

# Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 15, 2013

5:30-6:00pm EST DNR Division Reports \* 6:00-8:00pm EST Council Meeting

Cloverland Community Center, Ewen, MI

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*Facilitator: Phil Wirtanen Co-Facilitator: Warren Suchovsky*

### Council Members Present

David Anthony

Ken Buchholtz

Floyd Dropps

Larry Heathman

Michael Holmes

Dave Johnson

George Lindquist

Rory Mattson

Jim Schmierer

Robert "Skip" Schulz

Travis Smith

Warren Suchovsky

Phil Wirtanen

### Council Members Absent/Excused

David Anderson

Jerry Divine

Mick Jarvi

Katherine Kruse

Jim Lorensen

Chauncey Moran

### Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette

Greg Andrews, Special Projects, Marquette

Bill Doan, Parks and Recreation Division, Baraga

Jim Ferris, Forest Resources Division, Marquette

George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga

Tim Melko, Facilities, Operations & Support, Marquette

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Marquette

Jon Spieles, Acting Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Newberry/Marquette

Steve Sutton, Real Estate Services, Lansing

Kerry Wieber, Forest Resources Division, Roscommon

Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette

Ron Yesney, Parks and Recreation Division, Marquette

### Guests

Chairman JR Richardson, Natural Resources Commission (NRC)

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**Facilitator Wirtanen** called the Division Report portion of the WUPCAC meeting to order at 5:40pm EST. He welcomed everyone for attending the meeting, including NRC Chairman JR Richardson, Representative Scott Dianda and Dr. Kirk Schott representing Senator Casperson.

**Commissioner Richardson** stated the Council is doing a lot of good work and he appreciates everyone's time and travel.

### DNR Division Reports

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on July 8, 2013. The following are verbal updates to those reports.

- **Jon Spieles, Acting U.P. Regional Coordinator:** Mr. Spieles noted the following points of interest from the most recent NRC meeting:
  - The wolf bill update will be covered by Mr. Minzey later in the meeting.
  - Land plan topics were discussed and a presentation will be provided by Ms. Kerry Wieber and Mr. Steve Sutton later on the agenda.
  - Communications and website design is an important topic. 60% of people now go to their handheld device for information. The DNR's web content is not user friendly for the iPhone or the iPad; however, after a lot of work, it will be rolled out soon.
  - The NRC acted on renaming the disability hunts. The 100% Disabled Veteran Firearm Deer Hunt was renamed the Liberty Hunt, and the Special Firearm Disabled Hunter Deer Hunting Days was renamed the Independence Hunt. Council member Ken Buchholtz is a member of the DNR's Accessibility Advisory Council (AAC). Mr. Buchholtz indicated the group looks at ways to increase opportunities to include disabled veterans in recreational activities and hunting.
  - Council member Skip Schulz and Mi-Trale member Don Helsel have been appointed to the Off Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup, which is part of the DNR's Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC). This fortifies U.P. representation on that group.
- **Mr. Ron Yesney, Parks and Recreation Division:** Mr. Yesney introduced himself as the Western UP Recreation Specialist for the DNR. He will provide a presentation later in the meeting on the Escanaba/Hermansville trail, as well as an update on other trails. He is involved in rail trail projects and there is significant rail trail development in the Western U.P.
- **Bill Doan, Parks & Recreation Division:** Mr. Doan introduced himself as the new Western U.P. Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Division, replacing Mr. Tom Paquin who is now the Eastern U.P. Supervisor. Mr. Doan stated he is working out of the Baraga office. He did not have any additions to the written report.
  - Mr. Schulz offered a history of ORV signage in the U.P. and mentioned support of a replacement program agreed upon several years ago and the issues that still exist. He indicated an ORV club was asked to remove signage before they could be reimbursed for trail maintenance. Mr. Doan stated the club must follow the sign manual to be reimbursed. Because the signs are authorized for use by MiTrale, but not any other club in the state, the club was not in compliance with the sign manual. The club's other option was to petition the Director to get the same agreement as MiTrale. The club made the choice to take down the signs, receive reimbursement and then petition the Director. It was noted the Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC) voted against adopting this particular signage and that is the direction the DNR took on the issue. It is preferred the agreement would become a statewide or U.P. policy so that it is consistent across the entire U.P. Mr. Doan indicated he will work through the issues to get a resolution. Mr. Yesney agreed that recommendations for a unified signage system was not recommended by MSTAC. Mr. Schulz felt the MSTAC is an advisory group just like the UPCAC's, and he doesn't understand why they were the decision-makers on this issue. Mr. Mattson stated there is no excuse that it's taken 4-5 years for this issue to be resolved after all the time and effort Mr. Schulz has put forth.

**Commissioner Richardson** indicated trails are a high priority with the NRC, the Director and the Governor. The process may be slow, but it is going forward and gaining momentum. The constant grind is not helping.

- **Mr. Dropps** asked about the possibility of a trail application for cell phones; **Mr. Spieles** stated increased technology options are being planned.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** stated the Marenisco Dam in the far west end of the U.P. failed this spring. It is on the FEMA list and they are working through the process. He spoke to the township supervisor today; it looks to be fixed next year. Also, he met with the Ottawa National Forest (NF) supervisor two years ago, in Wildlife Division's effort to increase partnerships with other organizations. The Ottawa NF reserved some funding to help the DNR with wildlife management. The Division recently received \$74,000 to do some work and the Forest Resources Division also received \$60,000 to put up timber sales. This is an excellent partnership between the two organizations.
- **Greg Andrews, Executive Division:** **Mr. Andrews** stated he is the ADA coordinator and works on special projects. He stated he is working with Mr. Spieles on a special project and also something that is a high initiative with Mr. Minzey which involves identifying fly fishing streams and grouse hunting trails. He is also working on veteran's partnerships, tourism and economic development programs.
  - **Mr. Schulz** stated he didn't realize the DNR was taking a neutral position on a legislative bill that was listed in the Division Reports; **Mr. Spieles** clarified when it states "Administration", it means the Governor's Office, not the DNR.
- **Jim Ferris, Forest Resource Division:** **Mr. Ferris** noted he is attending in Mr. Stampfly's absence and can answer any questions that arise. He stated that so far, there have been no major fires in the U.P.
- **Tim Melko, Facilities and Operation Division:** **Mr. Melko** reminded the group that antlerless permits went on sale today. Quotas are down for this year due to the rough winter.
- **George Madison, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Madison** provided an update on the summary of the walleye production. He stated it was much later this year due to the cool spring. The West U.P. ponds were down in production, the Tribal ponds were down, as well as the Eastern U.P. More walleye was raised than last year, totaling ½ million. Every body of water that had a request for walleye did receive some, although it may not have been the entire request. Staff worked very hard, giving up their 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend to harvest the walleye ponds night and day. If there are any questions, let him know.
  - **Mr. Dropps** stated he heard some concern with a chemical being used. **Mr. Madison** stated it's a vaccination chemical, used throughout the Midwest, which puts a marker on the fish's skeletal tissue. It lets staff know what percentage of walleye was naturally produced. The fish use more oxygen on this chemical. They are learning more about it through experiments. Everyone in the Midwest had slow production too. Brook trout streams need all the rain that has been occurring. The DNR offices and phones are always open for questions.
  - **Commissioner Richardson** complimented the Fisheries Division as the salmon fishing in Lake Superior is awesome. The work that has been done is great. **Mr. Madison** stated

the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community works closely with us and they have a wonderful program.

- **Mr. Anthony** stated he heard that about 3-4 years ago, the salmon numbers were down; he asked what the increase is attributed to. **Mr. Madison** stated this was about Lake Michigan, not Lake Superior. Lake Michigan salmon fishing is still slow and hasn't recovered well.
- **Mr. Drops** stated there was a recent DNR press release about a walleye study in Little Bay de Noc. His take on this after five years of study, it didn't seem to make a difference if the bay was stocked or not. **Mr. Madison** indicated he hasn't seen the study and will review it. He noted on the positive side, sporting clubs are helping to run these ponds because the DNR is short on staff, and that is the reason more are raised. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated he read the release and it indicated there was no discernible impact of stocking in Big Bay de Noc, and there was a little improvement in Little Bay de Noc.
- **Commissioner Richardson** noted that clubs have to learn to share what they've helped to raise. It's very hard to do, but it's the right thing to do.

#### **Call To Order**

**Facilitator Wirtanen** called the formal meeting to order at 6:24pm. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

**Facilitator Wirtanen** asked if there were any additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Suchovsky** motioned to accept the agenda as presented; **Mr. Schmierer** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Divine, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Moran. Motion carried.**

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

**Facilitator Wirtanen** indicated members were sent the minutes from the regular May 20, 2013 WUPCAC meeting via email to provide an opportunity to review them prior to the meeting; he asked if there were any further edits needed. **Mr. Schulz** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and noted a job well done; **Mr. Anthony** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Divine, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Moran. Motion carried.**

#### **Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

**Facilitator Wirtanen** explained the procedure for this section of the meeting and opened the floor for public comments.

- Ms. Nancy Warren, who registered at the meeting, was given three minutes for comments. Ms. Warren stated she served on the DNR's Wolf Advisory Council where many issues were raised at the last meeting, which were never really discussed. One of them that concerned her (a handout was distributed) and also involved a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, is that the DNR put forth that the reason for a wolf hunt is for managing conflicts. She stated a majority of depredations are occurring on one farm in management unit B. This farm was provided all kinds of help with depredations. The farmer should have charges

pressed against him. Many of the issues raised at the meeting were never adopted or got a response to. The DNR did not provide information on what non-lethal or lethal methods were done at this farm. The farmer has violated the Bodies of Dead Animals Act. She has asked for conflicts through the FIOA and still hasn't received the information as she hasn't paid the \$170 FIOA fee yet. She wants to know the amount of depredation payments made in each of these zones. She was able to get a listing of how many comments were submitted to the NRC; 6,900 comments and 6,700 were opposed to a wolf hunting season, but it still went forward. She is hoping that Mr. Minzey can answer some of these issues. (See *Old Business*, 2. *Wolf Bill Update*, for response.)

### **New Business**

1. **Land Management Plan Update:** **Ms. Wieber** and **Mr. Sutton** provided a presentation and update on the Land Management Plan.
  - The Public Land Management Strategy is a high priority DNR project. Both Ms. Wieber and Mr. Sutton worked on this project.
  - Michigan has 36.3 million acres of land in total, with a breakdown of acres listed for farm, forest, public and state forest lands.
  - The Strategy was called for by Governor Snyder in his Energy and Environment and State of the State messages to answer questions regarding DNR-managed public lands. It also meets the requirements in Senator Casperson's land cap bill (Public Act 240, 2012).
  - The history of public land management was explained. Most of the land came to the state through tax reversion. Acquisition and disposal of land is a constant process.
  - A map showing the location of DNR-managed lands was shown and includes 4.6 million acres of surface ownership and 6.4 million acres of mineral ownership. Most of the land is located in the northern lower and upper peninsulas. Wildlife state game areas are in the lower peninsula.
  - Public lands were acquired through conservation easements (3%), litigation (0%), exchanges (13%), gifts of land (1%) if it meets the DNR's objectives, purchases (17%) and tax reversions (largest percentage at 66%). Conservation easements ensure the land remains open to the public and it's managed.
  - A description of land ownership by each DNR division was provided (in acres).
    - **Mr. Schulz** asked how land moves from division to division. **Ms. Wieber** stated it is at the decision of the Director and approved at an NRC meeting. It happens, but not frequently. During the big land consolidation project between 2004-2008, a lot of this occurred as it was felt to be better managed by another division.
  - The value of DNR managed lands was provided. Tourism is \$17 billion in the state. Six of the top ten tourist destinations in the state are managed by the DNR. The state has more trails than any other state in the country.
  - A map of Roscommon County was shown. This county has the highest percentage of state owned land in the state. The map showed all the types of land the DNR manages in this county.
  - Strategy outcomes were described. There are multiple ways members of the public, councils, and stakeholders can help the DNR to measure these outcomes.

- Three goals were identified in the Strategy. No one goal is more important over the other. This plan has to be flexible and change over time, and also be sustainable.
- Strategic Investment and Disposal: The entire land ownership was reviewed and 240,000 acres were identified for possible disposal. This is just the first round. There will be an emphasis on public land in the southern part of the state. Revenues will be used from sales to acquire priority parcels.
  - No Net Loss of Hunting Land: **Ms. Wieber** clarified a question that was asked at the May WUPCAC meeting regarding No Net Loss of Hunting Land. This statute refers to land that is under the DNR's control. If land is being sold, it is not considered "under the DNR's control" and therefore doesn't apply to this legislation. The wording in the legislation is difficult to understand. **Mr. Sutton** indicated this is one reason why land consolidation is a priority. **Mr. Dropps** asked how it works if land is sold under a conservation easement; **Ms. Wieber** stated of all the conservation easements in the U.P., none have only non-motorized access.
- Key Actions were explained, including the need to collect social data; working with Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) regions; linking facilities, such as counties, townships and obtaining local unit of government involvement; and increasing marketing. **Mr. Suchovsky** noted he recently heard the Pure Michigan program is increasing advertisements to Canada and other countries.
- The engagement process utilized when developing the Strategy included a variety of methods, such as an NRC public meeting, press releases, social media, open houses, county meetings, etc. An Advisory Committee involved some units of government, in addition to the usual stakeholders like sporting groups, Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC), economic development individuals, etc.
- The DNR manages land for the citizens of the state and ownership and management needs to reflect the desires of Michigan's citizens. Successful collaboration with local units of government, private individuals, and other critical partners is necessary to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Ms. Wieber** stated the final draft of the Public Land Management Strategy was sent to the Governor a few weeks ago and the DNR is awaiting the Governor's comments. She opened the floor for questions.
  - **Mr. Lindquist** noted there is a lot of game land that is interspersed with federal forest land. **Mr. Minzey** stated he will explain this later in the meeting.
  - **Mr. D. Johnson** asked for a copy of the presentation; it will be sent to the Council via email.
  - **Mr. Anthony** asked if there was a breakdown on the loss of timber revenue. **Ms. Wieber** stated they have discussed this and are looking into it. She stated she will keep the Council updated and they will be holding public meetings as the project progresses.
  - **Mr. Suchovsky** stated some of the 240,000 acres mentioned are small state ownerships with no access; **Ms. Wieber** agreed.
  - **Mr. Dropps** stated some waterways are blocked, taking away canoeing routes and asked if some of those lands are being looked at and taken out of the Forestry Division and putting into another division. **Ms. Wieber** stated yes, it is going through

this process. There may be some unique cases and the DNR does not want to cut off public access.

- **Mr. Suchovsky** stated a lot of property acquired in the 1920's and 1930's were tax reverted and asked how the current tax reversion situation is. **Ms. Wieber** stated prior to the statute changing in 1999 (Act 123), tax reverted land went to the DNR. In 1999, it now goes to the counties.
- **Mr. Holmes** indicated he feels identifying spots for specific user types (as reported in the meaning under division reports), such as "fly fishing streams" or "grouse hunting trails" discriminates against others. For example, in the case of fly fishing, it discriminates against other anglers who can't fish on restricted streams. **Mr. Minzey** stated he discusses the Grouse Enhanced Management System (UP GEMS) program in his division report; it's based on working with local economies and businesses to increase tourism.

2. Iron/Dickinson County Northern Pike Slot Limits: **Mr. Holmes** presented a handout to the council members. He stated that the DNR Fisheries Division is proposing an experimental protected slot limit (PSL) for northern pike on 5 lakes in Iron and Dickinson Counties. He provided an overview of the issue. He feels the PSL's are not needed. He is proposing that all 5 lakes be surveyed when the limits are imposed and then after 5 years, the assessment surveys would be repeated to see if any positive improvements in size structure exists. If not, the PSL's would be removed. He stated when he discussed this issue with Ms. Mistak, she stated there isn't the manpower to do the surveys. He stated it was also discussed at the Warmwater Resources Steering Committee, but they didn't want to talk about it much. Anglers won't go to the U.P. to go fishing. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked for input from Mr. Madison. **Mr. Madison** stated the PSL proposals are for 2014 so this will be a recurring discussion. Michigan has the capability to have a lot better pike fishing and this is an effort to improve it. There are 5 lakes in the west U.P. (Iron & Dickinson Counties) and 2 in the east U.P. being proposed. **Mr. Dropps** stated he helped with a number of surveys on these lakes in Iron County. All of them are slow grow lakes; males die before they reach 24". **Mr. Spieles** asked for the timetable on the DNR's proposal; **Mr. Madison** replied about a year before implementation. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated it will be important to heighten public awareness of this issue and attend the public meetings to provide input. **Commissioner Richardson** suggested that Mr. Holmes take his proposal to the local fishing clubs in these counties to seek a resolution of support from them and submit the proposal and letters of support to the NRC. The WUPCAC can then choose whether to support the proposal or not after reviewing all of the information. *(See Old Business, 5. Subcommittee Discussion and Next Meeting Date/Items for Agenda, 2. Items for Next Agenda, for additional discussion and motion.)*

3. Trails Update: **Mr. Yesney**, Western UP Recreation Specialist, provided an update on the Escanaba to Hermansville rail trail.

- This trail falls into the mission of the DNR along with economic development goals.
- There are a total of 457 miles of rail trails in the Western U.P. Connecting communities is the goal. A number of trails were listed on a slide.

- Many U.P. communities rely heavily on recreation and tourism associated with rail trails. The expansion of the rail trail network will stimulate more recreational and economic opportunities for communities. Tourism, forestry and mining are the three economic drivers of UP communities.
- There is an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to manage the property this rail trail sits on.
- A map of the trail was shown. They are working with the city on getting from a point to the fairgrounds where a trailhead is located and an ORV skills tract is located. Most of the trail is 100 feet wide and about 25 miles long and connects to the Felch grade.
- Partnerships have been secured with sportsmens clubs and the SORVA group to remove trash from the rail trail and it has been GPS'd. Public input on usage of this corridor has been compiled. From that, the DNR is establishing a Director's Order. Hunting on this trail will be prohibited due to the close proximity/bordering of farms, and full-size vehicle use will also be prohibited to prevent hunting and trash dumping. All the bridges have been inspected and grant funding has been applied for them.
- The American Transmission Company (ATC)'s idea was to develop a high powered transmission line on the Escanaba/Hermansville corridor. Approximately 20 miles would be utilized for this purpose. They would construct a recreational trail at their expense in exchange for using the rail trail at a cost of \$2.5-3 million to benefit the recreating public. ACT is requesting that MDOT, the current landowners, convey it back to the DNR so that the DNR can grant an easement. The DNR's Parks and Recreation Division is in agreement with the general concept of ATC's proposal; however, they are waiting for the final design specs and is performing an internal review of the application. Any input from the WUPCAC is appreciated.
  - **Mr. Lindquist** stated he appreciates this proposal is for a multi-use trail and appreciates the information. He questioned who the major landowners are along this line. **Mr. Yesney** replied most of the land is in private ownership, small farms, etc. Over 90% of the landowners did not want hunting.
  - **Mr. Holmes** asked what kind of structures are in the right of way. Mr. Brett French from ATC, who was present, replied the towers and structures on US2 are not the same type of structures that would be on this trail. The structures will be substantially smaller and not as tall. He presented an engineering drawing for reference.
  - **Mr. Dropps** asked about the height of the towers and if a driver would run into a downed line causing a potential for electrocution. Mr. French stated the height will be in the 90-100 foot range. The electrocution hazard is minimal; there hasn't been a single incident on another line. When a fault occurs on a line, it is sensed quickly and put out. **Mr. Yesney** indicated the recommended use of the trail is for recreational vehicles and horses.
  - **Mr. Mattson** stated he received the minutes from the ORV group that meets statewide and they've stated the DNR is recommending a gun-free zone along trails and questioned if that was still going to happen. The UPSA and a new gun group in the area is opposing that. **Mr. Yesney** stated he assisted with the language development in the order as it is currently written and it says no discharge of a

- firearm or crossbow. It can be on the person, but it cannot be discharged. **Mr. Mattson** questioned if someone wants to self-carry, can they not discharge it if in the event of self-protection. **Lt. Wright** indicated there are two separate issues here, as the CPL is different. If not hunting, it's regulated differently. **Mr. Mattson** stated that people who want to walk or ride in that county, they don't want to restrict carrying. **Mr. Yesney** stated he understands and will bring it under advisement.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked for an update on the following trails:
    - Ironwood to Marenisco: **Mr. Yesney** stated certain segments of the trail are being reviewed by the Attorney General in the coming month and some segments are going to the committee. Progress is being made.
    - Wakefield to Marenisco: **Mr. Yesney** encouraged Mr. Schulz to work as he has been on this trail.
    - Rockland to Ontonagon: **Mr. Yesney** stated this is a complicated project with history and difficult ownerships. He will seek more information and get back to Mr. Schulz.
    - Spread Eagle, WI to Iron Mountain: **Mr. Yesney** stated three bridges are working now and they are working on an agreement with the Wisconsin DNR. Discussion ensued regarding ORV areas/riding parks; **Mr. Yesney** stated there has been no money to fund these areas although they are included in the ORV plan.
  - **Mr. Suchovsky** asked how rail service ties into the ATC proposal. **Mr. Yesney** stated they've asked ATC to allow for the trail, allow for the power line and allow to bring back rail service in the future in their final plan.

4. Additional Agenda Items Added by Council: There were no additional items added.

#### Old Business

1. Fisheries Orders Process: **Mr. Madison** indicated that the recent change in the process gives approval for fisheries orders to the NRC, rather than the Director. For staff, it will involve working with all of the NRC commissioners, rather than just those who serve on the NRC Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee. If the public has disagreements, it will be a new process.
2. Wolf Bill Update: **Mr. Minzey** explained the timeline involving the limited wolf hunt. In December 2012, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 580, which named the wolf a game species. At the May NRC meeting, a limited wolf hunting season was approved. However, shortly after that meeting, the referendum, which received enough signatures to put it on the ballot in 2014, was approved and it halted any further action on a hunt. Later in May, Public Act 21 was signed into law, giving the NRC the authority to name game species. This Act is not subject to the previous referendum. Two wildlife orders were then presented to the NRC for information only in June. The first order names all game species in Michigan and includes the wolf. The second order establishes a limited U.P. wolf hunting season, for information only in June. From May until June, there was a re-consideration on aspects of the hunt. Both orders were approved by the NRC at their July meeting. The proposed hunt

no longer includes trapping on public or private land, but it can be considered on a case-by-case basis. The justification in the change is the need to be conservative in the number of wolves taken. As it stands today, there will be a wolf hunt in 2013 (trapping not included). The group that ran the petition drive on the first law has begun another petition drive on the second law. The first petition drive will target the 2014 hunt.

- **Mr. Smith** stated he is very excited about the wolf hunt, however, he is disappointed there is no trapping. **Mr. Minzey** indicated the NRC wanted to err on the side of caution for this first hunt. The new order states trapping would be allowed on a case-by-case basis with no specifics. If, for example, the quota is not being achieved, trapping could be considered as an option. Discussion on trapping in Montana and Minnesota were briefly discussed. **Commissioner Richardson** stated representatives of both of these states provided a presentation on their hunts. The NRC has done everything in their power to prevent taking more than the quota.
  - **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if the ratio was changed due to no trapping; **Mr. Minzey** the quota and licenses were based on a 4% success rate.
  - **Mr. Mattson** stated he is chair of the wildlife committee on the UP Sportsman's Alliance and a ton of trappers have called him in regards to the decision not to have trapping. They asked him to bring their disappointment in the quota figures and method of take to Commissioner Richardson. They feel the quota is too low to sustain them and reduce conflicts.
  - **Mr. Lindquist** asked about details of the license sales. **Mr. Melko** stated licenses will go on sale Saturday, August 3 at 12 noon eastern time. **(NOTE: On 7/30/13, a press release was sent out changing the date of license sales to Saturday, September 28 at 12 noon eastern time.)** The majority of DNR offices will be open at 11:30am. Licenses will also be available online and at all retail locations that sell licenses. Western U.P. DNR offices will be staffed on this day and there will also be staff in Lansing on duty to resolve any system problems should they occur. **Mr. Minzey** indicated the Wildlife Division will be developing an FAQ sheet.
  - **Mr. Dropps** asked if it is anticipated that after the hunt, there will be reduced conflict between humans and wolves and it will allow for a continued limited wolf hunt. **Mr. Minzey** replied time will tell.
  - **Mr. Minzey**, in addressing Ms. Warren's comments from earlier in the public comment section of the meeting, stated the dead animal act is a Department of Agriculture act and the DNR cannot enforce it. He encouraged her to bring her concerns to Lansing.
3. License Fee Package Update: **Mr. Spieles** stated that most of the action on the license fee package proposal is indicated in the legislative report in the Division Reports. Public Act 59 passed, which established the DNR's budget that begins October 1, 2013. This budget includes the \$21.4 million in new funding from several sources, some of which haven't yet passed in the legislature and therefore the DNR does not yet have the authority to act on. Public Act 59 includes \$7 million in general fund revenue: \$4.6 million for additional conservation officers (CO), noting their importance to rural communities in helping with additional situations; \$600,000 for a CO Academy for one of the largest recruiting classes; \$750,000 for wildfire protection, and \$2.5 million in a general fund appropriation for Belle Isle if it becomes a state park. Public Act 4669 brings \$2.7 million in new revenue to the

ORV program. The license fee package proposal (House Bill 4668) has passed out of both chambers and is before the full house for concurrence. It could be late August or early September before action. With this additional revenue, the DNR would have a 2014 budget of \$326.6 million, with 90% of it coming from restricted funds. This is a significant step towards stabilizing the budget.

- **Mr. Schulz** asked if there were any other license fees in the package that doubled like the ORV fees did. **Mr. Minzey** indicated some hunting fees did go up as well when considering the purchase of a new base tag and additional hunting tags.
  - **Mr. Mattson** stated with the fishing fee increase, it's a shame that less than 50% is going to boots on the ground.
4. May Resolutions Update: **Mr. Spieles** indicated two resolutions passed at the May meeting were forwarded to the Director. One indicated the Council's support for the license fee increase proposal concept with a strong emphasis that additional revenue be utilized to place more staff in the field rather than for marketing and outreach, and one recommended an increase in the number of NRC meetings held in the U.P. from once a year. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated he received an email response to the license fee support resolution from Commissioner John Matonich who would like to talk to the Council sometime in the future to discuss the importance of marketing and outreach.
5. Subcommittee Discussion: **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated over the last month he has decided to create four subcommittees of the Council, based on the agenda survey responses, to deal with potential issues for agenda consideration. They include: Forestry, Wildlife/Field Operations, Fisheries, and Trails/Recreation/Law. Four Council members have agreed to be lead members on these groups to help in leading a discussion according to the CAC charter and CAC advisory role: Jim Schmierer (Forestry), Travis Smith (Wildlife/Field Operations), Dave Anthony (Fisheries), and Jim Lorensen (Trails/Recreation/Law). Council members were then divided into the four groups. He indicated he will email all Council members the entire listing as it inadvertently only went out to the lead members just prior to the meeting. In addition to agenda topics, it is thought that any NRC agenda items of interest to the Council could also be addressed by the subcommittees. Subcommittees can work out the details, develop a recommendation or resolution and bring it to the full Council for discussion/adoption. This will help the Director and staff better understand the issues of the public of the western U.P. as well as bring a more solid discussion to the Council meetings. Each lead member has been asked to develop their own methods to conduct the subcommittee meetings. An additional burden of travel and time is not intended; use of video conferencing, emails, and phone conferences is acceptable. DNR staff representatives have agreed to participate as resource people to each subcommittee, if necessary. **Mr. Mattson** asked how an agenda item would get to the full Council; **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated using the resources he mentioned, the lead subcommittee member would suggest it as an agenda item to the facilitator. Discussion amongst the subcommittee members would determine whether it's a good agenda item and whether it's meaningful to bring forward. He provided examples on how it could work.
- **Mr. Holmes** asked how his proposal for the Iron/Dickinson County Northern Pike Slot Limits would fit into this format. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated he would bring his

discussion to the Fisheries Subcommittee for further discussion, investigation, and then if the subcommittee agrees, the lead member would recommend it for the next Council agenda for Council consideration. **Mr. Holmes** stated it would take another four months for his proposal to surface to the council by the time it went through this process. He asked Mr. Madison if the pike slot limits were not going to be brought to the NRC until 2014; **Mr. Madison** concurred. **Mr. Holmes** stated he thought Ms. Mistak wanted it to go before the NRC earlier. **Mr. Holmes** asked if his proposal will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting; **Facilitator Wirtanen** indicated if the Fisheries subcommittee decides to bring it forward as an agenda item, it would be placed on the Council agenda.

### **DNR Reports on Requested Information**

The following were requests for additional information at the last meeting or prior to this meeting:

1. **No Net Loss of Hunting Land/Land Management Plan**: This was discussed in the Public Land Management Strategy presentation provided earlier (page 6).
2. **Land Acquisition Map**: **Mr. Minzey** indicated a color map depicting how U.P. land was acquired is in the meeting packets. **Mr. Mattson** stated it is not what he is looking for. He would like to see game and fish lands in the U.P, how many acres it is and the locations. He stated there must be a report that is sent to the game and fish funding authorities, and he would like to see the last 20 years' worth of data and how it was managed, and also how it's going to be managed for the next 10-20 years. It was briefly mentioned this may be a good item for a subcommittee.
3. **NRC Agenda Schedule**: **Mr. Spieles** indicated the 2013 NRC agenda schedule is in the meeting packets and can be utilized by the subcommittee groups when planning for Council agenda items.
4. **Commercial Forest Act Update**: **Mr. Spieles** indicated he referred to Ms. Shirley Businski, DNR Commercial Forest Program Leader, for the following written update:
  - *Process to amend CF Administrative Rules started in 2009 and included input from a CF stakeholder meeting held in 2010.*
  - *The process was put on hold for two+ years while PA 48 of 2013 was being bantered about and then resumed when this law was signed on June 6, 2013.*
  - *DNR is now finalizing the rule amendments, incorporating stakeholder comment and amendments to the program brought about by PA 48 of 2013. A draft of the revised rules will be presented to the Office of Rules and Regulation (ORR) by the end of July.*
  - *ORR will evaluate / vet the draft amended rules to ensure the rules do not go beyond statutory requirements and that there is nothing unnecessary or overly burdensome on individuals or the community to comply with the rules.*
  - *This draft will then be published on the ORR web site and presented to the public for comment for a period of time.*
  - *The draft rules will then be presented to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). The JCAR is a statutorily created bipartisan legislative committee, comprised of 5 house and 5 senate members.*
  - *The Administrative Rules will then be filed with the Secretary of State and will become effective immediately.*

**Mr. Mattson** stated the timeline may be too short to discuss it at the Council. It was indicated there is time for the Council to provide input during the comment period as indicated.

5. Hunter Safety Instructor Recruitment Update: **Mr. Spieles** indicated based on discussion from the CAC's, Mrs. Welling Haughey was working to seek interest from individuals who would like to teach hunter's safety. There are counties in the U.P. with no coordinators and no teachers. He asked Council members to seek interest from their stakeholder groups. A listing of vacancies is being developed.
6. Free OHV Weekend Update/Senate Bill 50: **Mr. Schulz** indicated that Senate Bill 50 did not go through before recess and will now have to wait till fall for any further action. He stated he'd like to know more about the event permit as he believes the language was taken out of the bill. He feels it's important to allow groups in the U.P. to help local economies.

#### **Next Meeting Date/Items for Next Agenda**

1. Next Meeting Date: **Facilitator Wirtanen** noted the next meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2013 in Menominee County.
2. Items for Next Agenda: Discussion took place regarding the new subcommittee structure and whether the Council as whole can put an item on the agenda despite not having been discussed by a subcommittee. **Mr. Johnson motioned to add the northern pike slot limits on the next meeting agenda; Mr. Schulz supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Divine, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Moran. Motion carried.**

#### **Public Comments**

**Facilitator Wirtanen** opened the floor to members of the audience for their comments; no public comments were brought forth.

#### **Closing Comments**

There were no closing comments from the Council.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm EST.