



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 18, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AAC)

PRESENT

Scott Norris, Chair
Tom Jones, Co-Chair
Cindy Burkhour
Michael Harris
Neal McKenzie
Sarah Peurakoski
Will Purves
Jessica Stark
Billy Vickers
Bryan Wilkinson
Robert Winn
Kim Woolridge
Duncan Wyeth

ABSENT

Ken Buchholtz
Vendela Collins
Justin Lippe

PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)

Sharon Schafer, AAC Sponsor
Stacy Haughey, Upper Peninsula AAC Sponsor/Field Deputy
Alexis Hermiz, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Michael Holsinger, ADA Coordinator
Yolanda Taylor, Assistant to the AAC

PRESENT FROM THE DNR ACCESSIBILITY TEAM (A-TEAM)

Rachel Coale, Forestry
Andrea Stay, Grants Management
David Haupt, *A-Team Chair*, Marketing and Outreach
Diana Paiz, Michigan History Center
Angie Herrera, Minerals
Ryan Soulard and Kristin Wildman, Wildlife

INTERPRETERS

April Davidson and Stacy Pierce
Karen Snyder, Closed Captioner

PRESENTERS:

Doug Rich, Western Upper Peninsula District Supervisor, DNR Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Hirst, Rehabilitation Consultant, Labor and Economic Opportunity
Sarah Peurakoski, AAC Member and Executive Director, Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL), Disability Network of the Upper Peninsula

REGULAR MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Norris called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to another virtual meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Council (council). He gave a brief overview of how the meeting would be conducted, including meeting protocols, and asked that everybody be patient as we work through this virtual format.

The Chair then took roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Norris asked the council if they had any additions, corrections, or discussion regarding the December 8, 2020 Minutes. No additional corrections, edits or discussion was offered.

Chair Norris requested a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Minutes.

Duncan Wyeth motioned to approve the Minutes; Cindy Burkhour seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried, and the December 2020 Minutes were approved.

MEET/GREET – DNR WILDLIFE DIVISION CHIEF

Sharon Schafer introduced the department's new Wildlife Division Chief, Jared Duquette. Jared is coming from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources but has a lot of experience working with Michigan's wildlife programs. The department is excited to have Jared on board to bring new direction to the Wildlife Division and lead us into the next generation of wildlife leaders.

Jared originally grew up in St. Charles, Michigan, living about one mile west of the Shiawassee State Game Area. He received his undergraduate degree at Central Michigan University and prior to working for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, where he currently lives, he did a lot of work with bovine tuberculosis in northern Michigan (Area 452) before traveling to 12 different states around the country working on deer and other wildlife diseases, chronic wasting disease, and other projects relating to mountain lions, antelope, and various bird species. Jared completed his PhD through Mississippi State University working on the predator/prey project in the western Upper Peninsula. He favors the Upper Peninsula, but Michigan holds a special place in his heart. He is looking forward to finding a house and permanently moving back to Michigan soon.

Jared highlighted some of the Wildlife Division's priorities and goals, as well as his experience working with people with disabilities. The division recently completed their five-year strategic plan which defines very clear goals and objectives over the next five years, as well as setting a vision for the next 20 years. Some of their priorities focus on recruitment and retention, especially since the number of hunters is declining, how to adapt to changing trends (i.e., co-existing with wildlife versus hunting), getting people in the outdoors, educating the public on the importance of wildlife and its ecosystem, and funding. He also acknowledged Ryan Souldard and Kristin Wildman, the Wildlife Division's representatives on the accessibility team, for the work they do addressing accessibility and bringing him up to speed on habitat management, getting people involved, and making activities (i.e., birdwatching, hunting) accessible, such as the accessible hunting/wildlife viewing blinds. He has a member of his family that is deaf and realizes the importance of ensuring their programs are inclusive. He relies on his representatives and this council for their input and guidance.

In Illinois, Jared also worked with a lot of veteran's groups, the Wheelin' Sportsmen, and many other groups/organizations in his role as the recruitment and retention officer. Jared opened the floor to answer questions and receive ideas and input from the council.

Michael Harris commented that his organization, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, also had to expand their horizons to reach out and address a more diverse group of veterans that enjoy non-traditional sports. He feels that Michigan is unique and offers a diverse array of outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities. Michigan is an easy sell, especially if Pure Michigan could assist the department with a more diverse message.

Cindy Burkhour also commented that this council is focused on going above and beyond the minimum ADA requirements and looking for inclusive, universally designed infrastructure that can be used by everyone. In hunting or other wildlife related activities, look for those opportunities and be creative when designing programs or facilities for youth and/or hunters with disabilities. For example, designing visual notifications for deaf hunters when a deer, turkey or other wildlife is approaching. Wildlife viewing and photography is also huge; it's not just about hunting anymore.

Duncan Wyeth commented that he made a presentation at the last Wildlife conference that was held in Traverse City. At that conference, he was overwhelmed with the opportunities that the drone unit could provide by giving access to a wide range of wildlife related activities where physical access may be difficult, for example. The drone unit was supposed to present a demo to this council prior to the pandemic. He looks forward to providing access to wildlife areas that normally would not be accessible. Maybe consider drones as a reasonable accommodation or how to better use the drone footage to identify travel routes that may be more accessible, or give people access to the wildlife via video footage.

Sharon Schafer commented that the drone unit would like to provide a demonstration to the council when in-person meetings can resume. The drones are very useful tools. The department continues to look at ways to utilize them. She encouraged the council to start thinking about how these drones could be used to provide access to outdoor recreational or wildlife activities for people with disabilities.

In response to a question asked, drones are not allowed in the pursuit of game (i.e., hunting).

Will Purves commented that this council is a great forum for bringing forward polished plans, as well as ideas or possibilities for programs. He hopes Jared will find this group is very receptive and non-judgmental. There are not too many committees that function in this integrated capacity with state government.

Yolanda Taylor also mentioned that this council, in conjunction with the department, is also looking at providing hunting opportunities beyond the mentored youth and apprenticeship programs to people with cognitive or intellectual disabilities and, just last year, the council was successful in getting deaf hunters included in the Liberty and Independence hunts.

Many members continued to provide comments, ideas, and input to Jared, and Jared entertained questions from the council relating to baiting, chronic wasting disease, and pneumatic airbow legislation. Sharon also offered to have department experts at a future meeting if the council would like to further discuss the pneumatic airbow legislation.

Jared expressed his appreciation for the council's comments and input and looks forward to working with this group in the future.

RECREATIONAL SAFETY COURSES UPDATE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Update

Alexis Hermiz, DEI Officer, gave the council an update on the department's DEI activities. They started off the year with Black History Month, providing a presentation on the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, a panel discussion with employees, and an interview with former DNR Director Rodney Stokes lead by a former Natural Resources Commissioner, Reverend Hurley Coleman. They also conducted a panel discussion to highlight the Becoming an Outdoor Woman program for Women's History Month. Moving forward, they plan to work with other state agencies to highlight Pride Month, and they are also planning events and programming around ADA Disability Independence Day and ADA Disability Awareness Month.

Alexis is also working on internal socialization processes and will look to members of the accessibility team and this council to assist her when these processes go external, and she is working on revising and updating the department's policies and procedures on accessibility. She would also like to have Griselda Trevino, the DEI Coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Division, give an update to this council on her ideas to provide and promote accessible recreation, and they have also hired a southwest Michigan DEI coordinator.

Alexis also thanked Yolanda Taylor and Dave Haupt for their assistance with recent engagement events and planning.

Recreational Safety Courses Update

Alexis reported that the Department of Technology, Management and Budget will be sending the on-line recreational safety courses platform to e-Michigan for its final review within the next week or two. The system will not go live until all accessibility requirements are approved. This project was delayed back in December, but they will continue to work with e-Michigan to resolve any issues to make the on-line platform ADA accessible.

Also, hunter field days, which is the final requirement to obtaining a hunter safety certificate, are conducted by volunteer instructors. The department continues to work with those instructors to provide accommodations for people with disabilities, which is also posted on the website.

Alexis recommended putting a team together or having a subcommittee convene with Law Enforcement to further discuss strategies for removing barriers to hunter safety courses and expanding hunting opportunities to people with cognitive or intellectual disabilities that can no longer hunt under the apprenticeship program, noting that there may be some legislative issues that may need to be addressed.

Duncan Wyeth, since moving to the Keweenaw Peninsula five years ago, is stunned to hear comments that minority tourism to that area is scarce. How do we, as a department, advertise, communicate, or market to communities of color and urban Michigan that may not be aware of the tourism, travel, and recreation opportunities in the Upper Peninsula. Maybe this is something the DEI team could work on, especially having a new southeast Michigan DEI coordinator. Alexis responded that they are working with these communities but transportation and, historically, safety concerns are some of the issues they are trying to address, in addition to marketing tourism.

Stacy Haughey responded that maybe this is something Duncan Wyeth, Sara Peurakoski, Ken Buchholtz, and herself could explore to come up with ideas, especially since they all live in the Upper Peninsula.

Duncan also commented on the brand new, state-of-the-art facility that the department is planning to build in Newberry. This would be another opportunity to incorporate adaptive equipment and technology for people with disabilities. Mike Holsinger responded that he has had conversations with Anne Urasky in the Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing regarding technology or equipment that could be considered for this facility when they get closer to a design plan, which is still at least six months out. Cindy Burkhour offered her assistance in reviewing the design plans and provide recommendations through her subcommittee.

Tom Jones asked what is being communicated by the department for those that need to complete their field days, or will they be granting an extension this hunting season. Alexis responded that she is aware that they had a backlog but, moving forward, she will make sure there is a Law Enforcement presence at the meetings to address these questions. Alexis said she will have to check with Law Enforcement and will work through Yolanda to provide updates to the council.

EV CHARGING STATIONS UPDATE

Yolanda Taylor announced that Scott Whitcomb and Keith Cheli, who both sit on the department's Renewable Energy sprint team, were unable to attend the meeting but she was recently informed that their plan is to elevate the council's electric vehicle (EV) charging station template to the Council on Mobility and Electrification for their consideration at a future meeting.

Cindy Burkhour also reported that she has not heard back from the U.S. Access Board, but she will follow up with them. However, there is nothing that comes up as a standard on their website for EV charging stations. This council is proposing a universally designed template, which is above and beyond the standard design standards for ADA parking requirements. She encourages members to continue to advocate that the State of Michigan endorse and adopt this council's universally designed template for all EV charging stations installed on all state-owned lands or facilities.

Bryan Wilkinson commented that there are a lot of people with disabilities that are purchasing electric vehicles that will express their concerns and frustrations. To build and properly install universally accessible charging stations up front would reduce the risk and additional costs in the long run.

Billy Vickers expressed his concern that universally accessible EV charging stations placed in wheelchair accessible parking spaces should not be occupied by others.

Sharon Schafer commented that the department has a Renewable Energy sprint team. She will take the council's comments back to Scott Whitcomb, who sits on the team. Sharon also mentioned there is a mobility council that was established by the Governor's Office. Kim Woolridge responded that the Michigan Department of Transportation has a mobility workgroup, but they are addressing autonomous vehicles.

2020/2021 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Chair Norris reminded the council that Doug Rich, Western UP District Supervisor, DNR Parks and Recreation, and Jennifer Hirst, Rehabilitation Consultant, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Labor and Economic Opportunity, were unable to complete their presentation at the last meeting so they were invited back to finish giving an overview of the Summer Youth Program, this time also including Sara Peurakoski, council member and Executive Director of Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) in the Upper Peninsula.

They gave a brief overview of the 2020 Summer Youth Program, reiterating some of the information previously shared with the council, and highlighting the 2021 program. The

DNR Parks and Recreation division partners with MRS to provide employment and job skill opportunities to people with disabilities by having them assist with normal operations at state parks, boating access sites and trails. They hire short-term workers but have also hired full-time park rangers from this program. The bigger advantage, not only to DNR employees and the general public, is the opportunity to provide evidence that people with disabilities make many contributions to society.

Jennifer Hirst commented that their program mainly focuses on working with people with disabilities to obtain employment, starting as early as age 14. They mostly work with students to give them employment skills and assist them in focusing on what types of careers they are interested in, but they provide a variety of services to all ages. Even during the pandemic, they still had 14 sites in 2020 where they could continue to provide students with these skills. This year in 2021 they have 27 sites so, even during this pandemic, they are still partnering with the DNR and getting students out there. Normally, they would have around 49 sites. They also continue to partner with SAIL and other local partners.

Sara Peurakoski commented they also work with MRS counselors across the UP that authorize services for work-based learning and summer programming. They work with the counselor on the needs and the sites where the students can work, whether it be with the DNR, local community-based organizations, restaurants, or businesses. They hire job coaches to help those students on-site throughout the work-based learning period. A lot of the students that are not used to manual labor are still enjoying the outdoor environment and the work. They build confidence and learn that they are capable of doing various types of work.

This program, in partnership with the DNR, reaches statewide, from parks in southern Michigan all the way to the western UP. As the pandemic lessens, they hope to get back to 49 units across the state, making real differences in these young people's lives.

Duncan Wyeth commended the group on their PowerPoint presentation and their program. He encouraged all council members to review their presentation.

Doug also mentioned that, because people have heard about the MRS program, the American Association of Retired People have reached out and now have a program called Senior Works for people that are 55 years or older and are disadvantaged in some way or another. They hope to invigorate this program as well.

Duncan mentioned that the Marquette Mining Journal and the Daily Gazette had extensive articles featuring these programs in the UP, and Under the Radar, Michigan Outdoors and some of the television stations also highlighted the program.

Rob Winn commented that he would like to work with MRS to promote this program in Macomb and Oakland counties, and expanding it to inner-city youth. Jennifer responded they have three parks in Oakland County, one in Wayne County, and the Detroit Renaissance district but she would be willing to partner with Rob to talk about opportunities in his area.

Several council members commented about various locations in southern Michigan where this program is or could be offered, including the Outdoor Adventure Center, Monroe, Washtenaw and Livingston counties, Milliken State Park, Belle Isle State Park, and other state parks in southern Michigan. All council members offered their assistance to help promote these programs around the state.

Duncan Wyeth suggested this may be a good opportunity to work with the southern Michigan DEI coordinator to reach those populations and inner-city youth and promote these programs and careers with the DNR.

FOLLOW UP ON BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Chair Norris reminded the council that they had a brainstorming session at their December 2020 meeting where several topics were identified that the council would like to tackle. The Chair encouraged all members to revisit this list and get involved in the council's subcommittees to address some of these issues.

Some of the topics that the council would like to address include:

- Wildlife viewing/hunting blinds and desired locations;
- Track chair fundraising and having track chairs available year-round; and
- Expanding hunting opportunities to people with cognitive or intellectual disabilities.

After discussion on some of these topics, Sharon Schafer recommended having the department's accessibility team tackle the policy or procedure on track chairs, possibly utilizing the friend's groups or implementing a reservation system, understanding that some state parks are not staffed during the winter.

Cindy Burkhour motioned that this council move this concept/recommendation to the department's accessibility team to explore and adopt a policy and implementation plan to provide track chairs year-round at those state parks that have track chairs; Duncan Wyeth seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried.

Comments were made that this concept could also be applied to the reservation and use of accessible wildlife viewing/hunting blinds. Maybe this is a hiring issue (i.e., one off-season short-term worker for specific state parks or game areas), or something that the friend's groups could be dedicated to, handling track chair and wildlife viewing/hunting blind reservations and making sure someone is available to manage these programs in the off-season. If state parks or game areas are willing to accept a track chair or a wildlife viewing/hunting blind, they should also be willing to manage them and make them available to the public. Staff education will also be a huge part of the department's implementation plan. They are amazing tools that should be made available and utilized year-round.

Billy Vickers recommended a reservation system or a calendar that is accessible on-line so that the public can a) see when the track chair is available and b) make a reservation on-line.

Will Purves also suggested the parks identify areas that may not be conducive to the use of a track chair (i.e., a wood bridge, steep grading, failing infrastructure, or extremely rough terrain) and would make it unsafe for the user.

Discussion on council topics or initiatives, and assigning them to subcommittees, will continue.

The council also asked if they could receive data on track chair use in state parks.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Executive Updates

Sharon Schafer reported that Steve Burton, Assistant Law Enforcement Division Chief, will be retiring on June 11; Dave Shaw will be the new working out-of-class Assistant Chief.

Jeff Stamply has been appointed as the new Forest Resources Division Chief, with Dave Lemmien as the working out-of-class Assistant Chief. The Natural Resources Commission's assistant, Cheryl Nelson, has retired and they are in the process of filling that position.

She also reported that state employees continue to work remotely, and meetings continue to be held virtually. The format of future council meetings will also be discussed. Customer Service Centers and field offices are still closed to the public, but they may be able to open them soon, depending on how things progress with the pandemic.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Appropriations

Last month, the Governor signed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations bill, providing \$37.8 million dollars in grants to various parks and recreation projects around the state. [Acquisition](#) and [development](#) grant awards have been posted on the website.

Applications for the next round of funding (2021) were due April 1. Projects will be identified for the council's input and review.

Duncan commented that he serves on a planning commission in the Upper Peninsula, and the Governor's Executive Order allows people to participate remotely but they cannot vote on an issue or take action, questioning if that applies to this council. Sharon responded that this only applies to governmental bodies and certain boards, councils, or committees that are established under statute and are required to adhere to the Open Meetings Act. This council is appointed by the Director, are not required to adhere to the Open Meetings Act, and has the flexibility to continue meeting remotely, in-person or however they choose. Amending this council's bylaws is a topic of discussion on the Agenda under Council Business.

Duncan also had a question about the status of the improvements and upgrades at the Eagle Harbor marina. His hope is that the department, when making upgrades or improvements at marinas, would seriously consider installing accessible kayak launches as a part of that marina upgrade. Sharon responded she will follow up with the Parks and Recreation Division to provide an update on the status of this project and what is included in those improvements.

Will Purves asked if language could be included in the department's grant programs to encourage the installation of accessible kayak launches for any waterways-related projects or upgrades. Sharon responded that the department has several grant programs. The trust fund grant program provides additional scoring for any projects that incorporate universal design. The waterways grant component is currently under a lean process improvement review, but accessibility and universal design is something that could be incorporated as the department reviews and updates their grant programs. She also commented that this is where the department's accessibility team and the council's subcommittee play an important role by reviewing some of these projects for universal design. She also agreed that it is a lot easier to incorporate universal design and accessibility at the front end or beginning of a project instead of trying to retrofit something down the road. The department continues to work with and educate staff and program managers to incorporate universal design and accessibility into all programs and projects. The Director is a huge advocate for accessible recreation and universal design.

Cindy Burkhour also commented that the department could consider establishing a funding source within their water trails program for the development and installation of accessible kayak launches.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Updates

Alexis Hermiz provided her DEI update at the beginning of the meeting, under Recreational Safety Courses Update.

ADA Coordinator Updates

Mike Holsinger reported that the department has been receiving an increase in calls and inquiries ever since information about accessible recreation was posted on the website. We are also seeing a significant increase in visits to the webpage as well.

Mike also reported that Angie Herrera's term as the chair of the accessibility team has expired. Dave Haupt is the new chair of the accessibility team. He thanked Angie for her leadership over the past year and welcomed Dave into his new role.

A-Team Updates

Dave Haupt commented he is honored and excited to assume the role as chair of the accessibility team. He also thanked Angie for her leadership, especially during a challenging year of navigating the team through remote meetings.

Dave's priorities are getting accessible wildlife viewing/hunting blinds in the field, track chairs, and getting concise regulations of use. These topics are already being addressed with other team members, with the goal of getting everybody on the same page and coming to a consensus on how to move forward with these programs. Dave offered his assistance to all team members and council members.

Dave then invited Lynne Thoma, accessibility team representative for the Fisheries Division, to make an announcement. Lynne announced she will be retiring June 11 with 34 years of service. She has been a proud and engaged member of the accessibility team and the council for quite a few years, probably since inception. She thanked the team and the council for all the years together and will take the knowledge she has gained with her. She also pledged her commitment to continue to promote accessible recreation into her retirement and in her adventures. She congratulated and thanked the team and the council for their passion, accomplishments, and friendships, and wished them the best moving forward.

The council and the accessibility team thanked Lynne for all her years of dedicated service to the department, the accessibility team, and the council. Her input over the years has been extremely valuable. All wished her a happy retirement and a lot of enjoyment in her new life experiences.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Open Meetings Act

Chair Norris noted that Sharon Schafer already touched on the Open Meetings Act earlier in the meeting. Prior to the pandemic, council meetings were held in person, but members were also allowed to participate via conference call, especially those that had a greater distance to travel (i.e., the Upper Peninsula or northern Michigan). This council is an advisory board to the department and, technically, are not required to adhere to the Open Meetings Act.

Sharon further commented that the department's legal office recommended this council revisit and amend their bylaws to remove reference to the Open Meetings Act to allow for more flexibility.

Revisit Bylaws

Chair Norris commented that the council's bylaws need to be amended to remove reference to the Open Meetings Act. This would remove restrictions and allow the council to continue to meet in-person, remotely, via conference call, or a hybrid of all options. Some council members commented they would still like to continue to meet in-person and in the field if/when that option becomes available. Being in the field and visiting state-owned facilities is educational to all council members and the public, showcasing accessibility throughout the state, and it provides the council the opportunity to evaluate and provide input on state-owned facilities and programs.

Duncan Wyeth motioned to amend the bylaws to remove reference to the Open Meetings Act; Cindy Burkhour seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried.

However, after further discussion, it was determined that the bylaws must first be amended and then circulated to all council members 14 days in advance of the meeting when action will be taken to adopt the revisions by a 2/3 vote of the council.

Duncan Wyeth retracted his first motion and offered a revised motion.

Duncan Wyeth motioned that it is the will and intent of the council to move forward with amending the bylaws for adoption at the August 24, 2021 meeting; Robert Winn seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried.

Stacy Welling Haughey offered to pull together a workgroup to amend the bylaws and get them circulated to all council members in advance of the August meeting.

Cindy Burkhour further suggested that, if/when the council is in the field again, these outings be filmed or live-streamed and shared on the council's webpage, with the public or media. Dave Haupt said he could arrange for this if/when the council meets in-person. Another suggestion was to see if Under the Radar would be willing to attend/film a meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES

None, as time ran out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carrie Ruhlman, Senior Policy Analyst, North Carolina Resources Commission, Office of Conservation Policy and Analysis

Carrie Ruhlman commented that her role is to involve people in their policy making and program development to improve the chances of successful outcomes. They have an inclusive sportsman's program and thought they were doing well until they received feedback from some of their disabled sportsmen and women through social research. After talking to those that provided feedback, they want to develop a more formal and inclusive sportsman's program and improve their infrastructure by establishing an internal accessibility team and an external advisory council using Michigan as the model. She had reached out to Yolanda and thanked her for her assistance in providing all the information and materials regarding the structure and role of the accessibility team and the council, how they were established, and their roles, in addition to providing a link to the accessible recreation and council's webpages. She thanked the council for the work that they do and for being so transparent. Michigan is a great example and leader in this field.

Brant Wimbush and Lesley Keyton, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Brant Wimbush commented that their agency is in the process of doing ADA site evaluations of all their programs, services, policies, plans, contracts, forms, physical plants and more, and are also considering establishing an advisory council. Kim Woolridge recommended they participate in this council meeting. He further commented that, after listening to this meeting, it was not only very informative but obvious that this body is a very comprehensive group of representatives addressing very important issues for people with disabilities. He commended their work and would be interested in participating in future meetings, as well as offering their assistance and support.

Duncan Wyeth applauded them for reaching out as the state is long overdue for inter-departmental collaboration on disability advocacy issues in general and welcomed their involvement at future meetings. Brant responded that they have also reached out and consulted with the Disability Council and the Office of Recipient Rights for guidance and support, and he looks forward to collaborating with this council as well. Eventually, their goal is to develop an ADA compliant Michigan versus individually compliant departments.

Yolanda also reported that there were two other individuals from the general public that did not want to make public comment, and members of the Grants Management Section also participated in this session.

CLOSING BUSINESS

Chair Norris announced the next meeting of the council is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24. The location and/or format of the meeting will be posted on the council's webpage.

Duncan Wyeth asked Scott if he could work with Yolanda to get subcommittees reconvened and assign brainstorming topics to start working on.

Yolanda also thanked Kristi Dahlstrom, Stacy Haughey's assistant, for setting up the council's Zoom meetings using her account, and Dave Haupt for assisting her from behind the scenes. Also, many thanks to the interpreters and the CART service providers as well. It takes an entire production crew to conduct these meetings, so everybody's assistance is greatly appreciated.

ADJOURN

Chair Norris asked if there were any further comments. No additional comments were offered. He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Duncan Wyeth motioned for adjournment; Will Purves seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.