

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 21, 2014

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

Baraga Lakeside Inn Conference Room, Baraga, MI

Facilitator: Phil Wirtanen Co-Facilitator: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

Jerry Divine

Michael Holmes

Mick Jarvi

Dave Johnson

Katherine Kruse

George Lindquist

Rory Mattson

Jim Schmierer

Robert "Skip" Schulz

Travis Smith

Bob Stinson

Warren Suchovsky

Phil Wirtanen

Council Members Absent/Excused

David Anderson

David Anthony

Ken Buchholtz

Floyd Dropps

Larry Heathman

Jim Lorensen

Chauncey Moran

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Greg Andrews, Special Projects, Marquette

Christie Bayus, Grants Department, Lansing

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette

Dan Dowdy, Parks and Recreation Division, Baraga

Stacy Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette

Rob Katona, Parks and Recreation Division, Marquette

George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga

Tim Melko, Finance and Operations Division, Marquette

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming

Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette

Bill Scullon, Wildlife Division, Norway

Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Marquette

Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette

Special Guests

Commissioner JR Richardson, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC)

Mrs. Haughey began the DNR Division Reports portion of the WUPCAC meeting at 5:30pm EST. She welcomed two representatives from Senator Casperson's office, Dr. Kirk Schott and Mr. Dale McNamee. She also welcomed Chair of the NRC JR Richardson.

She explained the public comment portion of the meeting and encouraged those in the audience who wish to speak to fill out a comment card.

DNR Division Reports

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on July 14, 2014. The following verbal updates were provided.

- **Stacy Welling Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** Mrs. Haughey noted the August 14th NRC meeting will be held in Munising at the American Legion. If you'd like to address the NRC, please sign up to do so. She stated Director Creagh will be in the U.P. tomorrow visiting the 4 counties (Mackinac, Luce, Schoolcraft and Dickinson) with the most state land ownership; he met with 4 of the 6 counties in the lower peninsula today. These are a follow-up to the meetings he held with them last year. None of the counties indicated they wanted the DNR to stop doing what they are doing, but rather looked forward to developing partnerships. She noted the Wildlife Division held a wildlife habitat grant program training conference call today and 100 people RSVP'd statewide to participate. An aquatic habitat grant training will be forthcoming. **Mr. Lindquist** thanked everyone for putting together the call, which came out of discussion he had with WUPCAC members. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that only 6 people from the 906 area code (U.P.) registered for the call.
 - **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked if grant staff are looking into the overall grant rules. He stated it seems as though the grants' rules are not applicable to small volunteer organizations. It was stated that the criteria is different for each type of grant. Modifications of grant requirements are being made to make it more attractive for people to apply. **Facilitator Wirtanen** cited an example about a DEQ grant which required a financial audited statement, when having one prepared would cost far more than the money they would have received from the grant.
- **Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer:** Mrs. Munson Badini welcomed CBS Channel 3-Marquette and the L'Anse Sentinel to the meeting. She stated volunteers are still being sought for the DNR Pocket Park during the U.P. State Fair. Please consider helping or sharing the information. The U.P. Trappers Association is hosting the National Trappers Convention this weekend at the state fairgrounds in Escanaba. This is the largest gathering of trappers in the nation, and several DNR divisions will be there.
 - **Mr. Jarvi** mentioned that a hunter safety academy will be held at the Rod and Gun Club in Ishpeming this weekend. Food and lodging is being paid for. He encouraged anyone interested to attend.
- **George Madison, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Madison** stated he didn't have any additions to the written report. He noted that the division finished most of the walleye harvest from the ponds. There has been a decent rearing this year of fall advanced fingerlings as all have been stocked. He's noticed lots of people recreating in the U.P. this year and people have been catching a fair amount of fish. There has been a good amount of resource management done throughout the year and they are seeing the results in July.
 - **Facilitator Wirtanen** commented on a notable project that has been in the works for years to develop rock habitat structure to provide protective habitat for minnows in Lake Gogebic. Walleyes for Tomorrow funded a \$45,000 project. It was a large project for permitting and for a grass roots organization; it is very admirable. In combination with this project, the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association has been planting fish cribs and Walleyes for Tomorrow have a companion group planting habitat spawning

capabilities for jumbo perch. **Mr. Madison** stated this is a good mentoring example for other lakes in the U.P. There is a lot more to just stocking walleye in order to have a good fishery.

- **Mr. Holmes** asked about a lake in the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit, stating he has seen a ton of schools of small perch there. **Mr. Madison** stated it was a good year for perch spawning.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** reported a pre-bid meeting was held last week for the dam repair in Marenisco; it is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of fall. He stated the division has filled 4 positions in the last 4 months, including positions in Escanaba, Crystal Falls and in Baraga.
- **Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resource Division:** **Mr. Stampfly** stated there were no additions to his written report.
- **Commissioner Richardson, NRC:** **Commissioner Richardson** stated he appreciates everyone recent support. He mentioned some of the items the NRC has been working on: the U.P. Wildlife Habitat workgroup, fisheries improvements, sustainable forestry, etc. There are lots of exciting things going on. He encouraged council members to push forward and be positive. He stated he appreciates the council members' time and energy in taking their skills to do good. He stated he talks about the UPCAC's as much as he can.
- **Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division:** **Lt. Wright** stated he did not have any additions to his written report. He noted that 23 new officers hit the field and are doing well. By the end of the week, they will have completed step one of the training process, which is 18 weeks long. Step two next week will involve a week-long marine school. Two of these new officers will be working in Ontonagon County.
- **Greg Andrews, Special Projects:** **Mr. Andrews** provided an overview of the veteran's projects he has been working on as well as several upcoming events in the U.P. offering veterans opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation, such as a charter fishing trip with South Shore Fishing Association and a fly fishing expo with the Fred Waara Trout Unlimited Chapter. He also mentioned general public events being held involving the Pocket Park in Escanaba, including the National Trappers Convention, Bear Hunting Academy, and the UP State Fair.
 - **Mr. Schulz** mentioned his group is coordinating a veterans ORV ride in the fall. They are having difficulty securing motel rooms for the event. Audience members suggested ideas for lodging.
 - **Mr. Smith** asked where someone can go to get further information on these events. **Mr. Andrews** stated he will send the links to Mrs. Haughey to distribute to the Council.
- **Tim Melko, Finance & Operations Division:** **Mr. Melko** stated the applications for antlerless permits, which started July 15, will be accepted through August 15. There are a reduced number of permits this year, with only 3 units open in the U.P., on private land only. There will be a lot less opportunity this year due to severe winter, and he encouraged those interested to submit their applications.
- **Rob Katona, Parks and Recreation Division:** **Mr. Katona** indicated is representing Mr. Doan as he was unable to attend. He indicated he did not have any additions to the report.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** asked about a statement in the division reports indicating there were 100 violations in Little Presque Isle. **Mr. Dowdy** stated it was most likely due to recreation

passport violations. **Mr. Melko** noted when areas requiring the recreation passport were added last year, such as Little Presque Isle, it was a learning year. This year the citations given are similar to a "fix-it ticket". If they pay for the recreation passport, the citation for not having one will be voided; like a violation notice.

Call To Order

Facilitator Wirtanen called the regular meeting to order at 6:16pm EST. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any additions to the agenda; no additions were brought forth. **Mr. Schulz** motioned to accept the agenda as presented; **Mr. Divine** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Buchholtz, Mr. Dropps, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Moran. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 19, 2014 WUPCAC meeting minutes which were emailed to each member previously; none were brought forth. **Mr. Heathman** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; **Mr. Suchovsky** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Buchholtz, Mr. Dropps, 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.

- Mrs. Marcy Cella thanked Ms. Rebecca Humphries, former DNR Director, and Mr. Keith Creagh, current DNR Director, for creating and continuing the Citizen's Advisory Councils. She explained how working with the Council has enabled her to understand DNR items better. She also stated she would like to see the registration numbers on ORV stickers be made large enough to ID a machine so she could report violators, when they cross rivers or ride on beaches when they shouldn't be. Mrs. Cella was thanked by the Council for the baked items she brought to the meeting.

Old Business

1. **ORV License/Permit Clarification:** **Mr. Katona** stated he was asked to come to the meeting to answer any questions about the ORV license and permit. **Lt. Wright** indicated he did provide a few answers in his division report.
 - **Mr. Schulz** stated he still hasn't received a clear answer on when a person needs the additional \$10.00 permit. **Lt. Wright** indicated the license fee basically increased from \$26.25 to \$36.25. The legislature split it up to be \$26.25 and \$10.00, with the \$10.00 permit needed only if one is riding an ORV on state designated trails (includes trails, routes and areas). The intent is that state designated trails users, paying this extra fee, will be contributing towards the maintenance of those trails they use. The \$26.25 license is still needed if one rides off their own property; this has not changed. There are some designated routes that run concurrent with some roads, and in these cases the

\$10.00 permit is needed. Please refer to the division report for more information. **Mr. Katona** indicated that all designated trails are marked. **Mrs. Haughey** added the DNR can work with the legislators to make this better. **Mr. Katona** also noted they are already using the extra funds to do trail maintenance. It may not be seen on a particular trail, but it is benefitting the program as a whole. The need for the license increase was to catch up with demand.

- **Mr. Schulz** indicated that he was told the state was going to pay for signage on designated trails. **Mr. Katona** stated the ORV Trails Subcommittee, under the Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC), is working on this.
- **Commissioner Richardson** stated this is the first year for the new permit. If the Council submits what issues people are having trouble with, the DNR and NRC will look to see if it can be improved. The DNR is trying to do the right thing.
- **Mrs. Munson-Badini** stated a press release was just sent out to ORV stakeholders explaining the license and permit fees. She will have it forwarded to the Council.

New Business

1. **White Nose Bat Syndrome Presentation:** **Mr. Bill Scullon**, wildlife biologist and private land specialist, provided a presentation on the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) being found in species of bats across the nation. He noted he coordinates all the field activity in Michigan with regards to WNS and also works with Dr. Dan O'Brien in Lansing who handles the disease aspect. The presentation included highlights of the following:
 - **Economic Value of Bats:** In Michigan alone, the economic benefit to farmers is \$528 million to \$1.2 billion annually. They feed on lots of insects that cost money to control otherwise.
 - **WNS:** "WNS is a devastating disease of hibernating bats that has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history."
 - **Cause:** It is caused by an invasive fungus. It was first found in 2006 in an Albany, NY cave. The fungus derived from central northern Europe.
 - **Transmission & Spread:** The disease is spread from bat-to-bat or anthropogenically (human-assisted transportation), meaning on clothes, equipment, boots, etc. of people who enter contaminated caves or mines.
 - **Bats as Hosts:** Bats live 20-30+ years and raise only 1-2 pups per year. The species is not equipped to absorb a massive mortality event.
 - **What other animals are affected?** No other wildlife species, domestic animals, people or pets are affected. Only bats.
 - **Affected Bats:** Nationally, the Little brown bat, Tricolored bat, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, Big Brown bat, Eastern small-footed myotis are affected with WNS. All 5 colonial species native to Michigan are known to be affected: Little brown bat, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, Northern pipistrelle, and the Bit brown bat. It is estimated that 7 million bats have died due to WNS in North American since 2006.
 - **Environment:** Colonial bat species hibernate in locations where temperatures are close to, but above, freezing and have high relative humidity, which are perfect conditions for growth of the fungus.
 - **Maps:** Progressive maps were shown depicting the movement of the disease from 2006 to present. It has been confirmed in 26 states and 5 Canadian provinces.

- **Affected U.P. Counties:** Cases of WNS have now been confirmed in Mackinac, Delta, Dickinson, and Keweenaw Counties (also Alpena County in the lower peninsula). There is also a suspected case in Ontonagon County.
- **WNS Signs:** Pictures were shown of what the disease looks like on bats and abnormal behavior was discussed. There is a catastrophic mortality rate greater than 95% in affected sites, with no apparent disease resistance.
- **Ecological Effects:** It is estimated that 660-1320 metric tons of insects (mostly crop and forest pests) may no longer be consumed in WNS areas.
- **Next Steps:** Several sites are now gated. A Land Use Order of the Director was put in place effective 4/10/2014 prohibiting entry to caves and abandoned mines within department-administered land and facilities. Outreach and education will occur with partners and winter hibernacula surveys will continue. The Michigan WNS response plan is available online at:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/MichiganWNSPlanFINAL122010_342261_7.pdf.
- **Cure:** There currently is no cure. There are agents available to control and inhibit the fungus, but nothing is strong enough that won't harm the animals.
- **Research & Funding:** **Mr. Scullon** also discussed research projects with state and national agencies and how the Michigan bat program is funded through the US Fish and Wildlife Service and grants with no matching funds.

Mr. Scullon opened the floor for questions.

- **Mr. Divine** asked how WNS could affect vegetative management on public and possibly private lands. **Mr. Scullon** stated it will impact the northern long eared bat very hard. The status change of the bat was reviewed (i.e. threatened, endangered, etc.), but because it could affect timber harvesting, it was delayed. **Mrs. Haughey** stated she has a copy of a letter which states the DNR's position on this issue. **Mr. Minzey** stated Michigan is going to take a leadership role in working with 38 other states to drive the process forward to develop a plan that is economical and ecological.
1. **Wildlife Habitat Grant Process:** **Mr. Minzey** stated this year, there will be \$1 million available through this grant, with the minimum grant size being \$15,000 and a minimum 10% match. The grant is and will continue to be for game species habitat only. He discussed the scoring process and listed some areas that will score higher than others. The grant booklet, available online, contains all the scoring criteria. The applications for this round will need to be postmarked by August 12th. He noted that last year, there were a number of applicants who wanted to make food plots on their own private property for their own private use; these types of projects will not score very high. **Commissioner Richardson** asked how long this grant will be funded; **Mr. Minzey** stated this program was part of the new license fee package, and it sunsets in four years. Last year, there were a total of 40 applications; 9 of them were from the U.P. and 4 of those were funded. This could've been due to a real short timeframe and although there were folks interested, they were overwhelmed with the application process. This year, it has been simplified and they are hoping to get more U.P. applications.

- **Mr. Lindquist** indicated the reason he suggested a conference call on the wildlife habitat grants (see Mrs. Haughey's division report on page 2) was because he had seen that there was \$700,000 awarded the last grant cycle and the U.P. got only \$140,000 of that. He figures the lower peninsula groups are more organized and have more grant writing experience.
 - **Mr. Minzey** noted that there will be a grant opportunity coming soon for invasive species; the wildlife habitat grant is not the correct one for that.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** asked about beech resistant trees. **Mr. Stampfly** indicated there have been a couple of different plantings to establish disease resistant beech, but it will be a while yet before they become commercially available.
 - **Mr. Smith** asked where the efforts of Kipple Creeks (grant awarded last cycle) are located. **Mr. Minzey** stated it is located on 1,000-1,200 acres of CFA land north of the intersection of M-95 and US-41. This land is open to the public. They will do mass producing shrub plantings, food planting, woodcock habitat restoration and grouse habitat work.
2. Additional Agenda Items Added by Council: **Mr. Mattson** had requested, a week before the meeting, the following topic be placed on the agenda:
- **Game Management on Game Purchased Lands:** **Mr. Mattson** stated he didn't want to have a discussion on this topic, but rather add it to the agenda to see if the Wildlife Committee would like to meet to discuss it. He stated wildlife habitat has been talked about for 20 years. NRC had a wildlife habitat committee for years, and now has renewed it again. He asked the Council for their thoughts on whether it is a topic for the Wildlife Committee to discuss.
 - **Mr. Holmes** thinks it's a good idea. He seen the presentation at an Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance meeting and it's good.
 - **Mr. Divine** asked if Mr. Mattson wants all the funding put towards game purchased lands only. If the idea is too big, too many issues come into play. **Mr. Mattson** stated he would like to bring people in to speak on it. He would like to focus on game purchased lands only to see what can be done. He's been discussing this for 26 years.
 - **Mr. Minzey** indicated there are 240,000 acres of the 2 million acres in the U.P. that are game purchased.
 - **Mr. Suchovsky** asked what the status of the management of these lands are now. **Mr. Minzey** indicated years ago, staff was directed to treat all land the same regardless of the acquisition source. When he began as a U.P. wildlife supervisor, he requires every biologist going through each compartment review to make sure the prescriptions are wildlife intentional. Pittman Robertson (PR) legislation lands have to be managed for fur or feathers. There is very little PR purchased land in the U.P.; the vast majority was purchased with state game funds. He stated there are two pieces of legislation that dictate how the Wildlife Division manages those lands.
 - **Commissioner Richardson** stated he will ask the new U.P. wildlife habitat workgroup to work on where the deer herd is and how to manage those areas for them.

- **Mrs. Haughey** added it will be important to include the wildlife and forestry staff in the Wildlife Committee's discussion on this issue. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked Mr. Smith, lead for the committee, to have a meeting and bring the findings to the next Council meeting.
- **Mr. Mattson** indicated UPSA is moving ahead and going before the NRC with it at their August meeting.
- **Mr. Minzey** stated they now have updated winter deer complex maps. We are working to identify ownership patterns within those complexes.
- **Mr. Divine** indicated he is concerned there is too much focus on game purchased lands and other types of lands, such as tax reverted lands, will be ignored. There is a question of separating too much as opposed to looking at the big picture. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that state forest lands are co-managed by Wildlife and Forest Resource Divisions.
- It was mentioned that it seems every single manual in the DNR is against the game species, such as the Kirkland warbler. Landowners have donated land and state in the deed that it should be managed for game species, but it is not.

Committee Reports

1. **Trails/Recreation/Law**: **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated that Mr. Lorensen, lead for the committee, couldn't attend this evening, so he will provide the report. He stated at their last meeting, discussion focused on ORV issues. **Mr. Schulz** provided a short overview of the issue. He stated that he'd like to see the base of ORV volunteers and clubs broadened and funding become available to them. He stated this issue is being discussed through the ORV Advisory Subcommittee through MSTAC but the views are more on a personal interest level. He is pushing it to be discussed at the UPCAC level because the group has a more well-rounded view. The Trails/Recreation/Law Committee will continue to discuss the issue at their next meeting.
2. **Fisheries**: **Mr. Holmes** presented in Mr. Anthony's absence. He stated the committee has not met. They are working on a presentation on the management practices of the Fisheries Division, but it is not at the point to bring it forward to the full Council yet.
3. **Forestry**: **Mr. Schmierer**, lead for the committee, stated the committee has not met. He mentioned several forestry-related items such as the White Nose Syndrome presentation this evening, MTU celebration the Ford Center's 60th Anniversary on August 9 & 10 with tours and presentations by the Society of American Foresters in Alberta, among others. The status of emerald ash borer was asked about. He stated it is a losing battle. It is everywhere in the U.P. Currently the recommendations are for 70-90% removal of ash where it is found. It was thought that the cold winter would have an effect, but it didn't. Mackinac County has some extensive devastation sites. **Mr. Stampfly** noted it is also appearing in black ash stands.
4. **Wildlife**: **Mr. Smith**, lead for the committee, stated there is nothing new to report. They will take up the recommendation to discuss Mr. Mattson's issue at a future committee

meeting. He noted it is exciting to know that the new license fees are being used. For the public to realize this already, in seeing critical positions being filled and the wildlife habitat grants being offered, is great news. He thanked the DNR.

DNR Reports on Requested Information

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

1. **Trust Fund Information:** **Mrs. Haughey** stated that at the last meeting there were questions as to what the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) monies could be used for. She introduced Christie Bayus, Grant Coordinator for the U.P., who happened to be in the area.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if the application has to go through a unit of government only. **Ms. Bayus** stated yes, and matching funds must be provided. He also asked if monies could be used for development of roads, trails on state land, or land acquisition. **Ms. Bayus** stated whoever is applying for the development has to own that property.
 - It was asked how long the application process is. **Ms. Bayus** stated it can be lengthy. Applications are due every year on April 1st. Final scores are given in November with final recommendations in December. **Mrs. Haughey** reminded the group that there are organizations out there to help write the applications.
 - **Commissioner Richardson** asked if there were any restrictions for funding U.P. projects through the trust fund. **Ms. Bayus** stated no. She discussed the scoring system as it relates to public ownership of land.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked who determines the market value when private land is being purchased. **Ms. Bayus** explained the process.
 - **Mrs. Haughey** stated that she typically sends out the notice via email on when the grant workshops are held in the U.P., typically in February each year.
 - **Mr. Mattson** stated the process is very quick and fast; probably the easiest grant process the DNR has. Just call the Grant Department for assistance.
 - **Mr. Schmierer** stated there is good information in the grant booklet that is published each year. The best thing to do is call up the grant coordinator and ask about your idea before starting the process.
 - **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked if it was typical to have a collaborative partnership between local groups and townships. **Ms. Bayus** stated yes, very typical.
2. **List of NRC Agenda Topics:** **Mrs. Haughey** stated the NRC's schedule of topics for the year is included in the meeting packets. **Facilitator Wirtanen** noted very often what the WUPCAC discusses dovetails with what the NRC is discussing. **Commissioner Richardson** encouraged members to attend the NRC meeting being held in Munising. They bring the meeting to the U.P. to hear the U.P.'s voice. He stated there is no stronger statement from him or Commissioner Madigan when they can say the idea came from the WUPCAC; it carries a lot of weight.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** noted the next WUPCAC meeting will be held Monday, September 15, 2014 in Houghton County at Michigan Tech University.

2. Items for Next Meeting Agenda: **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated from the meeting discussion this evening, agenda items for the next meeting include possible considerations from the Wildlife Committee and the Trails/Rec/Law Committee. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked that the Wildlife Committee be very specific when bringing in their issue and/or suggestions back to the Council. It seems that the discussion of game lands and management of wildlife goes in circles. **Mr. Jarvi** asked for a listing of who is in the Wildlife Committee; it will be emailed to Council members. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated any Council member can request to be involved in more than one committee. **Commissioner Richardson** stated if there is any future discussion on easements and how the DNR can help, let him know.

Public Comments

Facilitator Wirtanen opened the floor to members of the audience for their comments.

- **Ms. Joan Duncan** commented on horse trails and campgrounds. She stated she is actively pursuing with the DNR and US Forest Service a horse campground on M-28 in Marquette County. It would provide much needed horse camping facilities and would bring tourist dollars to the U.P. She said there seems to be a lack of knowledge by Lansing of the U.P. There currently is no horse camping facilities in the U.P. and there is a few in the lower peninsula. Wisconsin does a great job of marking their horse trails. **Mrs. Haughey** indicated she met with Ms. Duncan last week who shared some maps, and Mrs. Haughey shared them with Lansing. **Ms. Duncan** stated she is hoping to coordinate a meeting in August.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** stated that ORV riders are paying for the maintenance of the trails they ride on and asked where the funding would come from to maintain horse trails. **Ms. Duncan** replied the horse riding community would gladly pay for a permit or sticker to ride those trails and to have more formal facilities.
 - **Mr. Schulz** suggested the Porcupine Mountains as a possible location for horse trails and campgrounds.
 - **Mr. Stinson** stated he supports the concept that there should be more horse trails and campgrounds, but keeping ORV's off those trails would be difficult. There has to be a way to share the resources with all users.
 - An audience member stated that nationally, horses and ORV's are sharing trails with proper signage. Establish a user fee and give the horse owners trails to ride. **Mrs. Haughey** indicated that may require legislation in Michigan.
 - **Mr. Holmes** stated it may be helpful for Ms. Duncan to research how other states accommodate horse trails. Bring the Council some research to help accomplish the goal.
 - **Mr. Suchovsky** noted an article on the use of trails by horse owners. It is another form of recreation.
 - **Mrs. Haughey** asked if it would be helpful for the Trails/Rec/Law Committee to meet with Ms. Duncan at one of their meetings to explore options. **Facilitator Wirtanen** agreed. Ms. Duncan will be informed when their next meeting will be.

Closing Comments

- **Mr. Minzey** gave a brief update on the wolf status. As of right now, wolves are not a game species. The two pieces of legislation that made them a game species are suspended right now due to the referendums. There is a third referendum process, which is a citizen-lead initiative, to enact a law to give the NRC authority to name game species. If the legislature does not act upon this referendum, then all three referendums will go to a vote this November. In that case, the referendum receiving the most positive votes takes precedence. In response to **Mr. Holmes**, **Mr. Minzey** stated the NRC oversight of the Fisheries Division is also included in the suspension.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked for a resolution of condolence, at the agreement of Facilitator Wirtanen, on behalf of the Council for prayers and thoughts to Commissioner Richardson for the recent loss of his wife; **Mr. Holmes supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Buchholtz, Mr. Dropps, Mr. Lorensen, Mr. Moran. Motion carried.**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm EST.

Approved 9/15/14