

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 2/20/24**  
**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**  
**6:00-8:30pm Eastern**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

*Chair: Tom Buckingham Vice-Chair: Gary Gorniak*

**Council Members Present**

Tom Buckingham	Robert Liebermann	Mark Spencer
Steve Dey	Mark Maida	Julie Weist
Gary Gorniak	Glenn Moll	Tony Wright
Tim Hass	Tom Paquin	
Bernie Hubbard	Joe Smith	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Ken Collier	Al Garavaglia	David Lieble
Grant Dewitt	Travis Kangas	

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons & Guests**

Jason Caron, Forest Resources Division-Marquette  
PJ Costa, Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails, Newberry  
Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry  
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette  
Scott Lakosky, Forest Resources Division, Newberry  
Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division-UP Region  
John Pepin, Public Information Office, Marquette  
Lt. Kevin Postma, Law Enforcement Division, Tribal/Commercial Fish  
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry

**Call to Order**

The Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by **Chair Tom Buckingham**. He welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Roll Call of Virtual Attendees**

**Chair Buckingham** asked Ms. Dahlstrom to read the names of virtual attendees.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Buckingham** asked the Council if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Dey supported the motion. Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Buckingham** asked if there were any further changes to the August 2, 2023 meeting minutes which were distributed to the Council via email for review. **Mr. Wright motioned to accept the minutes as submitted; Mr. Spencer supported the motion. Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Buckingham** stated he has been hearing from acquaintances as well as seeing a lot of comments on social media about deer season and has relayed questions brought to him to Ms. Haughey to address. She will be speaking about feedback received later on in the meeting.

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

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for public comments on agenda items only.

1. *George Lindquist, Marquette/WUPCAC – Commercial Forest Program:* Mr. Lindquist spoke about the program and suggested management plans for commercial forest landowners include the growing of hemlock trees for wildlife instead of white pine and maple to aid in deer winter habitat. He feels the loss of hemlock is significantly impacting the deer population. He also mentioned it would be helpful to put some identification on gates located on commercial forest land so that it's not confused with private land. **Mr. Maida** indicated hemlock trees are important for all native wildlife. **Mr. Caron** indicated he will pass this suggestion on and noted there are some CF owners who do keep underrepresented trees but there is always room for improvement. **Mr. Wright**, who asked for the commercial forest presentation later on in the agenda, stated he shares Mr. Lindquist's concerns that it is difficult for CF owners to manage a section just for wildlife. He feels there needs to be more impetus to look at forest land not only as a lumber producer, but how it needs to be managed for wildlife as well.
  
2. *David Cords, Paradise Camp Owner – Wolves, Deer, New Fisheries Decree:* Mr. Cords provided his comments near the end of the meeting due to connection issues. He spoke about the declining deer population, the effects of wolves on deer, and the majority of wolves being in Chippewa County according to a Facebook page. He also spoke about non-UP residents who are camp owners not being allowed on the CACs and his concerns about the new fisheries decree with the number of nets in Whitefish Bay. He stated recreational fishermen have to dodge the nets constantly, and he would like to see increased monitoring of daily catches in that area.
  - **Ms. Haughey** indicated she will send a copy of the wolf abundance study that was presented at the October Joint UPCAC meeting to Mr. Cords for his information. She also mentioned the DNR is continuing with the winter wolf track survey that has been done historically.
  - **Mr. Lemmien** explained the current wolf abundance study that was presented at the October Joint UPCAC meeting by Dr. Tyler Petroelje. This study includes over 1,200 cameras placed across the peninsula to track wolf activity and is specifically meant to capture images of wolves (people and vehicles are blurred). Early results are promising. Dr. Petroelje will be at the February UPSA meeting to provide this presentation again and he suggested Mr. Cords attend to answer questions he may have.
  - **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the CACs can be updated on the number of camera photos captured each month. **Mr. Lemmien** will ask Dr. Petroelje about the reporting aspects of the study. He also noted the abundance study is a scientific study with specific parameters developed and tracked by researchers, which will help to analyze and defend the data.

### **DNR Reports from Division Staff**

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on December 13, 2023. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. Scott Lakosky, Forest Resources Division-Eastern UP
  - There were no new additions to the report.
  
2. Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, District 2
  - The deer season was slow for officers, and they spent a lot of time fielding complaints about the amount of wolf sign and the lack of deer sign. The hunter numbers also seemed to be down. There were some decent bucks taken. Officers have been involved in a lot of interesting cases, some of which will show up in the next report.
  - **Vice Chair Gorniak** asked if there have been any hunting fatalities other than the one reported. **Lt. Hagy** indicated there is only one he is aware of.
  
3. Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division
  - There were no new additions to the report.
  
4. Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Eastern UP
  - There were no new additions to the report.
  - **Mr. Dey** asked if there were any updates on the Brevort Lake boat launch. **Mr. Cowing** indicated work to reconstruct the parking lot is slated for the upcoming year. A ramp replacement will most likely not occur.
  
5. PJ Costa, Parks & Recreation Division, Eastern UP Trails
  - There were no new additions to the report.
  - **Chair Buckingham** asked if the bridges are completed along the Charcoal grade. **Mr. Costa** indicated it was a Forest Resources Division project and they are all installed. They will be finishing up some items including roadwork in the spring.
  - **Mr. Gorniak** asked about the terrible condition of the townline truck trail, north of 123 off of Burma Road, parallel to Borland Road. **Mr. Lakosky** and **Mr. Costa** will look into it and report back.
  - **Mr. Maida** asked about road leading to trail #8 that is in great disrepair. **Mr. Costa** indicated it is a forest service road which may be shared with the road commission. He indicated they are looking at a possible ORV route in that direction which could help with some road work in that area; however, it is currently under the forest service's jurisdiction. When he speaks again with the new ranger, he will mention it.
  
6. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy
  - A possible resolution inquiry was brought up by a council member regarding the winter drawdown of Indian Lake. After checking with local fisheries and wildlife biologists, the delegated authority on this issue lies with EGLE and not with the DNR. The council can determine if they wish to discuss the issue further. **Mr. Wright** stated he is glad to hear the DNR is consulting with EGLE on the situation to help them understand the impacts to fisheries and wildlife. He stated he wishes to withdraw the submission of a possible resolution.
  - Robin Clark of Sault Ste. Marie was recently appointed by Gov. Whitmer to the Natural Resources Commission beginning January 1. She fills a seat held by former Commissioner Carol Rose, whose term ended December 31. A review of her background was shown on screen. **Commissioner Clark** introduced herself, stating her career has been focused on natural resource management.

- **Ms. Haughey** indicated she is aware of the tremendous amount of feedback received across the UP, through her office, at DNR field offices, from staff and conservation officers regarding the recent UP deer season. Many staff hunt as well, are in the field along with all other hunters, and what the public is seeing was also seen by staff. She ensured everyone that the DNR is concerned. A list of the top concerns or questions that she heard throughout the season were displayed on screen and covered a variety of issues from weather, wolves, habitat, distrust, changes in regulations needed, etc. She also touched on authorities of the DNR versus the NRC.
- **Mr. Pepin** spoke about a feature article being issued by the DNR this week which includes a compilation of facts from Michigan’s latest deer harvest. Information for this article was pulled from a wide range of topics including wolves and other concerns from the public and DNR that Ms. Haughey previously mentioned. The article speaks to many factors such as harvest figures, hunter demographics and reaction to the overall season. It also mentions a new initiative starting up next year that will allow hunters and the DNR to work on several things both together and separately to help improve the UP deer herd and hunter success. Called the Deer Management Initiative (DMI), it will include the development of UP and lower peninsula-specific workgroups (one for the UP and one for the LP) representing a diverse set of opinions and values. This includes traditional groups the DNR has historically worked with, unaffiliated hunters, and non-hunters who can provide a unique perspective. The goals of the workgroups will be to position the DNR’s deer management to meet future challenges working collaboratively and using the best available science. The workgroups will help develop a broad survey about deer trends to be distributed to hunters and non-hunters. The workgroup participants will attend a multi-day, facilitated meeting to look at data, identify problems and develop recommendations for DNR and NRC action. More information about the DMI and how folks can apply is forthcoming.
  - **Mr. Gorniak** mentioned that he heard Mr. Chad Stewart mention on a radio show in the lower peninsula that some of the stakeholders appointed to the group would be from agricultural and non-deer hunting backgrounds. He wondered why they would be included in a deer hunting group and doesn’t feel they should be. **Chair Buckingham** concurred with Mr. Gorniak’s comments. **Mr. Pepin** indicated the intent is to have a wide range of representation. **Ms. Haughey** noted in the lower peninsula, there are more conflicts between deer and agricultural areas which may be the reason for inclusion. **Mr. Gorniak** stated he heard they will be run similar to the bear forum and those are run very well and are very effective.
  - **Mr. Liebermann** stated many people from various backgrounds in the state have a great interest in management of the deer herd, not just hunters, and he fully agrees with a variety of public representation.

Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division-UP Region

- There were no new additions to the report.

**Old Business**

1. Wolf Management Update (Recurring) (Ms. Haughey & Mr. Lemmien)

- **Ms. Haughey** noted this is a standing agenda item at the request of the Council. She provided a recap:

- Gray wolves remain a protected species per federal court rulings in lawsuits that have kept wolves on the list of Endangered and Threatened Species. This status prohibits a wolf hunt, no matter its provisions.
- The Michigan DNR supports removing wolves from the endangered species list, sighting among its reasons the recovery of wolves in the state after meeting, exceeding and maintaining population levels far beyond original recovery goals. A 2019 letter from the DNR to the USF&W clearly states the DNR’s position supporting delisting (a copy was shown on screen).
- Regulations to limit other deer predators, including bears, bobcats and coyotes can be recommended by the DNR. However, the NRC makes the decisions to control regulations on the methods and manner of taking of game animals in Michigan.

2. *DNR Response to Joint UPCAC Resolution – Cormorant Funding & Control (Ms. Haughey)*

- **Ms. Haughey** reviewed on-screen the DNR’s response to the Joint UPCAC’s resolution from earlier in the year regarding cormorant funding and control. A written copy was previously emailed to all Council members.
- **Mr. Gorniak** stated he hasn’t seen much movement through the legislature with funding. He indicated it is disheartening as he is hearing more stories of cormorants infiltrating lakes and bays. He noted the local sportsman’s club may stop stocking public lakes as the fish are being decimated afterwards by cormorants. He encouraged ideas to be sent to him.

**New Business**

1. *Commercial Forest Program (Mr. Caron)*

- **Jason Caron**, Private Land Service Forester with the DNR’s Forest Resources Division based in Marquette, presented an overview of the Commercial Forest (CF) Program. **Mr. Caron** reviewed the following slides.
- *Overview:* The statute followed is Part 511, Commercial Forests, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The CF Program was established in 1925 to encourage timber production in Michigan. There is a property tax incentive. Requirements include owning at least 40 contiguous acres, must have a forest management plan, and landowners must allow foot access to the public to hunt, fish, and trap. There is a penalty to withdraw land from the program.
- *CF – 2023:* There are 2.2 million acres in 51 counties with 1,751 landowners enrolled in CF in the state.
- *CF Owners – Acreage:* A listing of CF acreage by landowners was shown. Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, LLC is the largest holder of CF acreage in the state of Michigan.
- *Prohibited Lands Uses:* Agriculture, grazing, industrial, developed recreation, residential, resort, commercial or developmental purposes. No structures or improvements, including but not limited to permanent hunting blinds, camper trailers, and utilities. Landowners cannot post signs to prohibit access.
- *Ownership Changes:* CF land runs with the land forever unless it is withdrawn. DNR must be notified of all ownership changes (copy of deed/land contract and owner contact info). Buyer must own the surface and timber rights. Land contracts must state vendee (buyer) owns timber rights. Buyer of CF land has 60 days to submit a withdrawal application or hire a consulting forester to write their forest management plan to stay within the program. Part 511 requires deeds and land contracts to state “This property is subject to Part 511, the Commercial Forest part of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.”

- *CF Enrollment:* New owner must submit an application. Open enrollment is January 1 to April 1. If the application is approved, CF land is removed from the ad valorem tax roll and placed on the CF specific tax roll. CF specific tax is currently \$1.35/acre per year. Tax increases 5 cents every 5 years (next increase is 2027).
- *CF Withdrawal:* Buyer must withdraw if less than 40 contiguous acres, if no public access exists, land no longer eligible, or if not compliant with the program. Application fee is \$1.00/acre (\$200 min, \$1,000 max). Withdrawal penalty increases every year, penalty table on CF website. Land returns to ad valorem the year after withdrawal and the land must be assessed. Penalty money does not go to the DNR, rather it goes to the townships for the loss of tax revenue.
- *Website:* The CF section of the website ([www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry)) provides a wealth of information on the program. Screenshots were shown of various pages, including an interactive map.
- *CF Land – Interactive Map:* Each parcel and corresponding information about the parcel enrolled in the CF program is available on this map. Examples were shown.
- *CF – Summary:* A two-page document listing the benefits, eligibility requirements and general information was shown. This document is frequently provided to folks who have questions.
- *Coverage Map & Contacts:* A map displaying the coverage areas for each DNR service forester was shown as well as their contact information.
  - **Mr. Wright** asked if a new owner of CF property has to follow the existing management plan from the previous owner. **Mr. Caron** stated, there are a few exceptions; however, in most cases, a new owner will be required to submit a new forest management plan, which can be for a minimum of 10 years or a maximum of 20 years.
  - **Chair Buckingham** thanked **Mr. Caron** for the excellent presentation.

2. *Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) 2023 Highlights & Accomplishments (Mr. Cowing)*

- **Mr. Cowing** presented an overview of the Parks & Recreation Division from a state perspective as well as from an eastern UP perspective.
- *Parks & Recreation Division-Statewide:* 103 diverse state parks and recreation areas; host >30 million visitors annually in state parks; 13,496 campsites; 357,000 acres; 1,095 miles of non-motorized trails, which includes 5 state park linear trails; 13,400 mile trail system, which includes ORV and snowmobile trails; 140 state forest campgrounds.
- *Boat Launches & Harbors:* Michigan ranks among the top 3 states in the nation for registered boats. 1,400 developed public launch sites. 850 operated by the PRD. 63 grant-in-aid harbors. 19 state-owned harbors of refuge (5 in the eastern UP). Harbor partners complete the Harbor of Refuge necklace around the Great Lakes.
- *Funding:* Michigan State Parks: No general fund taxpayer dollars since 2004, except Belle Isle in Detroit; use fees from camping, park entry, and concessions; Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund via mineral and gas royalties. Michigan Boating: Gas tax (1.6% of gas tax), boat registrations, user fees from boat slips, boat site entry, and service fees; federal funds. Trails and Outdoor Recreation in State Forests: Camping fees, snowmobile and ORV permit fees.
- *Compared to Other States:* Michigan State Parks: 2<sup>nd</sup> in campground revenue generation; 2<sup>nd</sup> in the number of campers (California #1); 10<sup>th</sup> in overall visitation, 32<sup>nd</sup> in the number of full-time employees; last in state tax funding support (zero); spending \$2.11 per visitor to

provide services (43% below the national average of \$3.70 per visitor). Michigan Boating: 3<sup>rd</sup> in boat registrations. Trails: #1 in rail-trail miles.

- *Economic Impact:* Michigan State Parks: State park operations (camping/day use) contribute \$650 million annually to local economies; each dollar spent to provide recreation opportunities in state parks returns \$13 to local economies; in 2010, out-of-state residents represented 30% of daily entry permit sales and 10% of annual permit sales. Michigan Boating: Nearly 1 million registered boats; recreational boating contributes \$2 billion annually to local economies.
- *Looking to the Future:* Building Michigan Together Plan: Governor Whitmer approved on 3/30/22 a bipartisan bill that made the single largest investment in state parks in Michigan’s history; \$30.2 million for a new state park in the City of Flint; \$220 million to address significant backlog of infrastructure maintenance and repair. This funding is part of the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA).
- *Guiding Principles:* A workgroup was formed to decide what types of projects this funding should be spent on. The goal was not to add new things to the system that weren’t already in existence but rather targeting building infrastructure that had deteriorated or outlived its useful life. Nine principles were prioritized with a timeframe to complete the expenditure of these dollars by the deadline of December 2026.
- *Statewide Projects:* A map showing a delineation of proposed investment targets in the state for the APRA funding was shown. A total of 188 projects across the state are planned.
- *EUP Investments:* Total investment in the eastern UP is \$21,375,000. Projects in the eastern UP were highlighted on a slide and described for each area: Fayette Historic State Park-\$3,450,000; Indian Lake State Park-\$4,150,000; Muskallonge Lake State Park-\$3,275,000; Palms Book State Park-\$1,000,000; Straits State Park-\$2,125,000; Tahquamenon Falls State Park-\$4,375,000. In addition, general parks capital outlay funding and some APRA funding over the last year or two helped to complete projects at Brimley State Park, Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Indian Lake State Park, Mackinac Island State Harbor, DeTour State Harbor, Lime Island Recreational Area, Whitefish Point State Harbor, and Father Marquette National Memorial, which includes grant funding.
- *Questions:*
  - **Mr. Dey** complimented the number of projects at the eastern UP parks. He also mentioned that Brevort Lakes area will need some dredging in the near future. **Mr. Cowing** thanked him for the information.
  - **Mr. Paquin** appreciated the presentation.
  - **Mr. Spencer** brought up a correction in the township involved for the Father Marquette National Memorial site.
  - **Mr. Maida** mentioned the boat slips at Whitefish Point State Harbor are mostly filled by commercial vessels and asked that an option for more recreational slips be considered in the future. **Mr. Cowing** stated he will include this suggestion in future planning discussions.

### 3. Eastern UP Trails Overview (Mr. Costa)

- **Mr. Costa** presented an overview of the trails system in the eastern UP (EUP).
- *PRD Trails Section-UP:* A map showing three sections of the DNR’s trail program in the UP: Western, Central, and Eastern along with the trails specialist who covers each area.
- *Trail Mileage by County:* In the EUP, which includes Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties, there are 1,374 miles of snowmobile trails, 444 miles of ORV

trails, 191 miles of ATV trails, 211 miles of motorcycle trails, 64 miles of ski trails, 12 miles of equestrian trails, 194 miles of biking trails, 583 miles of hiking trails, and 157 miles of rail-trail. In total, there are 3,320 miles of trails in the EUP.

- *Mountain Biking:* A map of biking trails was shown. There is growth in the sport. The new Peek-A-Boo trail in Cedarville will be coming in 2024 adding 3.3 miles.
- *Snowmobile Trails:* A map of snowmobile trails was shown. 4 new miles have been recently approved in Chippewa County. These trails involve a permanent easement program, are nationally recognized, and focus on sustainability and infrastructure. There has been a reorganization with unit contacts with oversight conversion from Forest Resources Division to Parks and Recreation Division being completed this year. Trail ranger positions are expected to be added next year.
- *ORV Trails and Routes:* A map of ORV trails was shown. 313,362 trail permits were sold in 2021, indicating strong growth in the sport. There is a strong focus on connecting trails.
- *Equestrian Trails:* A map of equestrian trails was shown. There are 6 miles at Headquarters Lake state forest campground and 6 miles at Pine Bowl in Kincheloe. There is growth in this area as well and a new trail is being worked on that would piggyback on the Fox River pathway with a trailhead at Stanley Lake. The focus with these trails is on amenities. A new member of the Equestrian Trails Subcommittee is from the UP (Sam Norman).
- *Ski Trails:* A map of DNR managed ski trails was shown. There are many venues other than DNR trails. Conversations on funding for silent sport trails continue.
- *Rail-Trails:* A map of rail-trails was shown. There are 156 of DNR-owned rail-trails. The focus here is on aging infrastructure. Replaced culverts such as Bissel Creek and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Working with the US Forest Service on bridge replacements on the Haywire grade. Most of these trails are multi-use.
- *Hiking:* A map of hiking trails was shown. There are also the North Country Trail and the Fox River Pathway. Many pathways are located at local state parks and forest campgrounds.
- *Projects:* Bissel Creek, 20<sup>th</sup> Street culvert, Millecoquin's Bridge, 3 crossings on Trail #8, Headquarters equestrian signing. Blind Sucker Pathway boardwalks. Emergency repairs at Prout Road and Brimley washouts. 11 bridges on the Haywire grade, Shelldrake bridge. Numerous club projects, graveling and grading numerous trails as well.
- *Clubs:* 13 snowmobile clubs, 8 ORV clubs, 1 motorcycle club and 1 equestrian club. There are also multiple local hiking, skiing and biking clubs. These clubs are the heartbeat of this program and they are mostly all volunteers.
- *Questions:*
  - **Mr. Maida** asked about grooming equipment being dropped off at a club in Trout Lake but no training was provided. **Mr. Costa** indicated that some clubs purchase their own equipment, and he is not aware of this instance. He will contact the club and report back.
  - **Mr. Lindquist** asked where the funding comes from for projects on trails that don't require a permit or have a funding system in place, such as equestrian and biking trails. **Mr. Costa** indicated some grants are applied for and volunteer groups conduct a good amount of fundraising. He indicated there have been discussions regarding this that will most likely continue in the future. Discussion ensued.
  - **Chair Buckingham** thanked **Mr. Costa** for the overview and updates.

4. *Additional Agenda Items Added by Council:* No additional items were added.

## **Committee Activity**

### 1. **Fisheries Committee (Vice Chair Gorniak)**

- **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he spoke earlier under the cormorant resolution response and doesn't have anything further to add.

### 2. **Wildlife Committee (Mr. Dey)**

- **Council Consideration of Resolution – Implement Michigan Moose Hunt:** **Mr. Dey** indicated the Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council (WUPCAC) prepared this resolution in their wildlife committee and brought it to the full west council to consider at their September meeting. The WUPCAC passed the resolution by majority vote. He asked Mr. Lindquist from the WUPCAC for a synopsis of the resolution.
- Mr. Lindquist explained the WUPCAC wildlife committee's reasonings behind the resolution, one of which is to charge an application fee that would provide a funding base for the development of a moose management plan.
- **Mr. Maida** asked for clarification on where a proposed hunt would be allowed and how it would affect guiding services and licensing. Discussion ensued, including the determination would ultimately lie with the Natural Resources Commission if it were to come to fruition.
- **Chair Buckingham called for a motion. Vice Chair Gorniak motioned to approve the resolution as presented:**

*“The Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council supports the Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council in recommending the Michigan DNR conduct a very limited moose hunt in the UP of Michigan with up to 5 possible bull moose tags. Possibly using the Pure Michigan Hunt, and a separate lottery, much like the current elk lottery, with monies derived going to sustaining and growing this iconic species in Michigan.”*

**Mr. Dey supported the motion. Chair Buckingham asked for additional discussion. Hearing none, Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by majority with 2 not in support.**

### 3. **Other Committee Reports**

- The Policy Impact, Forestry/Invasive Species and Recreation/Trails Committees did not meet since the last Council meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

1. **Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates & Locations:** **Chair Buckingham** asked for a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates and locations. **Mr. Hass motioned to accept the 2024 dates and locations as presented; Mr. Spencer supported the motion. Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
2. **Next EUPCAC Meeting:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 beginning at 6:00pm at the LMAS Health Department lower level conference room. Discussion took place about the possibility of meeting at the new DNR Newberry Customer Service Center when it's complete. Ms. Dahlstrom will look into the building's conference room options.
3. **Agenda Items for Both Upcoming Meetings**

- **Chair Buckingham** indicated he asked Mr. Spencer to provide a trapping update for the group at the next meeting; **Mr. Spencer** agreed.
- Election of officers will also be on the February agenda per bylaws.

#### **Public Comments (Any Topic)**

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for public comments on any topic; none were brought forth.

#### **Closing Comments from Council**

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for closing comments from the Council and DNR staff.

- **Mr. Hass** stated he will review the residency requirements listed in the charter and bylaws for the CACs.
- **Mr. Wright** stated he previously suggested an associate membership, but it is not as simple as one might think.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Buckingham** thanked everyone for attending. He adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm Eastern.