there. Floyd said one of the problems with the plan, is the DNR decided this and he doesn't see what the public wanted included in the plan. Stacy said, "I give you my word there will be a meeting."

**Rory Mattson** said a CAC member requested information through a FOIA request. Rory said all of information wasn't provided and the information should have been provided without going through the FOIA process. Stacy Welling said she wasn't aware the subcommittee was looking for information and had she known hopefully she could have done something. Jessica said the request were for reports that weren't completed. Floyd Dropps said he was told the reports were not approved. Floyd added they knew the information existed and the report was written months before. Jessica said once a FOIA request is submitted we have to follow the legal process, she was following procedures. The requested information will be sent.

Floyd Dropps said he wants to have a public comment period before the plan is finalized. He added you've taken the public out of the plan and you've taken us out of the final review process. **Jim Lorensen** said this body is an advisory council to the Department; sometimes the Council will need to look at documents not in their final form. Jessica told the group she had no problem with this approach and gave her word to allow the public to review the plan and that the CAC should consider this plan a "draft plan."

#### **Old Business: Discussion/Action on Changing Meeting Format**

**Dale McNamee** provided the following proposed changes in the meeting format:

- 1) Remove time allocation for the DNRE staff reports and utilize the 30 minute allotment for public comments at the conclusion of the WUP-CAC business. Rational: Staff reports are sent to all Council members by electronic mail prior to meetings. Copies of these reports can be made available for the public at meetings. The DNRE staff should be present for consultation purposes only.
- 2) WUP-CAC business should follow the approval of previous meeting minutes. Old business followed by new business. Rational: The purpose of the WUP-CAC is to act as a conduit to present pertinent information regarding resource use and management from a public perspective to the DNRE. At present time this has been given a very low priority. (Example 25 minutes out of a 2 ½ hour meeting allotted for the CAC business.)
- 3) Reports, special presentations, setting the next meeting, Council member closing comments and public comments to follow.

**Michelle Jarvie** said tonight there was an issue with a report but we resolved it. She added there is value to have dialogue with Department staff. **Bob Black** said the first public comments should be limited to agenda items only and at the end of the meeting public comments should be open to any topic. **Warren Suchovsky** added the DNR reports are not part of the Council meetings. Dale clarified the CAC meetings would begin at 6:00 p.m. **Skip Schulz** would like updates on resolutions adopted by the Council. **Stacy Welling** will provide an update on the status of pending resolutions at the Council meetings.

The new meeting format:

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Public Comments on Agenda Items Only, Old Business, New Business, DNR Reports, Special Presentations, Scheduling the Next Meeting, Public Comments, Council Members Closing Comments, Adjourn.

**Rory Mattson** supported the motion. **Jerry Divine** supported public comments at the beginning and the end of the meeting. **Chauncey Moran** said sometimes the public needs more than three minutes to make their comments. Warren said it's the Council's discretion to allow more time. **Skip Schulz** added comments can be submitted to the Council before the meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: David Anderson. Motion carried.

**Special Presentation: Invasives - The Good, The Bad, The Ugly - On Land and Water:** **Debbie Begalle's** presentation covered some of the forest pests. With exotic pests, they don't have natural enemies so their population can explode and have a significant impact on our resources. Debbie covered Oak Wilt, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, garlic mustard, common buckthorn, spotted knapweed and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). She said detection is difficult, determining the expanse, having limited resources, and the diverse land ownership.

**Jessica Mistak** gave a presentation on aquatic invasive species.

- Good – non native species - smelt, salmon, and the highly valued brown trout.
- Bad – Zebra Mussels, Sea Lamprey, Purple Loosestrife, New Zealand Mud Snail (not here yet), Round Goby, Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Ugly – Two species of Asian carp, the bighead and silver carp are viewed as a potential ecological problem if they gain access to the Great Lakes. The Asian carp eat plankton and grow to large sizes and the concerned is they will out-compete native species for food and habitat. The division has also developed an Asian Carp management plan. It identifies how we intend to monitor and assess Asian carp populations if they get in to Michigan's waters.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

### **New Business:**

#### **Approval of Meeting Calendar for 2011 and 2012:**

- Monday, March 21, 2011- Joint meeting with the EUP-CAC in Marquette
- Monday, May 23, 2011 – Gogebic County
- Monday, July 18, 2011 – Ontonagon County
- Monday, September 12, 2011 – Houghton County
- Monday, December 5, 2011 – Menominee or Dickinson County
  
- Monday, January 23, 2012 – Delta County
- Monday, March 19, 2012 - Joint meeting with the EUP-CAC in Marquette
- Monday, May 21, 2012 - Menominee or Dickinson County
- Monday, July 16, 2012 – Keweenaw County
- Monday, September 17, 2012 Gogebic County
- Monday, December 3, 2012 – Houghton County

After Council discussion, the 2011 dates were finalized and the 2012 dates were approved as tentative dates. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: David Anderson. Motion carried.

**Recognition of Former Director Rebecca Humphries:**

**Chauncey Moran** said this Council would not be here if wasn't for Director Rebecca Humphries. He proposed passing a resolution commending former Director Rebecca Humphries. **Mick Jarvi** recommended the resolution should be an agenda topic at the joint meeting with the EUP-CAC in March. Phil Wirtanen and Chanucey Moran will draft the wording for the resolution to be presented at the March meeting.

**Next Meeting Date/Time/Location:**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2011 as a joint meeting with the EUP-CAC in Marquette.

**Rory Mattson** said UP Sportsmen's Alliance has six topics they would like to have input on before the April NRC meeting. Those topics would be timely for the joint CAC meeting in March.

**Moose Hunting Advisory Council:**

**Rory Mattson** made a motion to recommend to the DNR Director to appoint citizens from the Upper Peninsula to serve on the Moose Advisory Council, to conduct the majority of the Moose Advisory Council meetings in the UP, and Wildlife Division shall provide biological advice to the council prior to the council making any recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission regarding a moose hunting season. **Mick Jarvi** supported the motion. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: David Anderson. Motion carried.

**Council Members Closing Comments:**

**Warren Suchovsky** said perhaps the issuance of crop damage permits needs to be reviewed.

**George Lindquist** said he has been selected to serve on the Regional Deer Advisory Team representing the WUP-CAC.

**Rory Mattson** would like an update on changing the number of participants needed for an event permit and FTE field positions at the May CAC meeting.

**Marty Johnson** would like to change the deer subcommittee to the wildlife subcommittee and volunteered to chair the subcommittee.

**Bob Black** said local conservation districts can help with local issues. Minnesota has a boat sticker program that brings in \$1.7 million in revenue. Iron County is working on implementing a boat sticker program. Also, Iron County applied for a DNR grant for a boat cleaning station on Chicagon Lake.

**Chauncey Moran** said remediation hasn't ever been done successfully. Also if someone from the public had a presentation that needed more time it could be sent to the Council members before the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council  
DNRE Division Reports  
6:00-6:30 p.m. (EST) 5:00-5:30 p.m. (CST)**

DNRE written staff reports were provided to the Council members on January 14, 2011. The following staff reports are current updates since the written reports.

**Stacy Welling**, UP Regional Director said on March 13, 2011 the Department will be split into two agencies; the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality. Commissioner John Madigan and Commissioner J.R. Richardson have been reappointed to the Natural Resources Commission.

**Tim Melko**, WUP Administrative Supervisor said the Administration Division structure is on hold until March 13, 2011. The UP Becoming Outdoors Woman Program is full for the winter session.

**Debbie Begalle**, WUP District Supervisor, Forest Management Division (FMD), Marquette said they have vacant positions from retirements. They are hiring some foresters statewide but everything else is on hold.

**Debbie Munson Badini**, Communications Representative, Marquette said many community newspapers are not available online. Please send copies of articles, letters to the editor, etc., covering DNR issues to Debbie, or just let her know a relevant story ran so she can contact the paper and request a copy. Debbie said the Anderson Lake cross country ski trail will be groomed after receiving a \$500 donation from Forsyth Township. **Don Britton** said in a recent press release it stated the snowmobile trail was closed east of County Road 510 but it should have been west of County Road 510. Debbie will follow-up.

**Joe Maki**, District Geologist, Office of Geological Survey, Gwinn said there are three permitted mines in the UP; Cleveland Cliffs an iron ore mine, Kennecott Eagle Minerals an underground nickel - copper mine, and the Humboldt Mill, a processing site for the Eagle Mine. There are two projects in the early stages of development; the Back Forty project in Menominee County and the Copperwood project in Gogebic County. There is continual exploration drilling in the WUP.

**Chuck Thomas**, acting supervisor, Environmental Resource Management Division, Gwinn, said the division is responsible for drinking water and solid waste.

**Jessica Mistak**, Fisheries Supervisor, Escanaba introduced fisheries biologist Darren Kramer. Jessica said they are filling a biologist position in Escanaba and a technician position in Crystal Falls. In the new fishing guide changes will be noted in red text. Changes have been made to the coldwater regulations, daily possession limits in Lake Superior, and splake size limits.

**Craig Albright**, wildlife biologist, Escanaba said this year a total of 402 camps occupied by 1,790 hunters participated in the WUP deer camp survey. Hunters saw a decline in wolves and bobcats. Twenty coyotes were killed during deer season. In general, hunters enjoyed better deer hunting in the west U.P. this year. They received survey forms from 402 deer camps following firearm season. Buck kill success increased from 21% in 2009 to 25% in 2010, and the number of deer seen per hunter day increased from 1.9 to 2.6. The proportion of camps calling the season "poor" declined from 66% last year to 45% in 2010.

**Bob Black** said the Iron County Board of Commissioners would not support the Menominee River Forest Legacy because the project supports the protection of wolves. **Steve Milford**, FMD,

Crystal Falls said when they submitted the application for the conservation easement, they listed the habitat would be protected for all threatened and endangered species that may be in that area and would benefit from protection of this land. It's basically protecting the habitat that supports those species. Steve will follow-up with Bob for clarification.

**Clif Clark**, Remediation Division, Gwinn said he had nothing new to add his report.

**Jim Caron**, Water Resource Division, Crystal Falls said Kennecott has decided not to apply for a permit to construct the Woodland Road. Kennecott intends to upgrade existing roads.

**Sergeant Marc Pomroy**, Law Enforcement Division (LED), Crystal Falls said he had nothing new to add to the LED report.