

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
6:00-8:30pm Eastern
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Chair: Tom Buckingham Vice-Chair: Gary Gorniak Secretary: Jack Thomas

Council Members Present

Jarrold Biebel	Gary Gorniak	Robert Liebermann
Ken Collier	Tim Hass	Tom Paquin
Kyle Edwards	Bernie Hubbard	Julie Weist
Al Garavaglia	Travis Kangas	Tony Wright

Council Members Excused/Absent

Tom Buckingham	Grant Dewitt	Mark Spencer
Olivia Castles	AJ Downey	Jack Thomas
Jeff Cox	Kevin Erickson	

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons & Guests

Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
CO Andrea Dani, Law Enforcement Division, Eastern UP
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Kristen Matson, Forest Resources Division, Newberry
Bill Scullon, Wildlife Division, Norway
Karen Sexton, Wildlife Division, Escanaba
Heather Shaw, Wildlife Division, Shingleton
Tom Weston, Marketing & Outreach Division-Licensing, Lansing
CO Mark Zitnik, Law Enforcement Division, Eastern UP
Michelle Zellar, Facilities & Operation Division, Newberry

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council meeting was called to order by **Vice Chair Gary Gorniak**, on behalf of Chair Buckingham, on August 10, 2021, at 6:00pm. **Vice Chair Gorniak** welcomed everyone in attendance (approximately 30 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 designed to help identify how the DNR can be more effective and responsive. She indicated the DNR is very appreciative of the relationship with Council members. The Council's website at www.michigan.gov/upcac is available for more information. She displayed a listing of guests who registered to attend the meeting and welcomed them, including legislative representatives, DNR staff and members of the media.

Vice Chair Gorniak asked Ms. Dahlstrom to read off the names of all those attending virtually and by phone. A listing of current Council members was also displayed on screen.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chair Gorniak asked the Council if there were any further corrections or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Ms. Weist motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Garavaglia supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Gorniak asked the Council if there were any corrections to the June 17, 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. Biebel supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

Vice Chair Comments

Vice Chair Gorniak indicated over the past nine months, he has talked about wolf management in the UP and he also spoke at the Wolf Management Advisory Council meeting last week. He stated there is a serious disconnect between the DNR and UP sportsmen on the issue, and he'd like to see both the DNR and UP sportsmen and women sharing information each other as there is too much misinformation and not enough correct information being passed around. He noted at the wolf meeting last week, the sportsmen were using 695 as the average number of wolves in the UP; however, it is not an average but rather the rock bottom number of wolves in the UP that the DNR had to report to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He stated everyone keeps using that number as the official number of wolves in the UP and it's not correct. The high average needs to be used to understand the true effects of a problem. He indicated he's heard the DNR will be changing methods to calculate wolves in the similar to how Wisconsin does it, which will be helpful. He stated the UP sportsmen and women stand ready to work with the DNR to resolve this issue. Wildlife, waters, and forests are the jewels of the UP and we must work together to them all shine once again. **Ms. Haughey** thanked Vice Chair Gorniak for his comments and noted this topic will be addressed later on the agenda as well.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Vice Chair Gorniak opened the floor for public comment for those that pre-registered:

1. *Mr. David Cords of Livonia/Paradise (5 min) - Wolf Management Advisory Council and Deer:* Mr. Cords stated he agrees with Vice Chair Gorniak. He noted he livestreamed the entire Wolf Management Advisory Council meeting and it seemed to him that the meeting was more about procedural issues rather than how to solve the problem. He is spending many hours in the woods this year and is seeing less deer and more wolf tracks. He feels if the issue is not addressed, there will not be any deer left in the UP for sportsmen to hunt. He also spoke about the 2,000 doe permits allowed in the mid-section of the UP and how he believes it will be a very bad thing for the UP deer population. He said a lot of people disagreed with that decision and it seems like the DNR is not interested in what the sportsmen have to say. He is becoming more and more frustrated listening to these meetings and things not being done. He stated UP sportsmen are the ones in the woods every day and DNR needs to start taking this into account. The wolf problem is a big part of the issue, and he feels it's wrong that there will be no wolf hunt this year. **Vice Chair Gorniak** thanked Mr. Cords for his comments.

2. *Mr. Steven Dey of Moran (5 min) – Wolves:* Mr. Dey stated he is a member of the board of directors of the Straits Area Sportsman's Club of St. Ignace. He referenced the recent Wolf Management Advisory Council meeting and the public comment by a former DNR and large carnivore specialist who made comments and accusations regarding the altering of wolf survey numbers and intimidation. He stated many have questioned the number reported in DNR wolf surveys for some time. He said the last wolf survey reported an increase of 33 wolves in the previous two-year period. With the number of wolves on the landscape and the number of pups born each year, it's hard to believe that there would be an increase of only 33 wolves in two years. He stated he is a supporter of the DNR and he is frustrated to see what's happening with the credibility and reputation of the DNR with men and women of the outdoors in the UP and across the state and the recent public comment did not help. Having had similar experiences in his working career, he suggested having an independent audit of past wolf surveys with a member of the EUPCAC, WUPCAC, and UPSA appointed as advisors to report back to citizens and hunters. Any staff involved in past surveys should be reassigned during the audit. He said many had little faith about past wolf survey methods and revamping how they are conducted would be prudent. The DNR should begin discussions with Wisconsin and Minnesota about developing one method to survey wolves in the mid-western region. He stated he believes transparency is important in these instances.

3. *Mr. George Lindquist of Marquette/WUPCAC (3 min) - Wolf Management Advisory Council:* Mr. George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette County, stated he echoes what Vice Chair Gorniak and Mr. Dye have said about wolf populations. Wolf surveys used a minimum confidence limit since the 2000's in establishing the goals of 200 wolves the state required for delisting. He believes it's time to use the actual population limit instead. He also addressed Mr. Cords' comments regarding deer, stating he provided a handout at the Wolf Management Advisory Council meeting indicating in 2003, hunters took 62,000 deer in the UP. Since 2019, it's been under 30,000, less than half. In 2003, car/deer accidents were 8,600 and in 2019, it's just over 3,400. He stated multiple indicators are saying the same thing. He also noted according to the predator prey study, wolves are the primary factor in adult doe and fawn survival. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he spoke to someone who indicated the next wolf survey methodology may be switching to an occupancy rate, which is what Wisconsin uses, and would be more of an average number.

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on August 3, 2021. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. *Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy:* **Ms. Haughey** addressed the public comments regarding the wolf population study and numbers. She stated wolf count methodology has been a previous topic at CAC meetings and she believes it would be an important topic to provide again because it is timely and very interesting. She indicated the DNR stands behind the integrity of reported numbers. There are outside entities that look at data scientifically, such as Michigan Tech. There is a system of checks and balances, and the DNR stands by how that process works. She stated it is unfortunate that a past employee took a public forum to talk about one side of one specific wolf pack; it was one version of a larger picture. She stated a presentation and discussion on the DNR's wolf count methodology is a definite need. She noted not every biologist agrees on every decision, which is part of the checks and balances process. She stated the DNR welcomes the discussion, and the CACs deserve to understand the process.

Mr. Don Bailey of McMillan Township stated he appreciated Ms. Haughey's comments and clarification. He asked if the reason why the numbers are accurate regarding the wolf population calculation is because the majority of the population that has grown over the past several years is actually a hybrid and the DNR is only counting wolves that are purebred. **Ms. Haughey** stated this question can best be answered by wildlife staff when there is a full presentation on how the numbers are calculated. She stated she would be happy to talk with him further about this topic. She thanked everyone for bringing up the issue. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated the number of 695 wolves is the rock bottom number; there could be as many as 1,400 wolves. He indicated there was a requirement by the USF&W when wolves were listed in which the DNR had to provide the guaranteed rock bottom number of wolves and that's where 695 derives from; it's not the actual population number. **Ms. Haughey** agreed it is the minimum number reported and that's how it's been stated. She stated if the Council prefers, she could add this topic to the next meeting agenda; the Council agreed.

2. *Michelle Zellar, Facilities & Operations Division:* **Ms. Zellar** added DNR customer service centers in the UP are open Tuesdays through Thursdays. Plexiglass is being installed in the common areas and staff are very happy to be back in their offices.
3. *Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division:* **Mr. Kovacs** indicated he did not have anything additional to add to the fisheries report. **Vice Chair Gorniak** asked if the division is happy with the number of walleye fingerlings they got this year in the eastern UP. **Mr. Kovacs** stated several ponds performed nicely with some at 80-90% success and overall, fisheries crews are happy with the results this year.
4. *Kristen Matson, Forest Resources Division:* **Ms. Matson** noted she is currently the acting district manager for the eastern UP. She worked in the eastern UP for 25 years and then the last two years she has worked in Gwinn. She will be covering this role for the next 3-4 months at which time a permanent district manager should be appointed. She noted the division has several staff in acting positions, allowing employees to get experience in other roles before they are filled permanently. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated the UPSA has been trying to get the DNR to stop harvesting cedar and hemlock on state forest lands and CFA lands. He spoke to Mr. Stu Boren a couple weeks ago and it is still ongoing. He asked why it's still being cut when it's so beneficial for wildlife. **Ms. Haughey** indicated Mr. Boren spoke with the Deputy Director about this project and he referenced a specific location on CFA land, which the state does not have authority over since it is private land. She'd be happy to get in contact with him. **Ms. Matson** added the amount of cedar and hemlock cut on state land is a very low percentage compared to other cuttings, and the division is conducting research on those timber types.
5. *Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division:* **Lt. Hagy** mentioned the recent press releases about life-saving events and rescues by officers which have been keeping them very busy. He briefly reviewed two cases and stressed the importance of knowing the wilderness area and having some experience if recreating on land or in water as it can utilize a lot of man hours and resources to conduct a rescue and/or search and hopefully the end result is a positive one. He also stressed life-jacket safety. He stated it has been a busy season for fishing and boating. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated the officers always do a good job; he ran into a few of them, and he's always impressed. **Lt. Hagy** thanked him for the compliment. **Mr. Hass** asked what Lt. Hagy's position is on the legislation recently introduced regarding conservation officers wearing body cameras. **Lt. Hagy** stated the Law Division does have a

pilot program in place on Belle Isle to trial using body cameras. However, he added there are several different components to the issue, such as data storage due to a long retention period, and a cost of \$3.3 million to implement a program due to equipment and additional staff to man and answer FOIAs. He noted the bill only lists conservation officers and not all law enforcement officers, does not provide clarification on who has to wear one when (such as in meetings), doesn't address state computer firewalls and security systems, does not provide additional funding, and requires a very short implementation timeline, for example. The pilot program will help determine how such a program would work with conservation officers. **Mr. Hass** stated his concern was with protecting the CO's in the field and supporting what the division felt was needed through a Council resolution if it becomes necessary. **Lt. Hagy** stated he appreciated the feedback and indicated the officers have good relationships with Council members and have found them very supportive. He noted that body recorders are a common item that officers wear to record contacts (without video) so there are other options. He added a new officer will be coming to Chippewa County after his field training process. Later on in the meeting, **Lt. Hagy** shared that one of law's valuable assets in Alger County, Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, retired July 31. Officer Steve Butzkin will be acting in the sergeant position.

6. *Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division:* **Mr. Cowing** echoed Lt. Hagy's comments regarding the very busy summer. The parks will be losing some of their staff due to school, so the parks will be maintaining essential services through the remainder of the season. **Vice Chair Gorniak** asked how this year compared to previous years for usage. **Mr. Cowing** stated reservations are up about 30% from last year, which was a record year by itself. State forest campgrounds were up 50% compared to last year and the Eastern UP was the top revenue producing district in the state for state forest campground revenue. Tahquamenon Falls was actually the top revenue producing park in the entire state last year. The overflow seen last year from all the people who couldn't get a campsite and were parking on the sides of roads or dispersed camping in the forest was a little better this year, but the campgrounds have still been very full.
7. *Heather Shaw, Wildlife Division:* **Ms. Shaw** introduced herself as the new wildlife biologist for the Shingleton management unit based out of the Shingleton field office. She began four months ago and looks forward to developing relationships with the EUPCAC. She stated as indicated in her report, staff are eager to get back into normal operations and the spring and summer have been very busy seasons for all wildlife staff. She stated she is a passionate bird hunter and welcomes the sharing of any experiences of grouse adventures with her from the east UP.

Old Business

1. *Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC) Update:* **Ms. Haughey** indicated, in response to one of the earlier public comments, the WMAC did spend some time at their first meeting conducting items of business such as establishing bylaws, housekeeping rules, meeting frequency and location, etc. which is a routine function for legislatively mandated councils. She understands that attendees were anxious to get to the public comment portion and may not have understood the need to accomplish those parameters first. She also responded to a few items that came up during the public comment portion of the WMAC that folks may not be aware are already available on the DNR website:
 - Wolf/dog conflicts reported to the DNR and confirmed are highlighted on an interactive map https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_79218_79619-287524--,00.html. Suggestions for dog owners are also listed.

- Reporting of wolf interactions and depredations is highly encouraged. The Eye in the Field wolf observation form is on the website: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/ors/Survey/9>. The WMAC is planning to address how reporting interactions and/or depredations can be more streamlined.
- Also questioned was the legality of lethal control of wolves. There is a section on the website that was uploaded in January 2021 when the delisting at the federal level took effect. It lists different sets of requirements for lethal control of wolves that are in the act of killing or wounding livestock or dogs. https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_79218_79619-549117--,00.html. If a person finds themselves in this situation, they are asked to contact the DNR RAP line as soon as possible. As discussed in several past meetings, there have been only six cases per year documented in the last three years and it's important to get this information reported.

Ms. Haughey stated the DNR hears those providing public comment loud and clear and good points have been brought forward. She indicated this will continue to be an agenda topic and if there are any questions, please let staff know. **Lt. Hagy** added that if someone finds themselves in a lethal control situation, to please call right way, do not disturb the scene and let officers get there to assess the situation. **Ms. Haughey** noted that as Vice Chair Gorniak mentioned previously, there are some things the DNR could do better in communicating and staff are working to improve and making sure information gets out to the public. **Lt. Hagy** also spoke about Ms. Sitar, wildlife biologist in Newberry who was mentioned during the WMAC public comments, stating he has worked with her for over 10 years and she is not a protectionist and has been very supportive with all depredation issues. He stated staff are supportive of a season and wish to proceed in a thoughtful and scientific manner and he is hopeful everyone can work together to achieve that.

Mr. Garavaglia stated it seems to him that the DNR's hands are tied by the Feds and they are not letting the DNR have a season; it is frustrating and seems unfair. **Ms. Haughey** stated decisions in that nature, with the wolves delisted, would come from the Natural Resources Commission and/or the legislature. Wisconsin has a law that requires a season if there is a federal delisting and that's different than Michigan. She indicated there are several active lawsuits related to wolf management and there are different statutory obligations and parameters the DNR has to work through. Another question at the WMAC public comment related to the Attorney General's role and a brief she filed in California. The Attorney General is a separate division and is in no way affiliated with DNR. **Mr. Biebel** asked if there is a similar tracking mechanism for the number of livestock conflicts listed on the website. **Ms. Haughey** stated there is and will provide him with that information. **Mr. Biebel** asked Vice Chair Gorniak where his estimate of 1200 wolves came from. **Mr. Gorniak** explained he feels there is more activity that 695 wolves could possibly be doing and that his number is a field number and there is no actual science behind it. There are more wolves today on the landscape than there were eight years ago when the number was 600+, and despite pups being born each year, the number seems to remain in the 600's. **Mr. Biebel** stated he likes to look at both sides and appreciates the clarification and looks forward to talking more about it with Vice Chair Gorniak at another time.

2. Approval of Potential Revisions to EUPCAC Bylaws: **Ms. Haughey** indicated that another Council member has joined the meeting and there is now a forum to consider the approval of revisions to the EUPCAC bylaws. Potential revisions were presented to the Council at the June EUPCAC meeting with comments and suggestions encouraged by the end of July. She stated Mr. Hass provided several helpful suggestions that were implemented. A copy of the revised bylaws was shown on screen, and she reviewed the minor procedural changes that were made including the removal of references to

the Open Meetings Act since the Council is advisory and not established by statute. She asked the Council if they wish to proceed with a vote of approval or if more time is needed to review the revisions or make any further changes. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he felt the changes were basic and did not notice any issues to point out. He asked the Council for their thoughts. **Mr. Hass** stated in his view, the changes made were minor and did not see any major issues. He suggested moving forward with a vote. **Mr. Garavaglia** and **Mr. Hubbard** both agreed with Mr. Hass. **Mr. Paquin motioned to amend the EUPCAC bylaws with the presented changes; Mr. Liebermann supported the motion. An online poll vote was conducted with those present at the meeting. Support: 11, No Response: 1. Absent: see listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

New Business

1. **Summer Youth Program for Parks & Recreation:** **Mr. Cowing** provided a presentation on the DNR's partnership with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and the Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity (LEO), along with local schools or school districts, for a work-based learning program to provide students with disabilities access to paid work experiences. He stated Mr. Doug Rich in the western UP is the lead for this statewide program for the Parks and Recreation Division.
 - Students are between the ages of 14-18, have not yet graduated from high school, giving them the advantage to not only work, but work in a learning environment. The students provide assistance with state park projects while learning teamwork, accountability, and respect for their environment. It also provides opportunities for local communities to see the students in the workforce.
 - This is year 9 of the program. It originally started in Traverse City and grew to 48 sites across the state. With COVID, there are currently 29 sites with 174 students. This year, there are two locations in the eastern UP at Tahquamenon Falls and Brimley. In past years, there has been 3-4 eastern UP sites, including the Straights; however, some opted out due to COVID restrictions this year.
 - The program gives students diverse opportunities depending on their disability. They function as part of a bigger team, giving them greater exposure to the outdoors and allows them to connect with campers in the parks giving them greater social communication skills.
 - Match & Cost-Sharing: Each DNR site chips in \$2,495. LEO then leverages those dollars with a federal matching grant for up to \$9,200 per unit, totaling over \$11,000. For \$2,500 for 8 weeks, it is a good investment.
 - Return on Investment: The funding pays for the trainers who act as a job coach for these students (on a one-on-one basis). It is a great side job for teachers in the summer (\$15/hr). Students work for about two months and get paid minimum wage. It gives them their first job and first time handling money which is then used locally. It helps to expand diversity within the park system and enhances visitor experiences. It also helps add workers during peak periods.
 - Steps of the process were reviewed:
 - Step 1 - Initiating Communication: An MRS counselor and Mr. Rich meet to discuss the program and determine a site.
 - Step 2 - Planning Meeting with Partners: Items discussed include the number of students they can expect, when the experience will take place, determine projects/tasks for students, communicate program details, address any issues, inclement weather options, schedules, etc.
 - Step 3 - Assisting with Process: Meet with prospective students and their MRS counselor to assist with mimicking an actual employment hiring situation (if possible).

- Step 4 - Program Orientation & Safety Training: All DNR and MRS staff meet with parents and students together to review details and safety protocols.
 - Step 5 - Planning for Projects: Consideration of what projects could be completed during the experience, meet/plan with skills trainer, obtain tools/materials needed, provide PPE when needed, ensure other park staff can assist as needed.
 - Examples of Work Tasks: Examples include raking/cleaning beach debris, brushing/clearing hiking trails, cleaning parking lot islands, painting, picnic table repair, stewardship/invasive species work, putting out flags, putting up signs, assist with camper coffees, etc.
 - Team: MRS counselor, DNR supervisor, student, and skills trainer.
 - Timeline: The general timeline for the program includes confirmation in February/March, selection in April/May, administration in May/June, implementation in June/July/August, and conclusion in September/October.
 - Safe Work Activities: A chart providing guidelines of work activities permitted or not permitted by specific age groups and with supervision such as ladders, hand tools, motor vehicles, hazardous substances, etc.
 - Have Fun: It is important that students and staff have fun, to make this an excellent work experience for students so they want to come back. The parks have hired previous students to help during busy times.
 - Questions/Comments: **Mr. Paquin** stated this presentation is great and he worked in the DNR when this program first began. It's an outstanding program and the DNR is doing a great job promoting it. **Vice Chair Gorniak** thanked Mr. Cowing stating he did an excellent job explaining the program.
2. Antlerless Application Process: **Ms. Sexton** indicated there has been a few changes to antlerless permits and the process for this year. A three-tiered system was developed for the UP: south central UP, mid-zone UP (split into an east and west section) and northern UP. A colored map depicting these zones was shown. She explained the reasoning for creating these zones (snowfall regions, high mortality, deer per square miles, etc.) and provided license details for each (see page 60 in the 2021 Hunting Digest):
- Northern UP Zone (White Area): No antlerless hunting allowed.
 - Mid Zone DMUs 351 & 352 (Purple Area):
 - Apply for an Access Permit for \$5.00 for one of the DMUs (351 or 352) between July 15 and August 15. The drawing is finalized August 30.
 - 1,000 Access Permits will be available for each DMU (351 and 352)
 - If successful, purchase a Universal Antlerless License
 - If leftover Access Permits are available, more can be purchased (10 kill tags max). One Access Permit and one Universal Antlerless License must be purchased for each deer harvested.
 - Southern UP (Green Area): Antlerless hunting is allowed in this section. Purchase a Universal Antlerless License to hunt antlerless deer.

She provided background information as to why the changes occurred. She stated last year, the Director asked if there were ways the antlerless process statewide could be changed to increase opportunity, to remove barriers, to simplify regulations, without harming the resource/deer herd. She stated staff will continue to monitor harvests through both harvest reporting and the electronic registration system, which will help to understand to what extent the antlerless tags are being utilized. She also mentioned details are included on Page 60 of the hunting digests (also available

online) and an interactive DMU map is available online in which an address can be typed in and it will display what DMU it is in (<https://midnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a56c741486c44de88289804cd4a12777>).

Vice Chair Gorniak asked how the number of 1,000 for each of the two DMU's were decided since in the east UP, there are no population estimates done like in the west UP. **Ms. Sexton** replied she understands the desire to have a better understanding of a robust population number. She stated they believe less than 300 deer are likely to be harvested in those areas, and the percentage of hunters who choose to take a doe, even when they have a permit in hand, is even lower. The DNR believes it is very unlikely there will be an adverse effect to the population and is committed to managing a sustainable deer population. If harvest information is different than what was anticipated based on existing and projected data, the DNR is committed to being a learning and adaptive organization and will adjust if necessary. **Mr. Wright** suggested that in press releases about how the antlerless permit is good both on public and private land, it should be made clear that permission from the landowner is needed to hunt a doe on private land. **Ms. Sexton** thanked Mr. Wright for his comment.

3. *Additional Agenda Items Added by Council:* **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated no additional items were added.

Subcommittee Reports

1. *Fisheries Subcommittee Report:* **Vice Chair Gorniak** reported he continues to work on the cormorant issue. He stated Mr. Randy Claramunt gave a report at the last NRC meeting. He noted when the depredation permit was issued, there was no funding was connected to it and it had a very short timeline, so nothing happened this year for private individuals. Hopefully next year will have funding. He added one of the biggest changes in the program is to use more non-lethal methods and proving the need for it, which when in the field and seeing the devastation to the fisheries, it is clear there is a need. He asked if Wildlife Services did any work this year. **Mr. Kovacs** stated he spoke with the USDA and they were working on determining some of the locations they would be doing some control efforts, however, he is not sure if Mr. Claramunt had identified those yet for 2021. He added there will be a program instituted for 2022. He indicated he can provide the document to Vice Chair Gorniak, stating local managers were being asked what areas needed control. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated he wanted to know if anything was done this year, since everything came in last minute. He stated he is still seeing a lot of cormorants on St. Martin's Bay and the St. Mary's River. **Mr. Kovacs** replied he does believe harassment (cannon deterrent) did occur this year on the Manistique lakes and he would get back to him on any culling that may have occurred. **Ms. Shaw** added that wildlife is alerted when cormorant control occurs, and work was being done on the islands of Big Bay de Noc. She stated the report is not final yet and will share it with the Council once it is. **Lt. Hagy** noted that a gun control method was applied back in June on Goose Island in Lake Huron and there may have been others as well.
2. *Policy Impact Subcommittee Report:* **Mr. Hass** reported the committee did not have any activity to report. He stated he is thankful for Lt. Hagy expressing some of his thoughts on the body camera legislation.

Next Meeting

1. Next EUPCAC Meeting: **Vice Chair Gorniak** indicated the next meeting of the EUPCAC will be on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021**, at 6:00pm. Ms. Haughey stated it is anticipated the meeting can be held in-person. A decision on location will be made at a later time.
2. Items for Next Meeting Agenda: Ms. Haughey stated she has a list of follow-up items that include the wolf population study information, cedar update, and a cormorant update. She asked if there were any other suggestions. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if Category E funding, which is funding used for roads that are impacted by logging, could be addressed as it hasn't been raised since 1987. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated if there are any items of interest for the next agenda, please email them to Ms. Haughey or Ms. Dahlstrom.

Public Comments (Any Topic)

Vice Chair Gorniak opened the floor for additional public comments.

1. **Ms. Dahlstrom** spoke about the DNR Pocket Park at the UP State Fair August 16-22 and the need for volunteers. She thanked Council members Mr. Paquin and his wife and Mr. Wright for volunteering. She explained volunteers help children and adults learn some of the activities used in outdoor natural resource recreation such as fishing and shooting a bow or pellet gun. Anyone who would like to volunteer can contact her for more information. **Lt. Hagy** added conservation officers are a big part of the Pocket Park during fair week and encouraged people to volunteer if they can as it is a very rewarding experience. **Ms. Dahlstrom** stated visitors love talking with the CO's at the park and their time and efforts to be there are very appreciated.
2. **Lt. Hagy** mentioned officers are reporting a lack of printed hunting and fishing guides available to them, offices, and retailers. With the lack of cell service in many areas of the UP, people do not have access to online guides and having a printed guide is very important in the UP. **Ms. Haughey** stated the DNR is having discussions about the printed guides, and she agrees on the importance of them.
3. **Mr. Steve Dey** of Moran asked if there was going to be an app for cell phones to obtain licenses and check regulations like other states do. **Mr. Tom Weston** of the DNR license section stated an app is being trialed that will allow the purchasing of licenses, reporting a harvest and having access to guides and digests. It will be available in the App store early next year before the new license year. He stated he had his first preview of the app today from the vendor and they are very excited about it. **Ms. Haughey** asked Mr. Weston if he had any additional information about the printing of the hunting guides. **Mr. Weston** stated an address is printed on the back of every license to obtain a guide or digest, costs are increasing and Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions would like to do away with the printed books as a result; however, there is a balance needed as the DNR wants to make sure the 1,600 agent locations have enough guides as well. He is looking forward to the app coming out as users can download the digest at any time, and as long as there is power to the phone, the digest can be accessed so this may decrease the need for a printed copy. **Ms. Haughey** stated once the app is officially available, it may be nice to preview it at CAC meetings. **Mr. Weston** added his team is also working on building the harvest reporting system for whitetail deer, and this fall there will be voluntary harvest reporting with 7 basic questions developed by the Wildlife Division that will be asked during the reporting process. He indicated it may be available for a demonstration at the EUPCAC's next meeting in October. **Vice Chair Gorniak** stated that would be a great agenda topic. **Mr. Weston** stated the system was used for the muskie/sturgeon registration with Mr. Kovacs as well.

Closing Comments from the Council

Vice Chair Gorniak opened the floor for closing comments from the Council. None were brought forth.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Vice Chair Gorniak** thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm Eastern.

Approved 10/19/2021