

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 4/4/24**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**  
**6:00-8:30pm Eastern**  
**LMAS Health Department, Lower Level Conference Room, Newberry**

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

**Council Members Present**

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

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Grant Dewitt	Travis Kangas
Al Garavaglia	David Lieble

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

PJ Costa, Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails, Newberry  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry  
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette  
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division-Newberry  
Scott Lakosky, Forest Resources Division, Newberry  
Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division-UP Region

**Call to Order**

The Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by **Chair Tom Buckingham**. He welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Introduction of All Attendees (Council/DNR Staff/Public)**

Introductions of those in attendance were made.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Buckingham** added an agenda item under New Business, Additional Items Added by Council titled coyote season discussion. He asked the Council if there were any further corrections or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to adopt the amended agenda; Mr. Hubbard 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 December 20, 2023 meeting minutes which were distributed to the Council via email for review. **Vice Chair Gorniak** noted a word change needed on page 5, item 2, second paragraph, instead of "is stopping", it should be changed to "may stop". **Mr. Maida motioned to accept the minutes with the change noted; Mr. Dey supported the motion. Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on February 13, 2024. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

#### 1. Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division-UP Region

- **Mr. Lemmien** did not have any updates to the division report; however, he provided a brief overview of the UP Deer Camp Survey results as he will need to leave the meeting early. He stated all data included in the report comes from the hunter's perspective.
  - *Responses:* 367 responses were received. A UP map was shown with dots representing the general locations of each respondent/hunter. A history of the survey and boundaries were provided.
  - *Participation:* The number of camps and hunters participating each year from 2003 to 2023 was shown. There has been a steady decline in participation since 2013.
  - *DMUs:* A map of DMUs and the number of surveys received from each DMU was shown.
  - *UP-Wide Observations:* Deer seen per hunter day decreased from 3.4 in 2022 to 2.2 in 2023. Percent of hunters harvesting a buck decreased from 24% in 2022 to 19% in 2023. Fawn observations per 100 does decreased from 53 in 2022 to 44 in 2023. Deer herd trend in 2023: more 4%, same 19% and fewer 77%. Season rating: excellent 2%, good 11%, fair 25% and poor 66%.
  - *West UP Observations:* Results mirrored the UP-wide observations.
  - *East UP Observations:* Deer seen per hunter day decreased from 3.0 in 2022 to 2.4 in 2023. Percent of hunters harvesting a buck increased from 17% in 2022 to 19% in 2023. Fawn observations per 100 does decreased from 50 in 2022 to 43 in 2023. Deer herd trend in 2023: more 13%, same 33% and fewer 54%. Season rating: excellent 2%, good 18%, fair 34% and poor 46%.
  - *Number of Deer Observed per Hunter Day and Fawns Observed per 100 Does:* Bar graphs were shown for each, based on the UP-wide observation numbers above.
  - *Percent of UP Camp Rating the Season as Good to Excellent:* 2023 is significantly lower than 2022, however, from 2012 to 2023, 2015 was the lowest.
  - *Hunter Participation in the 2023 Firearm Season:* Bar graph was shown. Long term data shows it doesn't matter which day opening day occurs on. First few days of 2023 season was in the mid 60's, which plays a factor.
  - *Hunter Success Rates at UP Cooperating Deer Camps Over 21 Years:* 19% success rate in 2023 compared to 24% in 2022. It was 14% in 2015.
  - *Buck Hunter Success Rates at East UP Cooperating Deer Camps Over 20 Years:* 19% in 2023 compared to 17% in 2022.
  - *Coyote, Wolf & Bobcat Sightings Per 100 Hunter Days:* Bobcat sightings remain steady, and wolf and coyote sightings have increased.
  - *Archery Participation by Year:* 23% in 2023 early archery season compared to 18% in 2022. Late archery season participation remains low at 9% in 2023. Conversations related to late archery season have increased. The impact on the deer population for late archery is minimal.
  - *Duration of "Deep" Snow in the UP by Year (Number of Days the Average UP Snow Depth was >12 Inches):* National Weather Service (NWS), which has measuring stations across the UP with satellite imagery is utilized now. There has been 90 consecutively with 12 inches or greater of snow in the winter ending in 2023. **Chair Buckingham** asked if

DMUs can be added to this chart. **Mr. Lemmien** stated yes. **Mr. Liebermann** indicated a map display would be better visually versus a bar graph.

It was noted the following slides were not part of the UP Deer Camp Survey.

- *Winter Conditions (Snow Depth), Buck Harvest & Wolf Population*: A multi-tiered graph was shown including these three factors. It indicates severe winters have a lower deer harvest.
- *Statewide Antlered Deer Harvested through 2013*: This graph is from 1965 to 2013. The UP mirrors this trend. It was noted that from 1965 to 1985, a lot more timber was cut, indicating very low deer harvest levels statewide.
- *Number of Antlered Deer Harvested by Region through 2013*: There is a downward trend across the UP, northern lower and southern lower peninsulas.
- *Midwestern States Normal Annual Snowfall from 1961-1990*: Chart shows the eastern UP has had higher snowfall than the rest of the UP.
- *Midwestern States Normal Annual Snowfall from 1981-2010*: Chart shows the entire UP has had higher snowfall, except for the southern tips.
- *UP Snow & Buck Hunter Success Comparisons*: This chart includes buck hunter success from the mailed camp survey and days of deep snow the winter before that season. Results show the years with lower levels of snow has a higher harvest rate.

Questions:

- **Mr. Wright** asked if there was any data for roadkill to connect the persistence of snow cover in spring to the amount of roadkill. **Mr. Lemmien** stated they do not collect data for roadkill; however, other agencies may like MDOT or the farm bureau. He stated it may be hard to detect roadkill if it was killed in November, then covered up by snow and revealed in April after snow melt. **Mr. Hass** noted an auto collision dealership indicated 42 deer-car accidents were reported to them in one week.
- **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated this report provides very good information although the results were not good. He stated the Deer Management Initiative is a good thing and asked if there was any update on it. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will be reporting on it later in the meeting. **Mr. Lemmien** indicated summer habitat, winter habitat and talking directly to hunters are items his staff are working on, including possibly bringing back deer check stations. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated with hunters so upset about the current condition of the deer herd, the DNR should have all hands on deck to help rectify the situation. He noted there were 14 DNR staff, including the Director and Wildlife Division chief, at the last UPSA meeting which was very impressive.
- **Chair Buckingham** asked why the deer check stations were eliminated last season. **Mr. Lemmien** stated with the mandatory deer harvest system via the app and online being fully implemented it was felt there wasn't a need for the deer check stations any longer. This past season, they were voluntary. And it was difficult to extrapolate good numbers across the state with only 15% of hunters bringing in their deer. There are still folks not reporting their deer as well in the new system. Staff are still reviewing compliance rates from season to season.

## 2. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy

- The Director was in the UP for four days mid-February and visited several staff offices, attended legislative meetings, joined the UPSA meeting and was the keynote speaker at the UP Whitetails of Marquette County banquet. She indicated there is a good deal of follow-up from those visits and meetings.

- **Vice Chair Gorniak** asked if there are any plans to increase funding for the Deer Habitat Improvement Program. **Mr. Lemmien** stated staff are in the process of doubling the grant allotment. Applications are currently being accepted. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will show some slides later on regarding habitat investments.

3. Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Eastern UP

- **Mr. Kovacs** stated he will be the fisheries representative on the EUPCAC for this year. Darren Kramer will be covering fisheries representation on the WUPCAC for 2024.
- A new Lake Superior Basin Coordinator should be named soon. This person will fill the role vacated by Patrick Hanchin who took a position in the lower peninsula.
- Ice conditions have not been favorable this year. Early steelhead has been found in some rivers.
- **Mr. Smith** asked about the stocking list of ponds online and how to access ponds that are on private property. **Mr. Kovacs** stated that there are a few instances where lakes/ponds on commercial forest property changed hands after it was stocked. He asked Mr. Smith to contact him to review the list and see if it needs to be updated. He can also share a list of public fishing waters.

4. Scott Lakosky, Forest Resources Division-Eastern UP

- A wood producers meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Escanaba and will include procurement foresters, mill reps, and loggers, along with Lansing DNR program staff, field staff and unit managers to discuss issues and voice concerns.
- A commercial forest meeting will be held tomorrow (Feb. 21) and anyone wanting to learn more about commercial forest activity is welcome to attend.
- **Mr. Maida** asked about the cedar reproduction program at MTU. **Mr. Lakosky** explained the status of that study/program.

5. Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, District 2

- With the recent snow, snowmobile riders have arrived to enjoy the trails. One fatality occurred in Chippewa County last evening.
- **Chair Buckingham** asked about the number of ice rescues. **Lt. Hagy** explained the recent rescues on Little Bay de Noc. He stated there are varying levels of ice thickness everywhere due to the warm-ups and cool-downs this winter.
- **Mr. Smith** stated while talking to two youth hunters recently about fishing, they indicated they both harvested a deer but that their dad shot it for them. He asked how this affects the mentoring program. **Lt. Hagy** stated there are abuses of the program. **Mr. Smith** also asked why baiting is allowed in the UP. **Lt. Hagy** noted in response to CWD in the lower peninsula, baiting has been banned in several counties/core areas where it was detected. Occurrences of TB in the lower peninsula has also caused baiting bans. Baiting was banned in a core area of the southern UP when CWD was detected there. It was lifted during the last regulation cycle.

6. PJ Costa, Parks & Recreation Division, Eastern UP Trails

- Many snowmobile trail gates were closed due to the low snow levels. Some were re-opened this past weekend with new snow but may be closed again the upcoming weekend. Four-wheeled vehicles riding on snowmobile trails and shouldn't be could result in the loss of trails on private land.

- **Mr. Paquin** asked about the status of equestrian campgrounds in the eastern UP. **Mr. Costa** stated Headquarters Lake is up and running. A few things had to be worked out at Stanley Lake but is it close to a trail proposal being submitted for a parking area, day use or disperse camping to start with.
- **Mr. Maida** asked where the culvert replacements on Bissel Creek in Chippewa County are located. **Mr. Costa** explained.
- **Mr. Smith** asked about any movement in requiring the washing off of ORVs similar to washing off boats to prevent the spread of invasive species. **Mr. Costa** indicated enforcement is difficult to regulate and is a barrier to any requirement. The DNR can encourage it at various permitted events.
- **Mr. Smith** also mentioned he is working on a fire prevention program in his area in correlation with Smokey Bear's birthday. He would like to also increase awareness of the DNR's fire permit system, which was noted should be used if a township does not currently regulate it.
- **Mr. Liebermann** stated it was nice to see a lot of trail work done this past summer. As far as ORVs and invasives, he noted Trout Lake as a problem area with illegal ORV trails. He described situations in which ORV users have driven over warning signs in invasive areas. Discussion ensued.

### **Annual Election of Officers**

**Chair Buckingham** noted the Bylaws require the Council to have a yearly officer election, which traditionally occurs at the beginning of the year. He turned the floor over to Ms. Haughey to conduct the election; **Ms. Haughey** opened the floor for nominations for 2024:

1. *Chairman:* **Mr. Gorniak** nominated Mr. Buckingham; **Mr. Buckingham** consented to the nomination. After three opportunities for nominations to be made, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Gorniak made a motion to close the nominations; Mr. Moll supported the motion. No discussion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**
2. *Vice Chairman:* **Ms. Weist** nominated Mr. Gorniak; **Mr. Gorniak** consented to the nomination. After three opportunities for nominations to be made, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Dey motioned to close the nominations; Mr. Weist supported the motion. No discussion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**
3. *Secretary:* **Mr. Buckingham** nominated Mr. Dey; **Mr. Dey** consented to the nomination. After three opportunities for nominations to be made, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Gorniak motioned to close the nominations; Mr. Hass supported the motion. No discussion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**
4. *Vote:* **Ms. Haughey** announced Mr. Buckingham was re-nominated for Chair, Mr. Gorniak was re-nominated for Vice Chair, and Mr. Dey was nominated for Secretary. She asked for a motion to approve. **Mr. Hass motioned to accept these three individuals for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary; Mr. Hubbard supported the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried unanimously.**
5. *Final Results:* **For 2024, Mr. Buckingham and Mr. Gorniak will serve another term as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. Mr. Dey will serve a new term as Secretary.**

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

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for public comments on agenda items only. One public comment registration received previously cancelled just prior to the meeting.

## **Old Business**

1. **Wolf Management Update (Recurring) (Ms. Haughey & Mr. Lemmien)**
  - This is a standing agenda item at the request of the Council.
  - A copy of a US Fish & Wildlife Service press release dated February 2, 2024 was referred to. The release indicates the USF&WS will “*undertake a process to develop a first-ever nationwide gray wolf recovery plan by December 23, 2025*” as a next step in gray wolf management nationwide. This release or information contained within does not change the legal status of wolves, and wolves continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
  - **Mr. Dey** indicated he spoke with Congressman Bergman’s office, he was told there is a bill in each house, and they cannot make it out of committee.
  
2. **DNR Response to Joint UPCAC Resolution – Implement Michigan Moose Hunt (Ms. Haughey)**
  - The DNR’s response letter to the Joint UPCAC resolution to implement a Michigan moose hunt was reviewed. A copy was previously emailed to all council members. The response indicated although both Councils suggested a hunt be held to provide research dollars, without first conducting a research project to investigate factors influencing the slowed growth rate and with climate change projections unlikely to favor moose in the long-term, the DNR feels it is not prudent to consider a hunt currently. A moose management overview attachment prepared by Mr. Chad Stewart and Dr. Tyler Petroelje was included.
  - **Chair Buckingham** stated the resolution was for five moose and the response referenced old information when ten was considered. **Vice Chair Gorniak** feels the moose advisory council should be reactivated and stated managing moose has been stagnant for years. He suggested the DNR find funding to do the research. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will relay his suggestion to **Mr. Lemmien**.
  - **Mr. Wright** asked if in Michigan, bidding or auction hunts would be a possibility. **Ms. Haughey** stated it is not allowed in Michigan. However, there is the Pure Michigan Hunt, in which each \$5 application helps fund wildlife habitat restoration and management.
  
3. **2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree (Mr. Caroffino via recorded presentation)**
  - **Ms. Haughey** played the recording of the 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree presentation provided at the January 2024 WUPCAC meeting. Below is a recap of the presentation.
  - **Mr. Caroffino**, DNR Tribal Coordination Unit Manager, provided a slide presentation on the new Great Lakes Fishing Decree that applies to the 1836 Treaty in the Upper Peninsula, which is roughly from Marquette eastward.
  - *How We Got Here (3 Phases):*
    - *US v Michigan-The Parameters of Negotiation (1971-1985):* Stems from a federal court case that started in the 1970s when Tribes challenged the state’s ability to regulate their fisheries, particularly the use of gill nets as commercial fishing gear. The Tribal right to fish that was reserved in the treaty was reaffirmed by the federal courts. The state has been in a co-management agreement/arrangement since that time. An initial court order occurred in 1985. Then in 2000, the consent decree was established, where everyone who was involved in the negotiations were seeing eye to eye on how the Great Lakes should be co-managed and it was termed the 2000 consent decree. That was in place until 2020.
    - *Negotiation Process (2014-2022):* The DNR began to negotiate a new agreement in 2014. The DNR engaged with different advisory groups and stakeholders to determine

how they felt the agreement was going, which then helped inform their process internally to prepare for negotiations. The DNR began negotiating with the tribes in 2019. After delays and extensions due to the pandemic and after a majority of the parties finally agreed to a new document, a new agreement was submitted to the court in December of 2022.

- *Court Process (2022-2024)*: Since the submission in December of 2022, the court has undergone a lengthy process of making sure that this will be the agreement everyone can live with for 24 years. Currently, it is the end of the district court process. The reason for the lengthy process is the Sault Tribe did not agree with the document that everyone else agreed to and put before the court. The court then outline a process where the Sault Tribe could enter objections and there were some citizen groups that also did not agree with everything in the document. A hearing was held and eventually the district court entered that document as the new co-management agreement. Currently, the Sault Tribe and a citizen group that was part of the process are appealing the ruling in the US 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which is ongoing. The agreement that was provided to the court in 2022 and that the district court approved in 2023 is what the DNR is abiding by now.
  - *Lake Superior-Comparison to 2000 Consent Decree*: A comparison of a few changes from the 2000 Consent Decree to the 2023 Decree was shown for areas in the Lake Superior region from Marquette to Munising, west of Grand Island, including Munising Bay, Big Reef, Stannard Rock, and AuTrain Bay. Major changes relate to the type of fishing gear the Tribes will be using in this stretch of Lake Superior
  - *Major Benefits*: Certainty (a negotiated outcome is always better than court), roughly equal sharing of the resource, important closures, more frequently reporting and transparency (data quality) by electronic means, enforcement, next steps. Michigan still has the authority to enforce tribal regulations under this agreement. The DNR’s law enforcement division has a Great Lakes enforcement unit which helps to enforce the rules and regulations outlined in the decree. The decree is currently in effect, the appeals process is ongoing, and all parties are taking the steps necessary to implement the decree fully in 2024.
  - *For more information or questions*: Contact Dave Caroffino at [caroffinod@michigan.gov](mailto:caroffinod@michigan.gov) or 231-350-8654.
  - **Chair Buckingham** thanked **Ms. Haughey** (and Mr. Caroffino) for the information presented.
4. *Member Residency Requirements (Ms. Haughey & Mr. Hass)*
- **Ms. Haughey** indicated at the December meeting a public attendee spoke about non-UP residents who are camp owners not being allowed to serve on the UPCACs. She stated **Mr. Hass** had indicated he would review the residency requirements listed in the charter and bylaws for the CACs.
  - **Mr. Hass** described his inquiry into the residency requirements to serve on the UPCACs. After reviewing the UPCAC documents (UPCAC Charter and bylaws of the eastern CAC) referencing membership, he concluded that one has to be a permanent resident of the UP to serve on either the eastern or western CAC.
  - **Vice Chair Gorniak** asked who created the UPCAC charter. **Ms. Haughey** explained the history and creation of the UPCACs in 2008, and indicated the charter was created by the

DNR and indicates what the DNR envisioned for the councils. It is the DNR's preference that the UPCAC's members be a permanent resident of the UP.

- **Mr. Liebermann** asked if there were any CACs in the lower peninsula. **Ms. Haughey** indicated there was an effort to create lower peninsula CAC's. However, it was during the combining of the DNR and DEQ agencies in 2009, and they never came to fruition.

## **New Business**

### **1. Trapping Overview (Mr. Spencer)**

- **Mr. Spencer** provided an overview of the muskrat decline in the trapping industry. He indicated a team (DNR, USF&WS and others) is working on a study of muskrat abundance in wetlands habitat. Phase 1 of the study is completed and phase 2 is currently in progress for the next five years. Phase 1 indicated the muskrat population is decreasing steadily due to drought and wetland destruction. Major fur buyers in Michigan, trappers, and biologists in the eastern UP all agree with the decrease in population. Owls, hawks, eagles and even otters are predators to muskrats. In addition, a disease issue has been discovered causing growths in the body cavities of muskrats. It is a parasite (*Echinococcus multilocularis* (EM)) that can be passed on to other animals who eat muskrat and potentially passed on to humans as well and may be considered a health concern. Pictures of the growths were shown. Too many predators, drought and a parasite are all causes of the population decline. A chart of the population declines from 1975 to 2015 was shown.
- **Ms. Weist** asked how many trappers there are in the state. **Mr. Spencer** indicated between the three trapping organizations in Michigan, there are 2,400 members. There are approximately 4,000-5,000 trappers in Michigan. Trappers are declining and it's difficult to get the younger generation involved. Market value also affects numbers too.
- **Mr. Paquin** asked about possum trapping, indicating he had one in his yard recently. **Mr. Spencer** stated he heard someone trapped 5 downstate and brought them to the UP and released them. He knows of 5 possums in the St. Ignace area currently.
- **Mr. Maida** mentioned a citation given recently to someone in the Curtis area. Discussion ensued.

### **2. Deer Management Initiative Update (Ms. Haughey)**

- **Ms. Haughey** reported over 2,400 applications were received to serve on two groups, one in the UP and one in the lower peninsula. It was a very daunting task to go through all of them. Approximately 20 members were chosen for each group, and after a background check, they were notified on February 15. A press release with names of members will not be prepared. Members can self-disclose if they choose, and some have already. Two of those chosen are EUPCAC members; both CACs will be well-represented.
- **Ms. Haughey** will inform council members as information from the DMI groups are disseminated. Virtual meetings will begin in the new few weeks.

### **3. UP Habitat Workgroup Update (Ms. Haughey)**

- The UP Habitat Workgroup met on January 17, 2024. The agenda was shown on screen and covered the workgroup charge, the Deer Management Initiative, deer winter range acquisition status and discussion, habitat grant funding, a brief post deer season update and next steps.
- Bernie Hubbard, EUPCAC member, is also a member of the UP Habitat Workgroup.

- Habitat is a key component when it comes to deer management. The workgroup mapped critical deer winter habitat areas. Only 20% is in state ownership and 80% is on private/commercial lands or federal property.
  - The focus of workgroup is having all parties (private/commercial/federal) at the table to talk about how these areas can be protected/enhanced. The workgroup has been meeting for several years.
  - The DNR has made large investments in funding for on-the-ground habitat work in the UP. From 2000-2011, the DNR purchased over 13,000 acres, \$14 million invested specifically in critical deer winter habitat areas. From 2013-2023, the DNR was either gifted or purchased approximately 5,000 more acres of deer wintering complexes. Over 132 habitat projects were completed.
  - **Mr. Lakosky** noted the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund (LEFF) is another source of funding used to purchase parcels that don't fit in other funding sources.
4. New Deer Damage & Disease Control Process (Ms. Haughey for Mr. Lemmien)
- New to the deer harvest reporting system, permittees will now have to report the deer they take with DMAP permits just as they would for an in-season deer harvest (72-hour requirement, as opposed to the previous 24-hour requirement for returning the postcard). They can report their take by going to the same website as they would for in-season harvest or they can call a number to report by phone. This will also help to show the general public a more detailed picture of whitetail deer harvests.
5. Additional Agenda Items Added by Council:
- Coyote Season Discussion: **Chair Buckingham**, request of **Mr. Dey**, added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting a discussion regarding the proposed changes to the coyote season that will be up for action at the March NRC meeting.
  - After a brief review and discussion about the proposed changes, and per bylaws for emergency resolutions, **Chair Buckingham** asked for a motion from the Council to first consider an emergency resolution, since the Council will not meet again until April, after action is taken by the NRC. **Mr. Dey motioned to consider an emergency resolution on this topic; Mr. Maida supported the motion. Chair Buckingham asked for discussion. Discussion ensued regarding various viewpoints on the issue. Chair Buckingham called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by majority (8 in favor, 4 oppose, 1 neutral).**
  - **Chair Buckingham asked for a motion from the Council to consider a resolution. Mr. Maida motioned that the EUPCAC oppose the current drafted Wildlife Consideration Order (WCO) amendment #1 of 2024, item #6 in front of the NRC that would shorten the current coyote season. Mr. Dey supported the motion. Chair Buckingham asked for discussion. Discussion ensued again regarding various viewpoints on the issue. Chair Buckingham asked Ms. Dahlstrom to circulate a copy of the WCO to all Council members. Chair Buckingham then called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by majority (8 in favor, 4 oppose, 1 neutral).**
  - **Ms. Haughey** indicated she will inform the Director, Wildlife Division staff and the NRC of the resolution prior to the NRC meeting on March 14, 2024.

### Committee Activity

1. Wildlife Committee (Mr. Dey)
- *Council Consideration of Resolution – Allow December Crossbow Use in a Portion of the UP:*  
**Mr. Dey** explained the resolution which read, “the EUPCAC respectfully requests the

*Michigan DNR recommend to the Natural Resources Commission that crossbow hunting be allowed in a portion of the UP that includes the boundary line south of US 2, between Escanaba and Iron Mountain, in December following the late archery deer season dates of December 1 through January 1.”*

- **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 January meeting. The WUPCAC passed the resolution by majority vote.
- Discussion ensued regarding various viewpoints of the issue.
- **Chair Buckingham** asked if the Council would agree to defer further action on this resolution due to meeting time constraints and the issue not being time-sensitive, and to allow the Council more time to review information on the topic. The Council agreed with no objections.

### 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. Next EUPCAC Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2024 beginning at 6:00pm in Manistique at the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Administration Building, Conference Rooms 1 & 2.

### 2. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- **Chair Buckingham** indicated suggestions for topics for the next meeting can be submitted to him, Ms. Haughey or Ms. Dahlstrom. Suggested topics will be discussed at a pre-meeting with the Chair and DNR staff.

### 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. Smith** explained the Fish Coop event held in Curtis recently. The event has been held for 7 years and this year 400 kids and 300 adults attended. Over \$20,000 in gifts and prizes were given out and there were fireworks afterwards. He thanked the DNR for helping with the fish. He also mentioned an event at the Three Lakes Academy on Thursday.

### Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Buckingham** thanked everyone for attending and for their extra time to cover all of the agenda items. He adjourned the meeting at 8:57pm Eastern.