

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 19, 2014

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

Gogebic Community College, Lindquist Student Center, Ironwood, MI

Facilitator: Phil Wirtanen Co-Facilitator: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

David Anderson

Larry Heathman

Jim Schmierer

David Anthony

Michael Holmes

Robert "Skip" Schulz

Ken Buchholtz

Dave Johnson

Bob Stinson

Jerry Divine

Jim Lorensen

Warren Suchovsky

Floyd Dropps

Chauncey Moran

Phil Wirtanen

Council Members Absent/Excused

Mick Jarvi

Rory Mattson

Katherine Kruse

Travis Smith

George Lindquist

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette

Bill Doan, Parks and Recreation Division, Baraga

George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga

Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette

Stacy Welling Haughey, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Marquette

Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Marquette

CO Grant Emery, Law Enforcement Division, Gogebic/Ontonagon Counties

Mrs. Haughey began the DNR Division Reports portion of the WUPCAC meeting at 5:33pm EST (4:33 pm local time). She thanked Mr. Lorensen and Ms. Linda Gustafson of Gogebic Community College for being great hosts and allowing use of the Lindquist Center for this meeting. She welcomed to the meeting Dr. Schott, representative for Senator Casperson. She also introduced Mr. Tim Lorensen, son of council member Mr. Lorensen, as one of the newest members of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Youth Conservation Council. Mr. Jeremiah Moran, son of council member Mr. Moran, is also a new member, but was unable to attend tonight. A round of applause was given.

Mrs. Haughey 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 May 12, 2014. The following verbal updates were provided.

- **Debbie Munson Badini, Deputy Public Information Officer:** Mrs. Munson Badini stated the next episode of Ask the DNR will be held on May 29 on Channel 13. The show will focus on summer recreation opportunities, including fishing, off-road vehicle trails, boating, camping and more. Changes to the hunting, fishing and ORV license structure will also be discussed.
- **Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resource Division:** Mr. Stampfly stated there were no additions to his written report.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** Mr. Minzey reported updates on wolf depredation activities, a dam repair in Marenisco, and new U.P. staff positions. The Escanaba biologist and technician positions are now filled. The postings for the Baraga biologist and Crystal Falls technicians have closed and interviews will be held in the next two weeks. They have also hired 6 non-career workers in the U.P. for the summer. The cooperative position with the Ottawa National Forest will be starting in June.
- **George Madison, Fisheries Division:** Mr. Madison provided updates on stocking activities in the area, free fishing weekend on June 7 and 8, and the development of blue gill rearing ponds in partnership with several Ontonagon area sportsman's groups. The rearing ponds are in conjunction with the DNR's Family Fishing Program: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261-299046--,00.html. He also added that the division has completed its staffing plan and are looking to add more staff in the U.P. In addition, 4 college students have been hired for the summer. He noted there have been good smelt runs in the L'Anse area for 3 days straight and steelhead action has been slow. He talked with his Minnesota colleagues and they are down as well, possibly due to cold Lake Superior. Fish spawning is running about two weeks behind schedule. He reminded the audience that he will be available after the meeting for questions or if a question is thought of at home, call the Baraga office.
 - **Mr. Holmes** asked about the note in the division report regarding extending the early harvest of walleyes and the muskellunge size limits. **Mr. Madison** replied that the division is trying to match Michigan's regulations with Wisconsin in these efforts. Michigan has numerous pages of regulations that don't match with Wisconsin's; however, there are more matches than Minnesota or Iowa. **Mr. Holmes** mentioned Wisconsin's new fishing chief is pro-spearfishing.
- **CO Grant Emery, Law Enforcement Division:** CO Emery stated he is attending for Lt. Wright. The Academy currently taking place will graduate on June 13th. Two of these new recruits will be assigned to Ontonagon County and one will be assigned to Menominee County. Pre-screening interviews have already begun for another Academy in January 2015 which should bring another 45 recruits into the system. He noted he will also be available after the meeting for additional questions.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked about the overall impression of the walleye opener. **CO Emery** stated he felt it was slow. He stated the walleyes in Lake Gogebic just spawned the last few nights from what he has seen.
 - **Mr. Anthony** asked how many conservation officers are in the entire U.P. now. **CO Emery** stated they are down to about 120 across the state and the U.P. is about half than what it should be. Another 50 will be eligible to retire in the next few years as well.

- **Mr. Anderson** stated he appreciated the DNR presence on Lake Gogebic. Comments from people CO Emery spoke to were positive; nice job. **CO Emery** thanked the Walleyes for Tomorrow group as well.
- **Bill Doan, Parks & Recreation Division:** **Mr. Doan** stated that all campgrounds have delayed openings due to the late spring. Most, however, will be open this weekend. A new manager has been hired at the Porkies after a year of vacancy, and the Wells State Park manager position has been filled as well. A supervisor was hired at the Escanaba field office, a seasonal ranger position at Bewabic is being filled, and summer staff have been hired. A total of 1,400 seasonal employees are hired for the summer throughout the state, and it requires a lot of effort to bring those people on board. Regarding optional trail signage, this will now be put in the sign manual. It will be optional for clubs to use, and it is currently not funded, but if a state-wide system is developed, funding may become available.
- **Mr. Dropps** stated in Iron County, it didn't appear that the boat access ramps were put in for the opening of the season. **Mr. Doan** stated it has disappointed him to hear this news recently, and stated all boating access sites will have their ramps in by tomorrow. He apologized for the late entry and is looking into the breakdown of communication. **Mr. Dropps** stated a handicap ramp was also not in for the trout opener and floated away. **Mr. Doan** replied he will look into the matter.
- **Mr. Schulz** stated although some people find reasons to be critical of the DNR, there are times when compliments are due. He complimented Mr. Doan for taking control of the signage issue. **Mr. Doan** stated several people put forth the effort to make issues like this one come to fruition.
- **Mr. Wirtanen** asked about the Ohman's project. **Mr. Doan** stated they are still under contract with Gogebic County forestry and parks and they will do the dredging again this summer. Approval was received to get the dredge spoils on the other side as well, which will help with erosion issues. An RFP for a feasibility study was done to put out a smaller jetty to help with the spoils coming into the river. Through consultation, it became very apparent there would be a dredging issue again. There was \$50,000 available for the feasibility study; however, they will look at using that funding for other options. He further explained the status. They are looking at a long-term solution that will last into the future.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked for recap of the winter season at the Porkies. **Mr. Doan** stated it was an excellent year for them, with good numbers and a long season. The extreme cold may have hurt the numbers a little despite the good snow base. He complimented Gogebic Community College for the excellent partnership. They collaborated jointly on the daily operations, reducing expenses, investing revenue, etc. **Mr. Lorensen** added the large amount of snow made a huge difference this year and the students had great experiences. The State is a good group to work with. **Mrs. Haughey** noted that along with the partnership, the Director and the Governor worked with Pure Michigan to add \$40,000 to advertise the western U.P. in the Wisconsin and Twin Cities Minnesota market. She also noted that the Lt. Governor visited at the Marquette DNR office to present Mr. Doan and his staff with a Governor's Coin for their successful efforts in rescuing two snowmobilers in difficult conditions this past season at the Porkies.

Call To Order

Facilitator Wirtanen called the regular meeting to order at 6:06pm EST (5:06pm local time). 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. Heathman supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Mattson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 13, 2014 WUPCAC meeting minutes which were emailed to each member previously; none were brought forth. **Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Schmierer supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Mattson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**

Facilitator Wirtanen also asked the Council if there were any corrections to the March 17, 2014 Joint UPCAC minutes. He noted the EUPCAC gave their approval at their April 17th meeting. None were brought forth. **Mr. Lorensen motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Schmierer seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Mattson, Mr. Smith. 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.

- **Mr. Don Helsel** stated he is addressing the Council on behalf of three groups: MI-TRALE, the Keweenaw ATV Club, and the Hiawatha Trail Association, to ensure the Council has efficient information for discussions relating to multi-use trails. Their membership represents 10 U.P. counties with over 730 members. He will not be discussing the event permit issue as was planned. There is an ORV Advisory Workgroup of which 3 of the 7 members are located in the western U.P. so it is well represented. Mr. Schulz is one of the members. The purpose of the workgroup is to assist the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC) and the DNR with items related to the creation, development, operation, and maintenance of the State-designed ORV trail system. In regards to the discussion being brought forth by the Councils' Trail/Recreation/Law Committee on *MDNR ORV Trail Maintenance Contracts*, he wants the Council members to know that no one has contacted the organizations that are directly impacted by that discussion. There were statements made in this discussion they feel may not be fully accurate and he is requesting the organizations be made part of all future discussions on this subject. He stated there will be a committee formed to discuss it more on their end. He looks forward to working with the Council in the future.
- **Mr. John Maines** of Ironwood stated he would like to make a comment pertaining to the fishing rules. He read that the opening for bass season occurs this Saturday, which is two

weeks to a month ahead of spawning season; he questioned why this is so. **Mr. Madison** indicated the opener has been in place for many, many years. Several studies have been done statewide and no evidence was found that fishing bass before pre-spawn has done any harm. Mr. Maines mentioned some issues in Wisconsin with their bass fishing season. **Mr. Madison** stated bass numbers are building and may affect walleye lakes; as a result, year-round bass fishing may be a possibility in Michigan. **Mr. Holmes** stated he sits on the DNR's Warmwater Steering Committee and by late summer, spearheaded by the Michigan Bass Association, the bass season may become pretty liberal.

Annual Election of Officers

Facilitator Wirtanen noted the Bylaws require the Council to have an officer election each year and the Council typically holds the elections in May. He explained the process and opened the floor for nominations for 2014.

- **Facilitator: Mr. Anthony** nominated Mr. Wirtanen; **Mr. Wirtanen** accepted the nomination. **Mr. Johnson** nominated Mr. Holmes; **Mr. Holmes** declined the nomination. **Mr. Holmes** nominated Mr. Suchovsky; **Mr. Suchovsky** declined the nomination. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked twice again for additional nominations. There being no additional nominations received, **Mr. Wirtanen** will continue as Facilitator.
- **Co-Facilitator: Mr. Schulz** nominated Mr. Suchovsky; **Mr. Suchovsky** accepted the nomination. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked twice again for additional nominations. There being no additional nominations received, **Mr. Suchovsky** will continue as Co-Facilitator.
- **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked for a motion to approve the nominations. **Mr. Lorenson** motioned to accept the nominations for Facilitator and Co-Facilitator for 2014; **Mr. Moran** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Mattson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**
- *Mr. Wirtanen remains Facilitator and Mr. Suchovsky remains Co-Facilitator for 2014. Both thanked the Council for their support.*

Old Business

1. **Event Permit Update:** It was stated this topic is related to the Trails/Recreation/Law Committee report further on the agenda and discussion will be deferred until then. **Mr. Schulz** mentioned that his group, the western U.P. ORV Trails Association, is doing a veterans ride and Mr. Doan had all the details taken care of in one week.
2. **U.P. Deer Advisory Team (UPDAT) Update:** **Mr. Minzey** explained the concept of the UPDAT has been shifted, whereas increased stakeholder input will now come from meetings held between wildlife biologists and local sportsman's groups, called sportsman's coalitions. He stated the coalition meetings have been very productive in obtaining a better connection with local groups versus the UPDAT periodic meetings in which attendance and travel was proving to be limited. In addition, the UPDAT had been in existence for 3 years with many member terms due to expire. He explained the coalitions and how they were developed. An email was sent to all UPDAT members today announcing the change. It is a lot of work on the Wildlife Division's behalf to hold the coalition meetings; however, it will provide better interactions.
 - **Mr. Stinson** stated he applauds the efforts of the group.

- **Mr. Suchovsky** felt there may be a flaw in only speaking with sportsmen's groups. There are a lot of other stakeholders who aren't sportsmen that may have an interest and information to add. **Mr. Minzey** stated he will provide this input to the division.
 - **Mr. Johnson** asked if the deer herd is being localized again or is it being looked at as a whole. **Mr. Minzey** stated many views were not represented from different areas. They need a larger pool of input to help staff understand the needs better. He noted the coalition meetings are open to the public.
 - **Mrs. Haughey** asked how the meetings will be promoted to the public. **Mr. Minzey** stated not all the detail has been determined, however, there will be semi-annual press releases and meetings will be listed on the website. The meeting dates will be formalized so that a year schedule will be available.
 - **Mr. Holmes** stated he doesn't get the local newspapers. If the public is to get involved and provide input, the division needs to explain what the meetings are and how they can become a part of them. **Mr. Minzey** explained the meeting process. **Mr. Stinson** suggested the development of an email listing that people can sign up for to receive updates and meeting notices.
 - **Mr. Suchovsky** noted the younger generation is on the computer, but there are older people who don't use a computer and still use old media methods.
3. New License Structure Update: **Mrs. Haughey** referred to a handout that was placed in the meeting packets which provided FAQ's regarding the new license structure. She asked if there were any questions.
- **Mr. Holmes** asked about the press release regarding possible refunds for seniors who purchased a full-price license and didn't receive a senior price break. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated those who were affected should have received a letter in the mail. If a letter wasn't received, questions may be directed to the Licensing and Reservations Customer Service office at 517-373-1204 or MDNR-elastic@michigan.gov.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked if it was possible the second deer license won't be available this year. **Mr. Minzey** indicated the combo license will be available and it will most likely have the same antler point restriction as the beginning of the year. He further explained the differences between the deer licenses.
 - **Mrs. Haughey** stated it was mentioned at the EUPCAC meeting that from a vendor perspective, the reduction of license categories is welcomed. The goal was to simplify the process.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked for a clarification on the new ORV license structure as there seems to be a problem for owners of motorcycles who need a street license and then possibly have to pay for two more with the new structure. The new structure offers two options: \$26.25 for an ORV license and an additional \$10 permit if one plans on riding on any state designated trail. Discussion ensued in length on the complexity of the rules for ORV licensing and several examples were cited. **Mr. Holmes** stated it seems unfair for those who don't ride their ORV off their property or only on ice. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated she will provide clarification for the Council on this issue.
 - **Mrs. Haughey** asked if the Council wishes to have ORV licenses as an agenda item for the next meeting. She stated the user groups and legislature worked very hard for the

new structure. Some Council members stated they understood the rules fine and others didn't see a need to have it as an agenda item.

- **Mr. Suchovsky** stated there seems to be a bigger issue than which one to buy. The need for a broad trail use permit needs to be considered with just one fee.
- **Facilitator Wirtanen** deferred further discussion to the Trails/Recreation/Law subcommittee rather than have it as a Council agenda item.
- **Mr. Dropps** stated he would like to see discussion on where the Natural Resources Trust Fund monies are spent. **Mrs. Haughey** stated the State's constitution dictates how these monies are spent, and she will provide the details to the Council. She stated that \$157,000 in trust fund grants have been provided to Gogebic County alone in 2013 and almost \$3.3 million historically.
- **Mr. Holmes** stated the NRC has wanted to make everything easier, but it's difficult to get things passed or make presentations to the Commission and then it seems like nothing is done about it. **Mrs. Haughey** stated the user groups and legislative representatives worked very hard together to get the new license structure to pass. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated the groups that worked with the legislature felt the new ORV licenses were more fair.

New Business

1. **U.P. DNR Staffing:** **Mrs. Haughey** stated as a result of Mr. Mattson's request at the March Joint meeting, a handout was prepared (in the meeting packets) listing what is being done with revenue from the license fee increase. It was also distributed at the EUPCAC meeting on April 17th. The handout identifies what the license package means in real dollars for the U.P. There are several partnership grants available, and the effects of those grants are already being seen. The trust fund dollars are community dollars.
2. **Updated U.P. Citizens Advisory Council Charter (For Information Only):** **Mrs. Haughey** referred to a copy of the updated Charter in the meeting packets. The updates include a few wording changes (due to the previous separation from DEQ) and reflects current practice.
3. **Additional Agenda Items Added by Council:** There were no additional items added.

Committee Reports

1. **Trails/Recreation/Law:**
 - **Response to Submitted Resolutions:** **Mr. Lorenson**, lead for the committee, reviewed a written response from Director Creagh to the three resolutions submitted by this committee after the January 13, 2014 meeting. He felt the response to Resolution #2 didn't address the committee's thought that there should be a Law Enforcement Division volunteer program.
 - **Proposed Resolution for Consideration:** **Mr. Lorenson** noted the committee met on April 30th and provided a brief review of the items discussed. Copies of the committee's notes were included in the Council's meeting packets. One resolution was prepared for the Council with regards to the DNR's event permit policy:

- *Resolution recommends four policy suggestions (notice, fee, promotion, and signage), recommended by the Upper Peninsula ORV Trail Development Association, be included in the development of MDNR policy to manage off road vehicle (ORV) special events and associated permits. If this resolution is passed, the committee asks that it be forwarded to the appropriate staff within DNR and to the Michigan State Trails Advisory Committee for consideration.*
 - Since the time the resolution was submitted, further development occurred. **Mr. Doan** provided an explanation of the event permit process. As a result of SB50, the DNR has been working on a new event permit policy. In the old process, an event permit was triggered based solely on the number of participants. The number of participants is no longer the trigger in the new policy. The policy is currently in draft form and it has been presented to MSTAC; it will be voted upon at their next meeting. Of the four suggestions listed in the resolution above, the new draft policy will address three of them (notice, fee, and promotion) because they will not trigger an event permit. As it pertains to the remaining suggestion of signage, the draft policy states if a trail is used according to its designated purpose, a trail permit is not needed. If the premise is to use a trail other than its designated use, then oversight would be needed and would trigger an event permit. The draft policy was created collaboratively between Forest Resources Division and Law Enforcement Division. **Mr. Doan** stated overall, the draft policy already is addressing most of what the resolution recommends.
 - **Mr. Lorenson** stated based on Mr. Doan's report and the progress of the event permit policy, **the resolution is no longer being forwarded for consideration by the Council.**
 - **Mr. Lorenson** stated the committee is meeting at least once before each WUPCAC meeting and is working out well.
2. **Fisheries:** **Mr. Anthony**, lead for the committee, stated there is no report from this committee. The group will be meeting soon based on conversations. It is not the intent that only the committee members come up with the content for discussion; others can provide topics to defer to the committee as well.
- **Mr. Johnson** stated Council members should be allowed to be on other committees and it wasn't addressed at the last meeting. **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated the greater share of the Council did agree with Mr. Johnson at the last meeting. He added unless there is opposition, he suggests those that have a strong interest to join another committee should let him or Mrs. Haughey know so they can be added and the lead of that committee will be informed. He encouraged committees to become more active. **Mrs. Haughey** added that a conference call number is available for the committees' use if needed. **Mr. Johnson** indicated he wants to be part of the Wildlife Committee; **Mr. Suchovksy** would like to be added as well. Mr. Smith, who is the lead for the committee, will be notified.
 - **Mr. Buchholtz** discussed working relationships with groups and an upcoming conference.

- **Mr. Lorensen** stated finding a common date for his committee to meet is quite a task. He offered to send their agenda to the full Council; the Council agreed.
 - **Mr. Schulz** discussed others being invited to committee meetings and how it can deter the progress the small group is making. It was stated that it's not seen as broadening the membership, but an avenue to get more input.
3. **Forestry:** **Mr. Schmierer**, lead for the committee, stated he sent out an email to committee members regarding pertinent issues and he received feedback from one person. He started a list of topic suggestions from past meetings and reviewed the Council's agenda topic survey from two years ago regarding forestry issues. He stated Mr. Stampfly has kept the Council very informed of all forestry topics to date. The regional state forest management plan has been out since December on the website and he encouraged others to review it. A while ago there was a western UP partnership group for ecosystem management with different representation to discuss larger scale issues and it may be pertinent to re-establish this group. **Mr. Stampfly** indicated the group is trying to meet once a year, but it is still far from what it used to be. **Mr. Schmierer** encouraged Council members to let the committee know if there are any concerns, issues, or topics they'd like the committee to look into.
- **Mr. Divine** suggested discussing how the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats will affect state forest management as a proactive concern on how the state will respond. **Mr. Minzey** noted the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be listing the northern long-eared bat on the endangered species list in October. He and Mr. Stampfly will be meeting tomorrow to develop a plan. WNS has now been confirmed in Dickinson, Mackinac and Keweenaw Counties. There will probably be a 90% collapse overall in the bat population. He explained what happens to the bats when they contract the disease. He offered to invite Mr. Scullon, wildlife biologist, to a future meeting to provide a presentation on the topic.
 - **Mr. Suchovsky** stated, from a logger's perspective, he'd like to discuss where the state is moving in terms of logging. He asked Mr. Schmierer if he can set a date for the committee to meet.
 - **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked Mr. Stampfly if Wisconsin is giving up on containing emerald ash borer. **Mr. Stampfly** stated emerald ash borer is in the U.P. and has been for a while. The purple traps were set up for monitoring. He is not aware of Wisconsin's plans. It was thought that the pest would get set back over the cold winter, but it continues to progress.
4. **Wildlife:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** indicated Mr. Smith, lead for the committee, was not able to attend the meeting this evening, but he wanted to report that he has had communication with Mr. Minzey on a few issues.
- **Mr. Buchholtz** stated he has been communicating with Mr. Smith as well regarding match grants. He explained some of the cooperative projects being done in the area, in addition to DRIP funds being available to help with projects.
 - **Mr. Minzey** added that the Wildlife Committee had put together a resolution regarding turkey and sharp tail grouse habitat; however, it was developed without knowing the regional plan. He met with Mr. Smith to explain the plan. He provided an explanation

to the Council on the areas in the U.P. they are preparing to establish/enhance sharptail grouse habitat. Turkey habitat was also discussed.

- **Mr. Anthony** asked about the pheasant population in the U.P. Mr. Minzey discussed details of the current population. Discussion ensued regarding pheasants, woodcock, and hunting exchanges with other states.
- **Mr. Suchovsky** stated for programs that are planting corn, please keep in mind to plant corn a good distance from roads to keep deer away from the roads. He also suggested talking to the NCRS office for more information on partnership grants through the farm bill, and possible habitat program funding through the Michigan Agricultural Environment Assurance Program.

DNR Reports on Requested Information

The following were no requests for additional information at the last meeting or prior to this meeting.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** noted the WUPCAC meeting will be held Monday, July 21 in Baraga County at the Baraga Lakeside Inn conference room.
1. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated from the meeting discussion this evening, possible agenda items for future meetings include an ORV License update from the subcommittee, White Nose Syndrome, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. **Mr. Suchovsky** also suggested forest certification/CARs/living legacies. **Mrs. Haughey** noted the forest certification topic may be good for the Forestry subcommittee to discuss. She also stated there was a Trust Fund presentation given at a previous meeting; she will email the presentation to Council members.

Mr. Buchholtz stated the Minnesota study on deer populations that Mr. Suchovsky emailed to Council members was very interesting. **Mr. Minzey** responded that deer populations are down regionally, including Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He also noted the predator prey study.

Public Comments

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

- **Facilitator Wirtanen** stated he received a comment request from Mr. William Erickson of the Gogebic Conservation District; however, he left earlier in the meeting.
- **Mr. Pat Kitzman** of Matchwood stated he wanted to talk about wearing helmets on private land. He wears braces on both legs and gets around his farm with use of a 4-wheeler. He stated it's very impractical to be wearing a helmet working on his farm. He also talked about an issue of baiting wolves. He stated he never had a problem with wolves on his land until others started baiting in areas surrounding his land. He feels there should be some type of buffer zone between an active farm and where baiting of wolves can occur.

- **CO Emery** stated that if a person is utilizing an ORV as a farm implement, then a helmet isn't required. **Mrs. Haughey** noted there is current legislation, which isn't approved yet, that allows landowners to not wear a helmet on their private land.
- **Mr. Minzey** stated it seems that Mr. Kitzman has a valid concern with the buffer zone for wolves. He is not sure if there is a resolution, but he will have a discussion about it within the Wildlife Division. He gave Mr. Kitzman contact information for Mr. Roell, wildlife biologist, to discuss possibilities for wolf protection on his farm.

Closing Comments

- **Mr. Anderson** discussed an issue in which he felt his personal information was given out to the media regarding the wolf hunt. **Mrs. Munson Badini** stated the DNR does not give out any personal information. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of general information disseminated through a Freedom of Information Act request. Hunter harassment was also discussed. After the meeting, it was clarified that the private personal information being referenced was not released by the DNR.
- **Mr. Schulz** stated the division reports mention a lot about building partnerships. He discussed ways in which his organization has been trying to build partnerships (pertaining to ORVs), especially with neighboring states. He felt some people use the public comment section to split people and not bring them together. He commended Mr. Doan and Mrs. Haughey for their continued work.
- **Mr. Moran** noted there was still plenty of ice out on Lake Superior. He reminded boaters not to head out from shore too far, as several have hit shore due to the floating ice bergs.
- **Mr. Lorenson** stated last year the Council received a list of topics from the NRC that they would be discussing throughout the year. He asked for a current copy. He also said the Council themselves conducted a topic survey a few years ago and asked if anyone was interested in conducting another one; members agreed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm EST (7:25pm local time).