

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2016

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

DNR Pocket Park, Escanaba

Facilitator: Phil Wirtanen Co-Facilitator: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

David Anthony
Ken Buchholtz
Floyd Dropps
Mike Holmes
Dave Johnson

George Lindquist
Jim Lorenson
Chauncey Moran
Horst Schmidt
Robert "Skip" Schulz

Vicki Schwab
Warren Suchovsky
Phil Wirtanen

Council Members Absent/Excused

A.J. Campbell
Joan Duncan
Larry Heathman
Mick Jarvi

Katie Kruse
Bob Stinson
Travis Smith

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga
Dan McNamee, Forest Resources Division, Escanaba
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Ishpeming
John Pepin, Public Information Office, Marquette
Doug Rich, Parks and Recreation Division, Baraga
Jon Spieles, Acting Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator, Newberry
Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division-District 1, Marquette

Mr. Spieles began the DNR Division Reports portion of the WUPCAC meeting at 5:43pm EDT by welcoming everyone to the DNR Pocket Park at the UP State Fairgrounds. He provided a background overview of the park and fishing pond, indicating the majority of the funding for the park came from the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF). This year the NRTF turns 40 years old, and during the UP State Fair week in August, a small ceremony with dignitaries will occur at the Pocket Park to celebrate this milestone.

DNR Division Reports

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on May 12, 2016. The following verbal updates were provided.

➤ **Jon Spieles, Acting UP Regional Coordinator:**

- **Mr. Spieles** noted the Parks and Recreation Division is in the process of updating their strategic plan and have been holding public meetings seeking input. The May 11th meeting was held in Marquette. Despite a small audience, great comments were given. Another meeting is slated for June 21st in Gaylord.

- For information: After 20 years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) recently reopened their process to nominate new national marine sanctuaries (NMS), two of which involve Lake Superior. The primary purpose of the sanctuaries is to educate, protect and research. The process is community/citizen-driven; clubs and groups identify places to establish sanctuaries, obtain local support, and then submit their nomination to NOAA. NOAA then reviews it and either accepts, declines, or sends the proposal back for more information. If accepted, there is potential designation, which then starts another process and includes several public meetings. The two Lake Superior proposals are Whitefish Point (Grand Marais to Whitefish Bay) and around the Keweenaw Peninsula. Neither proposal was generated by the DNR. The Whitefish Point proposal focuses on shipwrecks and the Keweenaw proposal focuses on the unique geology of that region. The impact to commercial and recreational fishing opportunities is very low as the proposals are now drafted. Both proposals are seeking support from the state which would include recommendation from DNR to the Governor's office. **Mr. Schmidt** asked when the public will know about the meetings; **Mr. Spieles** stated NOAA would follow their public meeting process (it will not come from the DNR since it is not a DNR process). **Mr. Lindquist** asked about the shipwrecks in Munising which are state-protected and the impact on commercial fishing; **Mr. Spieles** said it may add some federal protection although he is not sure and there should be no impact to commercial fishing.
- NRC has met three times since the last regular WUPCAC Meeting. He noted a few regulation changes, which were included in the division report. At the June NRC meeting, a decision will be made regarding chumming on trout streams; there was a lot of passionate testimony at the May meeting. **Mr. Lindquist** asked about the short timeframe for submitting a wildlife habitat grant in July, being that new guidelines come out in June. **Mr. Minzey** replied they continue to make changes in order to simplify the process and stated there will be 6-week window for submissions. Guidelines should be available in the next few weeks.
- **Doug Rich, Parks and Recreation Division:** **Mr. Spieles** introduced **Mr. Doug Rich**, the new western U.P. supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD), succeeding Mr. Bill Doan. **Mr. Rich** provided a brief background of his 23-year career with PRD, having been in Lansing the last 13 years. He stated reservations are up for state parks by 12% from last year's reservations so far. Staff are out getting the parks ready for the season. The recreation passport purchases are up to 28.6% of license purchases throughout the state. He explained Belle Isle as a state park has contributed to the increase. **Mr. Schmidt** asked about the erosion problems at McLain State Park. **Mr. Rich** stated another foot has been lost. They are working with an engineering firm in developing four conceptual plans which involve moving the campground. Once the plans are finalized, a public meeting will be held in August before moving forward. **Mr. Schulz** asked about the Ironwood to Marenisco grade and the Menominee bridge; **Mr. Rich** stated he would find out the details and get back to him.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** **Mr. Minzey** updated the group on a few items:
 - The recently completed wolf survey resulted in a minimum estimate of 618, down slightly from 636 two years ago. **Mr. Lorensen** asked for an explanation of the estimate

- figures. **Mr. Minzey** explained how the survey count is conducted, stating they utilize a center point rather than report the number as a range. Discussion ensued.
- Biologists have been working closely with an Ontonagon farm on wolf depredation issues. **Mr. Johnson** asked about reimbursement for the farmer; **Mr. Minzey** explained MDARD determines the reimbursement based on law. Control efforts offered to farmers (i.e. fencing, flagging, donkey's, etc.) also were discussed.
 - A brief legislative update on wolves was provided.
 - Marenisco held a public meeting last week to discuss the possibility of passing an ordinance against feeding deer within the township during the winter. Feeding of deer has brought wolves into the township on numerous occasions.
- **George Madison, Fisheries Division:** **Mr. Madison** provided an update on the walleye stocking activities as well as other stocking activities from the Marquette and Thompson hatcheries. He stated it is hopeful the Thompson hatchery's rearing ponds will be expanded if funding comes through. He noted a summary on the aquaculture proposals and research was included in the meeting packets. **Mr. Dropps** asked about the change in regulations for minnows that occurred at the April NRC Meeting; **Mr. Madison** stated he will look into the change and get back to him. **Mr. Holmes** asked about walleye regulations in the Menominee River boundary waters. **Lt. Wright** explained the boundaries in relation to Cedar River.
- **Dan McNamee, Forest Resource Division:** **Mr. McNamee** stated he is attending on behalf of Mr. Mankee and had no additional items to report. **Mr. Schulz** asked which forest roads were going to be inventoried. **Mr. McNamee** stated he will have Mr. Mankee get the information to him.
- **Lt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division:** **Lt. Wright** stated recruits from the current academy will graduate in early June with 4 of those recruits coming to District 1—2 in Gogebic County and 2 in Menominee County. There were vacancies in those counties due to recent lateral transfers. In total, there will be 18 officers and 3 sergeants in District 1. He stated his district staffing is at the highest level he has seen in his career. **Mr. Holmes** asked about Wisconsin changing their licenses to a receipt versus a printed license and how it will be enforced at the boundary waters. **Lt. Wright** stated he was not aware of the change and will look into it. **Mr. Schulz** asked about the division report in which ORV's were addressed for excessive noise and operating on the roadway. **Lt. Wright** indicated if a complaint is received for excessive noise from an ORV, they will address it.
- **John Pepin, Public Information Office:** **Mr. Pepin** stated he did not have anything to add to his report.

Call to Order

Facilitator Wirtanen called the regular meeting to order at 6:32pm EDT. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked DNR staff for the reports. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to time constraints, **Facilitator Wirtanen** allowed **Mr. Adam Bump** (via conference call) to provide his update on the furbearer regulations at this time in the agenda. See Page 6 for a full report.

Bylaws Discussion

Facilitator Wirtanen discussed the possibility of changing the titles of Facilitator and Co-Facilitator to Chair and Co-Chair. He indicated the titles are not well-recognized and confusing to those outside of the Council when referring to the business of the WUPCAC. The titles of Chair and Co-Chair are used with all other councils and committees within the DNR as well. **Mr. Suchovsky** explained the historical background in choosing the facilitator title when the Councils were created back in 2008; **Mr. Johnson** added the term was to not allow one person to have any more rights than other council members. However, that issue has not ever surfaced. **Mr. Lindquist** stated the EUPCAC also uses the title of Chair. **Mr. Holmes motioned to submit a resolution for review prior to, and for a vote at, the July WUPCAC meeting, to amend the bylaws by changing the term/language from Facilitator and Co-Facilitator to Chair and Co-Chair; Mr. Anthony supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Duncan, Mr. Heathman, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**

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 2016.

1. **Mr. Schmidt** nominated Mr. Wirtanen to continue as Facilitator. **Mr. Wirtanen** accepted the nomination. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked three additional times for nominations. There were no additional nominations brought forward. There was no additional discussion. **Mr. Suchovsky motioned to accept the nomination for Facilitator for 2016; Mr. Anthony supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Duncan, Mr. Heathman, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**
2. **Mr. Anthony** nominated Mr. Suchovsky to continue as Co-Facilitator. **Mr. Suchovsky** accepted the nomination. **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked three additional times for nominations. There were no additional nominations brought forward. There was no additional discussion. **Mr. Anthony motioned to accept the nomination for Co-Facilitator for 2016; Mr. Schmidt supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Duncan, Mr. Heathman, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**

Mr. Wirtanen remains Facilitator and Mr. Suchovsky remains Co-Facilitator for 2016. Both thanked the Council for their support.

Adoption of Agenda

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any additions to the agenda; there were none. **Mr. Schulz motioned to accept the agenda as presented; Mr. Lorensen supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Duncan, Mr. Heathman, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Smith. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Facilitator Wirtanen asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 21, 2016 WUPCAC meeting minutes and March 3, 2016 Joint UPCAC meeting minutes, which were emailed to each member previously. There were no corrections noted. **Mr. Lorensen**

motioned to approve both minutes as submitted; Mr. Suchovsky supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Campbell, Ms. Duncan, Mr. Heathman, Mr. Jarvi, Ms. Kruse, Mr. Stinson, 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 comment.

- Mr. Ron Beauchamp wanted to ask about cormorant control; however, he had to leave the meeting. **Mr. Madison** suggested his presentation update be emailed to Mr. Beauchamp.
- Mr. Bob Moraski stated he'd like to speak about dust control on the Felch grade near his home. He stated the ORV's and dirt bikes using the trail cause so much dust and with the prevailing southwest winds, he has a hard time keeping his home and vehicles clean from dirt. He also discussed users jumping his driveway, causing a hazard. He stated if trees are cleared on either side of the grade as he was told, the situation will be worse. **Mr. Schulz** mentioned that Normenco contacted him about this issue as well. He noted there is a chemical that may help and the request for it must go through the Parks & Recreation Division. **Mr. Rich** gave Mr. Moraski his contact information. **Mr. McNamee** also noted the clearing of vegetation on either side of the grade has been dropped.

Old Business

1. **U.P. Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update:** **Mr. Lindquist** stated the workgroup met on April 12 in Ishpeming. They are gradually working on winter habitat plans eastward in the UP. It is hopeful to have an agreement on the Harlow Lake plan soon as well. On April 18 and 19, public meetings for private landowners were held in Alberta and Crystal Falls, with 80 and 100 people attending respectively. Letters were sent to all private landowners near winter complexes explaining the workgroup and inviting them to these meetings. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked if there were any further updates from Mr. Hammill. **Mr. Hammill** stated there have been discussions with MTU regarding an agreement with them to research past cuts and working in wet woodlands. Also, the group may be looking for a very large scale grant to rehabilitate winter habitat across the entire UP region from a large source. **Mr. Lindquist** added that Safari Club International has paid for the workgroup's coordinator position and they are working on additional funds to secure the position moving forward. **Mr. Minzey** stated the meetings that Mr. Lindquist mentioned were funded by a grant through the Forest Resources Division working with the conservation districts. He also explained a legacy grant utilized. **Mr. Anthony** asked for further clarification on rehabilitating habitat. **Mr. Hammill** explained it means bringing back a full species of trees, trying to reconstruct the deer winter range that has allowed deer to survive historically. Discussion continued about **Mr. Holmes'** question on corporate cutting of cedar in one specific area. **Mr. Lorensen** asked if there would be potential amendments to the qualified forest or commercial forest plans as a result; **Mr. Anthony** indicated he would be interested if any discussions are held regarding this. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated sustainability is a facet of those plans with the large companies involved, and habitat is being addressed despite the perception that it is not. It was suggested that Mr. Gary Willis or Mr. Ernie Houghton be invited to a Forestry Subcommittee to provide details about both programs. **Facilitator Wirtanen** deferred further discussion to the Subcommittee.

2. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update: **Mr. Minzey** stated two more cases of CWD were found in the lower peninsula, westward from the original location. In that core area, every deer killed or collected is tested, surveillance has increased, and a ban on feeding and baiting is in effect. For the purposes of CWD management, the area will become one large management unit (instead of being separate in the 5-county area). **Mr. Lindquist** noted that the House has passed a bill on increasing the fines for bringing into Michigan a full carcass from a CWD state. **Facilitator Wirtanen** reflected on the need for strong preventative measures to take place in a quick manner and in order to do so, the difficult conversations about baiting and feeding will need to occur. He feels more needs to be done as deer are an important element to our life in the UP. Council discussion ensued on control at the Mackinac bridge, economic impact, science, other state agencies, etc.

New Business

1. Furbearer Regulations Update: **Mr. Adam Bump** provided a brief overview of the furbearer regulations that were brought to the May NRC meeting for information only and will be up for action at the June NRC meeting. He stated the furbearer regulations are on a 2-year cycle (even years). Issues are selected from a running list of input received from stakeholders, DNR staff, and the NRC. Topics are selected based on interest, data availability, and time considerations. The issues for 2016 were selected in 2014 and were discussed internally and externally since that time. Topics reviewed that did not result in a recommendation for change to the NRC were use of floating colony traps (for muskrats), cable restraints, and season/bag limit expansion for badger. Topics reviewed that resulted in a recommendation for change to the NRC included bobcat trapping opportunities in Units C&D (lower peninsula), raccoon regulations review and fur harvester license date changes (recommended fur harvester license available/valid May 1-April 30 of the following year). The 2018 topics will be drawn from a running list and selected later this year. No further changes were recommended by the NRC at the May meeting. **Mr. Johnson** asked for clarification on the license dates; **Mr. Bump** further explained. **Mr. Lindquist** asked about fur prices; **Mr. Bump** stated he does not know of any predictions for next year's cycle. **Facilitator Wirtanen** thanked Mr. Bump for the update.
2. Michigan Wildlife Council Presentation: **Mr. Jim Hammill**, a member of the Michigan Wildlife Council, provided a presentation on the Council and its latest work.
 - He provided a brief history of the Council, explaining it was created in 2013 to implement and oversee a public education campaign about the importance of conservation and wildlife management to Michigan's natural resources and outdoor traditions. The Council is a governor-appointed, 9-member public body (the only DNR person on the Council is the Director) established by Michigan Public Act No. 246 of 2013. The legislation updated the hunting and fishing license fee structure and requires the state Department of Natural Resources to use \$1 from the sale of every license to fund the Michigan Wildlife Council public education campaign. Their challenge has been to find a marketing firm to promote hunting and fishing in Michigan with a budget of about \$2 million. GUD Marketing has been hired and they are very good. A website has now been established and contains a lot of information (<http://HereForMIOutdoors.org>). This Council will be very important to Michigan since it is one of 14 states that are a referendum state and referendums can affect how we recreate.

- The Michigan Wildlife Council's mission is to develop and implement, in conjunction with a third-party marketing or advertising agency, a comprehensive media-based public information program to promote the essential role that sportsmen and sportswomen play in furthering wildlife conservation and to educate the general public about hunting, fishing, and the taking of game.
- Research Process: A lot of research has been done. Approximately 800 questionnaires were sent throughout Michigan and results of the research have a margin of error of +/- 3%.
- Approval of Hunting: Approval of hunting is high, but knowledge of hunting is low. 47% strongly supports hunting, 7% are considered anti-hunters, and 46% either moderately approve hunting or are neutral toward hunting. The approval rate goes down substantially when asked "do you approve of hunters". How we conduct ourselves as hunters is extremely important to a large number of people. 74% of suburban mothers feel it is important to respect traditional customs and beliefs. 78% of urban millennials (18-36 year olds living in the city) feel it's important to learn new things throughout their life. These people spend 20 hours per week on the internet, self-identify as liberals, value community, family and creativity in their work. These are the targets. Urban city dwellers/empty nesters mostly utilize public transportation and TV is the main source of their entertainment. Internet and TV will be extremely important to get the message across (TV is also very expensive).
- Campaign Audience: The focus is on two zones: southeastern Michigan and western Michigan is Zone 1, and statewide is Zone 2.
- Campaign Audience Beliefs: Neutral (not committed, don't know, don't care, no connections) and moderately approve (don't always approve, vulnerable to persuasion, low understanding, highly misinformed). Both of these categories, however, believe it's important to protect wildlife.
- Language is Critical: When we say wildlife, they hear nature. When we say wild, they hear lions. When we say hunting, they hear deer. When we say sportsmen, they hear athletes. When we say fees, they hear taxes. A completely different language has to be utilized with those mindsets.
- One Message Unites our Audiences: "Wildlife should be managed for the use and enjoyment of future generations."
- Message Exploration Findings: Michigan has a strong foundation, positive word associations, need to establish credibility, imagery is powerful, limited engagement-not on radar.
- Year One: The priority will be to set the foundation: introduce the Council, capture their attention, and set the stage for acceptance. In year one, there will not be an image of hunters, because those in zone 1 don't have any connection to hunters.
- Long Term Messaging: Five-year timeline shown to move opinions and educate the public. Attract, inform, engage and encourage.
- Billboards: A picture of the current billboard in lower Michigan was shown. "Here. For Generations. Our Heritage." The images used will bring the target audience closer to us.
- Stakeholder Support: Share the "Here. For Generations." Campaign, be conscious of language and visuals used in your public materials, and build knowledge within the sportsman/woman communities.
- Educating Sportsmen/Sportswomen: Correct misconceptions, educate more deeply on hunting, fishing, and trapping benefits and role in Michigan, create more effective advocates for communicating with non-sportsmen/women.
- Sportsmen/Sportswomen Misconceptions: Several misconception statements were reviewed with the Council. For example: "The protection of wildlife and their habitat is largely funded by the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses." 34% of sportsmen/women don't know or disagree with the statement. Another, "Everyone in Michigan pays to protect our natural

resources, including wildlife, through taxes.” 66% of sportsmen/women believe this to be true. Only 7% of sportsmen/women disagree. Essentially, there is a fair amount of internal education to do.

- Approval of Trapping by Sportsmen/Sportswomen: 39% of sportsmen/women do not approve or are neutral toward trapping.
- Discussion: **Mr. Hammill** stated that he believes the Council will be very successful. There have been hard decisions made. They are receiving comments through the website on a daily basis. He and Director Moritz will be responsible for the scientific data on the website. He encouraged people to ask questions on the website.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked if families and kids will be a focus and if there will be literature or marketing in school systems, in an effort to get more youth involved. **Mr. Hammill** stated there are some images of families and children on the website; however, the target audience is voters.
 - **Mr. Lorensen** asked if there is material that can be sent to the Council to share with stakeholders. He stated Gogebic Community College has a natural resource program and this would be great information for them to share with their peers and for the instructors to utilize. **Mr. Hammill** stated there is material available and the website will also be populated more as the program progresses. **Mr. Spieles** agreed this was a good suggestion and one that the EUPCAC made as well. **Mr. Lorensen** also suggested having this information available at the state parks (i.e. Tahquamenon Falls, Outdoor Adventure Center) with the amount of people recreating there. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated education is all about attitude change. **Mr. Lorensen** added many urban kids who have never had any natural resource exposure are taking up those programs.

Facilitator Wirtanen thanked Mr. Hammill for the excellent presentation and invited him back in the future to provide updates.

3. Cormorant Update: **Mr. Madison** provided an update on cormorant management.
 - The public resource depredation order (PRDO) was created in 2003 and expires in 2019. It allows take to address damage to public resources (public fisheries, vegetation on public lands, impacts on wildlife). There are restrictions on authorized agencies and amount of take.
 - The Michigan Interagency Cormorant Coordination Group is authorized to manage cormorants. The group is made up of the DNR, US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and state Tribal representatives.
 - Population trends: Management has been making success on declining nests. There has been a 39.9% decline from 2007-2014.
 - 2015 management actions include colony management and harassment. Figures were shared.
 - Some of the 2016 anticipated activities recommended include continuation of 2015 projects, maintenance of reduced/further reduction of breeding colony size at various locations.
 - PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) filed a complaint legally challenging the extension of the PRDO. It seeks revocation of the PRDO extension. A judge found in favor of PEER in late March. The impact on management is unknown at this time. **Mr. Madison** stated this has not affected the 2016 depredation; however, the judge’s ruling has an effect on the coming years. **Ms. Schwab** asked for the judge’s name so that those interested can let their opinions on the issue be known.
4. Archery in the Schools & Youth Turkey Clinic: **Mr. Lindquist** stated Mr. Smith wanted to say a few words about these programs, but was unable to attend this evening and asked if it can be deferred to the July meeting; **Facilitator Wirtanen** agreed. **Mr. Buchholz** stated he

was at the Youth Turkey Clinic as both the local National Wild Turkey Federation and Safari Club International participated. There were several good mentors there. Kids received supplies and were provided a couple of hours of turkey hunting lessons. There were over 200 kids on Facebook posting about it and there are already kids registered for next year.

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

Committee Meeting Reports

1. Fisheries: **Mr. Anthony** stated there hasn't been any new business discussed by the committee, although it seems the updated fisheries order regarding minnows may need to be discussed as indicated earlier in the meeting. **Mr. Holmes** discussed his concern with the walleyes being caught at the Cabela's National Walleye Tournament and their placement afterwards. He stated he spoke to the vendor and their response was not true. He feels it may be important to look at these tournaments, review the permit process, requirements for release of the fish, and possibly ask to give back to the resource. **Mr. Madison** stated he will look into the matter. Additional conversation ensued regarding stocking, costs, ethics and economic value. **Facilitator Wirtanen** deferred the issue back to the committee for further discussion.
2. Trails/Recreation/Law: **Mr. Lorensen** stated it was suggested at a joint meeting between the Trails/Recreation/Law and Forestry committees on March 3 that they bring recommendations forward regarding a draft policy statement between the Forest Resources Division and the Wildlife Division pertaining to forest roads. An online review between committee members took place for about a month and it was a very good discussion; however, after recommendations were developed, the committee was told the policy was already adopted and it was too late for further review. The committee asked for a copy of the adopted policy, but it wasn't available. The DNR did respond to say their input would be considered, but the committee is not sure it would be beneficial. **Mr. Lorensen** stated he believes there is a communication gap between Lansing and the staff in the field. At this time, there is no resolution and the committee is not sure they will proceed with one. **Mr. Suchovsky** agreed that communication is an issue. **Mr. Lorensen** thanked Mr. Spieles for helping with the situation. **Mr. Spieles** reiterated those he spoke to in Lansing, including DNR Deputy Bill O'Neill, stated they would consider the committee's recommendations. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated he shared the draft copy of the policy with a downstate forester and he raised some interesting questions. He feels there is still reason to review the policy and suggested the committee proceed with caution.
3. Forestry: **Mr. Suchovsky** stated that Mr. Campbell, Lead for the committee, could not attend tonight. He noted that the resolution response to the January resolutions they sent forward to the DNR about a budget for forest road maintenance is forthcoming.
4. Wildlife/Field Operations: **Mr. Lindquist** reported a meeting was not held, although they did have some online discussion regarding the use of chocolate as bait for bears. He suggested their committee hold off on any resolution, if any, pertaining to chocolate bait

until they can assess the resolutions coming forward from the MUCC convention on the same issue, which includes input and varying viewpoints from across the state.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** noted the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016 in Keweenaw County (location to be determined).
2. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** **Facilitator Wirtanen** asked if there were any agenda items for the next meeting. **Mr. Buchholtz** suggested discussing the discrepancies in the youth license packages. **Mr. Minzey** stated the current license package sunsets in 2019, which allows time to discuss it and prepare suggestions. **Facilitator Wirtanen** deferred the topic to the Wildlife Committee for further discussion and preparation of a resolution if necessary. He indicated Mr. Lorenson's prepared agenda item list will be referred to for items to place on the agenda as well.

Public Comments

Facilitator Wirtanen opened the floor to members of the audience for their comments about general topics; there were no comments brought forth.

Closing Comments

Facilitator Wirtanen opened the floor for closing comments from the Council.

- **Mr. Holmes** mentioned that officer elections for the UP Sportsmen's Alliance were recently held. **Mr. Dave Johnson**, WUPCAC council member, has been elected as 1st vice president (succeeding Mr. Dale McNamee), Mr. Gary Gorniak, EUPCAC council member, has been elected 2nd vice president (succeeding Mr. Dave Johnson), and Mr. Tony Demboski was re-elected President. Also, he stated that UPSA supports Senator Casperson's bill, SB29, and indicated a few of the items the 45-page bill covers. **Mr. Suchovsky** added there are some positive and some negative aspects to the bill.

Adjournment

Facilitator Wirtanen thanked everyone for their contributions this evening. The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm EDT.