

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2021**  
**6:00-8:30pm Eastern**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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

**Council Members Present**

Jarrold Biebel	AJ Downey	Robert Liebermann
Tom Buckingham	Kyle Edwards	Tom Paquin
Olivia Castles	Gary Gorniak	Mark Spencer
Ken Collier	Tim Hass	Jack Thomas
Jeff Cox	Bernie Hubbard	Julie Timmer
Grant Dewitt	Travis Kangas	Tony Wright

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Kevin Erickson	Al Garavaglia
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**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons & Guests**

Bob Burnham, Forest Resources Division, Marquette  
Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette  
Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails/PRD, Newberry  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry  
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette  
Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Division, Sault Ste. Marie  
Dan Kennedy, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Ken Kesson, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Cody Norton, Wildlife Division, Marquette

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting on April 22, 2021 was called to order by Chair Buckingham at 6:00pm. He welcomed everyone in attendance (36 total). **Ms. Haughey**, DNR UP Field Deputy, indicated the meeting will be guided with a powerpoint presentation and reviewed a slide with virtual meeting tips. She provided an overview of the Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils (East and West), which are advisory groups to the DNR, and referenced the Council's website at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac) for more information. She displayed a listing of guests who registered to attend the meeting and welcomed them.

**Chair Buckingham** reminded public attendees about the public comment portions of the agenda and to hold comment until those times. He asked Ms. Dahlstrom to read off the names of all those attending virtually and by phone.

**New Member Introductions**

**Ms. Haughey** welcomed five new members to the Council. She explained when openings occur, a press release is initiated to solicit applications and the CAC Selection Team, made up of citizens and DNR staff, meet to consider applications received based on a variety of factors (interest, group representation, UP

county of residence, etc.). She noted it is often questioned whether those who permanently reside in the lower peninsula and have a camp in the UP can apply to be a Council member; however, Council bylaws indicate Council members must be a permanent UP resident to apply/serve. Several applications were received this year from well qualified individuals and the five new members were congratulated: **Ms. Julie Timmer** of Sault Ste. Marie, **Mr. Kyle Edwards** of McMillan, **Mr. Jerry Biebel** of AuTrain, **Mr. Robert Liebermann** of Newberry and **Ms. Olivia Castles** of Newberry. **Chair Buckingham** welcomed the new members and stated he appreciates them getting involved and being a part of the Council.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

**Chair Buckingham** stated he would like to move Mr. Dropps' public comment to the first comment section on the agenda (from the second section) and asked the Council if there were any further corrections or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Secretary Thomas motioned to adopt the agenda as amended; Mr. Downey supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Buckingham** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the February 9, 2021 EUPCAC meeting minutes, which were emailed to the Council previously; none were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Cox supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

### **Chair Comments**

**Chair Buckingham** indicated the wolf situation in the eastern UP is extremely critical and the public is heavily focused on a need to have something done to manage them, as evidenced by phone calls being received by some Council members and conversations by local residents on a daily basis. He feels it's a subject that needs to be addressed by the Council in order to help the folks the Council represents get answers.

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

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for public comment by Mr. Dropps.

1. *Mr. Floyd Dropps (WUPCAC) – DNR Inland Walleye Management Plan:* Mr. Dropps spoke about the resolution passed by the Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council (WUPCAC) at its March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding several suggestions/comments the Fisheries Committee of the WUPCAC would like to see incorporated into the draft inland walleye management plan. A copy was sent to the EUPCAC last week for their review. He briefly summarized they would like to see the plan include an increase in the amount spent on walleye rearing, increase the number of fingerlings, and increase stocking. He also spoke about a second resolution that the WUPCAC passed regarding a recommendation to oppose underwater spearing of game fish and urge the DNR not to allow this method of game fish harvest. He stated the WUPCAC Fisheries Committee feels the taking of game fish needs to be conducted in a manner that allows for fair catch. Only methods that will not have the potential to adversely affect the population dynamics of the fishery should be employed. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he recommends the EUPCAC support both resolutions. **Chair Buckingham** stated he would like to continue with the agenda and consider any resolutions during the Fisheries Subcommittee Reports.

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

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on April 15, 2021. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy: **Ms. Haughey** stated she did not have anything additional to report.
2. Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Kovacs** noted the smelt run was relatively light and very short this year with some opportunity for smelt dippers on the Tahquamenon River and Roxbury Creek.
3. Bob Burnham, Forest Resources Division: **Mr. Burnham** stated he did not have anything to add to his written report.
4. Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division: **Lt. Hagy** stated officers statewide are progressing with background investigations on new potential recruits. He noted there are six pre-certified officers so far, meaning they are state certified officers and do not need to attend a police academy. The goal will be to hire 25 new officers statewide and they are on schedule to have new recruits hired and through the Academy by the end of summer. There will be a separate shortened Conservation Officer Academy all new officers will need to go through.
5. Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Cowing** provided a verbal report in lieu of a written report. He stated staff has been busy with interviews for the summer hiring season, with several new staff going through orientation and getting familiar with Covid-19 protocol. Three new ranger positions were hired for Lime Island and two at the Newberry field office, and interviews for the supervisor positions at Indian Lake State Park and Newberry field office are completed and final approvals are expected soon. Several capital outlay projects are occurring this summer and are in various stages of design and/or construction. They include: a new toilet shower building at Straits State Park, Indian Lake State Park and Mackinac Island harbor, replacement of all three toilet shower buildings at Brimley State Park, replacement of the store and restroom at Tahquamenon Falls State Park, improvements at the Lime Island dock and toilet shower building replacement, and parking lot and drain field improvements at Palms Book State Park. With the lack of snow and warm spring weather, staff are already seeing a lot of customers arriving and using the facilities as parks open. **Mr. Gorniak** asked why the boat launch position at Brevort Lake was changed from the center position, which would allow two boats to launch at the same time, to one side, allowing only one boat to launch at a time. **Mr. Cowing** stated he will investigate and get back to him. **Mr. Spencer** asked about the status of the equestrian campground at Little Brevort Lake. **Mr. Cowing** stated that the pandemic interfered with progress last year, so work is being planned for this year. He added there may be funding for a future well and toilet at that location as well.
6. Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails-Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Gaberdiel** concurred with **Mr. Cowing** regarding the equestrian campground, noting he applied for a grant requesting additional funds to add amenities for the campground. He highlighted the increases in snowmobile and ORV license sales from 2019 to 2020 and then to date in 2021. ORV license sales increased from 249,385 (2019) to 287,086 (2020). Snowmobile permit sales increased from 196,796 (2019) to 231,788 (2020). That trend continued into 2021, with increases seen in just 3 months of 2021 compared to total year sales in 2020: ORV licenses increased 107%, ORV trail use permits increased 120%, and snowmobile permits increased 10.8%. By those indications, it looks to be a banner year for usage. He stated the last time numbers were this high was in 2010 or 2011. **Mr. Paquin** asked about grooming on the trails

in the Straits area this winter as he didn't see much done. **Mr. Gaberdiel** stated he will check and respond back to **Mr. Paquin**. He also mentioned the Jeep the Mac event is this weekend, crossing the Mackinac Bridge and going to Drummond Island.

7. *Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Division:* **Mr. Jentoft** stated \$100,000 in Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement grants were recently awarded. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the grant program and 16 applications were submitted requesting a total of \$157,000. Projects funded included hunter walking trails, wildlife opening creation, planting and improvements and soft and hard mass tree plantings. A press release will be issued soon with more details. **Mr. Gorniak** asked about a mention in the division report regarding staff surveying for deer wintering activity. **Mr. Jentoft** stated staff survey where they are seeing deer activity in a given winter. They are not looking at deer numbers, but rather the location of where deer are gathering in the winter. Results will be helpful for future reviews of deer wintering complexes.

### **Old Business**

1. *Chronic Wasting Disease Updates:* **Mr. Jentoft** referred to a slide onscreen, reporting 316 deer were tested through March 26, 2021 statewide. Only two of these were from the UP in Baraga and Menominee Counties. He stated it is very early in the year for testing and there will be much more as the year progresses. Over 82,500 deer were tested statewide in 2020.
2. *DNR Response to EUPCAC December Resolution re: Revisions to Wolf Management Plan:* **Chair Buckingham** acknowledged receipt of the DNR's response to the Council's December resolution regarding revisions needed in the wolf management plan, which was emailed to Council members when it was received. **Ms. Haughey** displayed a copy of the response onscreen. **Chair Buckingham** asked if the Council had any questions or comments.
  - **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated references are being made to the 2015 wolf management plan; however, that plan is outdated. A lot has happened in six years. He said waiting until the lawsuit situation is more permanently settled is a delaying tactic. Things need to move forward now. He stated when SB 1187, the sound scientific wildlife management bill, was passed, it did not indicate a public attitude survey, which the DNR indicates needs to be done, has anything to do with sound scientific management. He feels there isn't recognition by the DNR that there is a problem with wolves in the UP. He stated he's been talking to the DNR for two years trying to get the plan updated and nothing has happened. He stated he is very disappointed no one from a UP sportsmen's group was appointed to the Wolf Management Advisory Council. He is also disappointed on how slow the group is moving to get organized and schedule meetings. He said he cannot stress the urgency of this problem enough.
  - **Mr. Kennedy** responded to **Mr. Gorniak's** comment on the public attitude survey, stating when the original wolf management plan was developed in 1997, a survey was done then, and it was important information for the DNR to have in managing wolves. **Mr. Norton** added the public attitude survey is begin conducted by a researcher at Michigan State University. It is a social science survey which helps management understand how people feel in different regions of the state and how different stakeholders feel.
  - **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated public attitude surveys are not done for other wildlife species and shouldn't be done in this case as well. He spoke about getting constant calls from upset people that something isn't being done and of deer feeding areas being down in numbers considerably due to wolves killing deer. He indicated he'd like the DNR to admit there is a problem. He offered to sit down with and go over his information and numbers.

- **Chair Buckingham** stated he spoke with Senator Casperson years ago about the meaning of the sound scientific management bill and it was based on people wanting scientific management applied and not to have wildlife socially managed. He noted there has been an insurmountable amount of interaction and input from people across the UP and as the purpose of the Council is to advise the DNR on public issues, he indicated through this mechanism, the issues have been brought forward and it is time to address the problem. He stated people are very unhappy at the lack of response and he feels some are taking matters into their own hands. He applied a red light/green light analogy to the issue and asked for consideration of and/or action on the public's input.
- **Ms. Haughey** stated she understands the frustration that has been voiced and indicated the DNR is equally as frustrated with the legal process. She stated documentation shows only six wolf conflicts in the last three years. Wisconsin by comparison is around 137 documented cases. She encouraged the reporting of any conflicts or incidences to DNR staff/offices to have them documented and that everyone should be working towards that goal. Those numbers are needed. **Mr. Gorniak** mentioned the informal survey done by his sportsman's club and the reports of what people are seeing were mentioned multiple times. **Ms. Haughey** noted that social media posts are not the medium decision makers need for accurate reporting. She also displayed on screen the opportunities for public engagement that have occurred or are scheduled (NRC meetings, CAC meetings, etc.).
- **Chair Buckingham** added people are bringing their concerns to Council members because they are trusted. He feels there is a great distrust in the public at this time because they feel they are not being listened to.
- **Mr. Hass** relayed his concerns and disappointment in the reaction and response from the DNR, citing the desire to wait until lawsuits are settled is unrealistic.
- **Mr. Wright** suggested the inclusion and evaluation of what western states are doing to manage wolves into the DNR's wolf management plan. He also suggested including a variety of alternatives similar to the NEPA process the federal government uses, such as wolves managing their own numbers and hunting and trapping with various methods and targets. If the plan were all-inclusive with a variety of situational information, there would be no need for revisions, and action could take place immediately when able to do so. He asked if there was any regulation or legislation that would prevent adding detailed actions into the plan. **Mr. Norton** stated the plan is written at a strategic level, just like all other wildlife management plans, which provides overarching guidance for management. Harvest options, biological, social, and economic impacts are written into a Natural Resources Commission memo for the commissioners to review data and make a decision. He described what data the public attitude survey includes, such as different levels of wolf densities, livestock depredations, satisfaction, etc. The survey will be divided by the UP, northern lower Michigan and southern lower Michigan and there will be targeted subgroups, such as deer hunters, etc.
- **Mr. Paquin** stated when speaking of the DNR, local staff shouldn't be criticized as they are just doing their job and they attend these meetings to assist the public. He suggested the Council request attendance by the Director to listen to concerns.
- **Mr. Liebermann** spoke about his work with the Forest Service as a professional ecologist as well as his knowledge about wolves and feels the idea that wolves are decimating the deer population may be exaggerated. He stated he is in favor of a more balanced ecology and predators are a big part of that. **Chair Buckingham** thanked him for his opinion indicating these conversations will provide an equal education from all sides. He said personally, he doesn't feel wolves should be eradicated but instead relocated. The loss of deer due to wolves has affected camp and land

values in the eastern UP, and without hunters, the economic losses are high. Comparisons were made if wolves were in the Pigeon Forest where elk are located and what occurred on Isle Royale.

- **Secretary Thomas** noted the passion that **Chair Buckingham** and **Vice Chair Gorniak** have had for the issue. He asked for clarification when the Council members have someone coming to them, what their role should be, whether to respond or to refer them to a DNR staff member. A reference was made to a meeting held in Newberry last year to discuss wolves. **Ms. Haughey** stated many in attendance at that meeting indicated they were not aware of the CAC meetings held in their area every 60 days. Council members are an excellent advocate to encourage attendance and public comment at all CAC meetings. She indicated wolves have been a topic on the EUPCAC agenda 27 times over the years and was a standing agenda item for several years, so there is ample opportunity for the public to receive updates on the topic or provide comment. She added Council members are not asked to discuss DNR issues on behalf of DNR staff and should feel comfortable referring anyone to staff for follow-up at any time. Council members should also encourage the proper reporting of depredations to DNR staff if they become aware of any, and she stressed the need to gather those numbers. She stated Mr. Dick Pershinske, former EUPCAC chairman, was a member of the first wolf management advisory team and has profound insight on the issue. He was chosen as a UP representative on the new council and is a member of the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club and thereby is representing a UP sportsmen's group. She encouraged members to read through the current wolf management plan.

**Mr. Norton** reviewed the process for reporting livestock depredations as well as any dog depredations, which are listed online so that hunters know the locations of documented cases.

**Ms. Haughey** stated it is important to document wolf interactions. **Mr. Gorniak** stated the concerns by hunters are with the number of deer being killed by wolves and asked if there is a mechanism in place to document deer depredation. **Mr. Norton** explained that predator predation on deer has been studied and documented through the Michigan predatory prey study as well as the deer movement study. Millions of dollars of staff time and equipment have been spent on determining the predator impact on deer in the UP. Other surveys, such as the one **Mr. Jentoft** mentioned earlier about deer wintering complexes, spring fawn-to-adult deer surveys, deer camp surveys, registration stations—all these surveys help biologists to understand what is happening with the deer population and what the impacts are from different predators and mortality sources. **Mr. Gorniak** stated the deer population in the eastern UP is not thriving and the public feels nothing is being done about it.

**Chair Buckingham** interjected stating this topic is a highly emotional one and everyone must work through this in partnership with the DNR, let staff know what is being heard, and be a part of the solution. He stated it is unfortunate that those in the public do not want to talk to the DNR and would rather talk to a Council member, but it is important to respect everyone's opinion. **Mr. Hubbard** responded to **Mr. Gorniak's** comment about deer not thriving in the UP, stating it is a matter of location in the UP as in some parts, the deer herd is above thriving. He feels social science plays a major factor with this issue and creating a balance with biological science will be key.

**Mr. Kennedy** stated he appreciated the comment about this being an emotional issue and indicated he really liked the red light/green light analogy and feels it is an accurate way of depicting what has happened with this issue. The DNR sent a letter supporting the delisting of wolves, and then once they were delisted, there was a barrage of lawsuits which is frustrating. He

said the DNR is asking folks to be patient, so that when the green light is given on all fronts, the DNR can move forward and conduct the scientific management of wolves that the public is asking for. He looks forward to working together and helping each other get through this.

**Mr. Downey** asked what the status is on the Michigan State University public survey on wolves, what the expected timeline is for completion and who it will be implemented by. **Mr. Norton** indicated MSU will begin sending out surveys once final approval is given. The final report is expected sometime in September 2021. He said there is a contractor who provides contact information and researchers at MSU developed the questions with input from the DNR.

### **New Business**

1. **Sandhill Cranes:** **Ms. Haughey** provided a brief historical perspective of discussion on this topic from past EUPCAC meetings and displayed a DNR response letter to a resolution that was passed by the EUPCAC in December 2011 in which the Council asked the DNR to be a lead advocate in an effort to establish sandhill cranes as a game species and open an initial hunting season. The DNR's response indicated such a change would require action of the Legislature. This still holds true.

**Mr. Jentoft** began by answering the questions that **Mr. Wright** had forwarded regarding sandhill cranes:

- Does DNR support designation as a game species of Sandhill Cranes? The Administration does not have an official position on the Legislative resolution that was presented (this is usual practice).
- What is the extent of crop damage, and is Wildlife Services assisting those impacted? Wildlife Services is a division of the USDA, who issues the crane depredation permits, not the DNR. **Mr. Jentoft** provided some data on the increase or decrease of permits throughout the last few years, indicating the USFWS shares the number of cranes authorized for take under the permits, the number of permits issued, and the number of cranes killed under the permits. The USDA Wildlife Services is the agency to contact to obtain permits. If someone has damage from cranes, they can contact the DNR office and staff will put them in contact with USDA Wildlife Services.
- What are the USFWS guidelines available for seasons, bag limits, etc.? There is a management plan for the eastern population of sandhill cranes which includes a harvest strategy with guidelines. The fall survey estimate is above 30,000 cranes. It also provides coordination of harvest among the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways for sustainable, science-based harvest. The number of permits allowed in their distribution are negotiated at the flyway. Since the endorsement of the management plan, three states have initiated an eastern population sandhill crane hunting season—Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.
- Is a strategy of population reduction through hunting a realistic way to address damage issues? This is a tougher question to answer. If sandhill crane numbers were lower, there would still be regional crop damage issues. Also, depredation permits are used in the spring and summer, and the fall hunting season would likely target more migratory birds and not necessarily those causing agricultural damage in Michigan. A summer hunt is not possible under the federal framework.
- Alternatively, can hunts be held to address specific problems where and when they occur? The federal framework does not allow for a spring or summer hunt when damage mostly occurs (a hunt cannot begin before September 1). Also, the USFWS would have to approve a sandhill crane plan for Michigan before there could be a season and that would entail going through the flyway process to negotiate permit allocation with other states that have a hunt season for the eastern population.

**Mr. Wright** thanked **Mr. Jentoft** for answering his questions. **Secretary Thomas** stated he looked up the migration online and was surprised to hear the three states with a hunting season as the online reference didn't show a flyway pattern to those states.

2. *Celebrating 100 Years of the DNR*: **Ms. Haughey** stated the DNR is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. The DNR was created on March 30, 1921. She noted a large collection of historical information is included on the website at [www.michigan.gov/DNRCentennial](http://www.michigan.gov/DNRCentennial), including a listing of 100 different things to do to celebrate and a good selection of old photos of historical events, such as the moose lift in 1985, a fish planting in 1966, and the establishment of the first snowmobile trails in 1967. A radio interview by the Director, a press release and other interesting facts are also included. **Ms. Haughey** stated she encourages everyone to celebrate the past and the future with the DNR. **Mr. Liebermann** stated he enjoyed reading the former Michigan Natural Resources magazine that used to be published. It included hunting, fishing and forestry stories and was a really good resource. Libraries usually have copies to read if interested.
3. *Resource Damage Due to Spring ORV Operation*: **Mr. Gaberdiel** discussed a trail issue that has gained popularity in the spring and displayed two pictures showing damage to snowmobile and other trails from ORV operation during spring thaw, which creates large mud/water holes and sometimes impassable areas on trails. He stated significant funding is used to upgrade trails for users and this type of activity can destroy all the work that had been accomplished.
4. *Additional Agenda Items Added by Council*: **Chair Buckingham** stated no additional items were added.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

1. *Fisheries Subcommittee Report*: **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he supports the two resolutions that Mr. Dropps presented earlier under public comment, one of which encourages the DNR to increase their stocking efforts in the UP. He recommends the EUPCAC support the resolution to provide backing for the WUPCAC as well as the UP Sportsman's Alliance who also supports them. **Chair Buckingham** asked the Council if they wish to proceed with a resolution; the Council agreed. **Secretary Thomas motioned to support the WUPCAC's recommendation to incorporate suggestions into the draft inland walleye management plan; Mr. Spencer supported the motion.** Discussion: **Secretary Thomas** asked for feedback from Mr. Kovacs. **Mr. Kovacs** spoke about cost of rearing walleyes compared to other species, stocking requests compared to the west UP, management prescriptions, as well as partnerships with the Sault Tribe rearing ponds and the Straits Area Sportsman's Club financial support. He added the new ponds at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery will be help greatly with walleye rearing. **Chair Buckingham called for an online poll vote: Ayes: 13 (81%). Nays: 3 (19%). Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

**Vice Chair Gorniak** discussed the WUPCAC's approved second resolution to oppose underwater spearing of game fish and urge the DNR not to allow this method of game fish harvest. **Chair Buckingham** asked the Council if they wish to proceed with a resolution; the Council agreed. **Vice Chair Gorniak motioned to support the WUPCAC's recommendation to oppose underwater spearfishing of game fish resolution; Secretary Thomas supported the motion.** Discussion: None. **Chair Buckingham called for an online poll vote: Ayes: 14 (82%). Nays: 3 (18%). Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.** *Mr. Kovacs was having technical difficulties and could not comment before the vote, but later asked the Council to review the proposal from spear fishers for a clear interpretation.*

1. Policy Impact Subcommittee Report: **Mr. Hass** stated no items have been submitted for review.

### **Next Meeting**

1. Next EUPCAC Meeting: **Chair Buckingham** indicated the next meeting of the EUPCAC will be on **Thursday, June 17, 2021** at 6:00pm and held virtually via Zoom as state employees are still in telework status through July (at this time).
2. Items for Next Meeting Agenda: **Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for suggestions on agenda topics for the next meeting; none were immediately brought forth. He stated if there are any items of interest for the next agenda, please email them to him, Ms. Haughey or Ms. Dahlstrom.

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

**Chair Buckingham** opened the floor for additional public comments.

1. *Mr. David Cords, Paradise*: Mr. Cords was unable to attend after registering. **Ms. Haughey** addressed Mr. Cords concern regarding those who do not permanently reside in the UP not being able to apply to become a Council member earlier in the meeting.
2. *Mr. Terry Schaedig, Pickford*: Mr. Schaedig was unable to attend after registering. **Mr. Jentoft** indicated he will contact Mr. Schaedig regarding his concerns regarding an overpopulation of deer and impact on wildlife habitat and other species, and regeneration.
3. *Mr. Floyd Dropps, WUPCAC*: Mr. Dropps' topic was covered in the earlier public comment period.

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

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

1. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he ran into an issue with the cormorant program that caused confusion with the depredation permit. He called **Ms. Haughey** and she promptly obtained the information his group needed to know. He thanked everyone for their hard work on this matter. **Ms. Haughey** thanked him for the phone call and giving her the opportunity to dig a little deeper into the situation, as well as for all the work he does for cormorant control.
2. **Secretary Thomas** stated he appreciates all the DNR employees for taking time to attend Council meetings and being candid and professional in providing information. He added he also appreciates that staff listen to Council members' perspectives.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Buckingham** thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm Eastern.