

# Pigeon River Country Advisory Council



## Meeting Minutes

Location: Charlton Township Hall, East M 32, Johannesburg, MI 49751

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021

A meeting of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council (P.R.C.A.C.) was held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at the Charlton Township Hall in Johannesburg. Chair Paul Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., then led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Rose, Bill Loney, Lisha Ramsdell, Greg Walz, Sandy Franz, Bill Wood, Ken Glasser, Doug Reeves, Randy Keen, Barb Curtis, and Conan Smith.

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Rique Campa, Don Horrocks, Brent Shank, Drew YoungeDyke, and Jon Steigerwaldt.

### **EX-OFFICIO & DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

Mark Monroe, Dave Price, Kelly Kinser, Shelby Adams, Mike Shelton, Madeline Jazdyk, Tom Oberg, C.O., Matt Theunick, C.O. and Karen Chapman.

### **EX-OFFICIO ABSENT:**

Tim Cwalinski.

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Judi Jarecki, Erik Ness, Pete Kennedy, and Guy Loveless

## **INTRODUCTIONS – PAUL ROSE:**

Chair Paul Rose welcomed all to the October 2021 meeting of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council; and noted that a membership quorum was present for tonight's meeting.

## **AGENDA:**

Motion made by Sandy Franz to approve the October meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded. There being no further discussion offered, the agenda for tonight's meeting was approved as presented.

## **MINUTES:**

Motion made by Doug Reeves to approve the July 22, 2021 meeting minutes; motion seconded by Greg Walz. There being no additions, deletions or corrections offered, all members present voted in favor to approve the minutes as presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (5-minute limit):**

Chair Rose opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment offered.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FOREST COVER & WILDLIFE – DOUG REEVES:**

Doug stated that the committee has not met; and has nothing to report.

### **RESOURCE USE & EXTRACTION – SANDY FRANZ:**

Sandy reported on the results of the Core Energy exploratory drill which took place on private land near the annexed area of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The exploratory drill came in as a dry hole, therefore there is no need for a pipeline across state land to connect to the central processing facility.

To date, no further response has been received from the D.N.R. with regards to the advisory council's January 2021 hydrocarbon resolution.

## **EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT – LISHA RAMSDELL:**

Lisha reported that the committee has not met since the last advisory council meeting. There was a request at the last council meeting to provide outreach information about clear cuts in the P.R.C.S.F. The subject was temporarily on pause while waiting for Shelby Adams, the new P.R.C.S.F. wildlife biologist to arrive. Part of the P.R.C.S.F. wildlife biologist position is to conduct public outreach and communication. As the proposed clear cutting is not scheduled to take place in the near future, there is time for input and dialogue between Education & Engagement committee, biologist and foresters to assure the appropriate information is made available to the public.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CARBON CREDIT PRC PILOT PROJECTS – LISHA RAMSDELL, DAVID PRICE, MDNR:**

Lisha then welcomed Dave Price, D.N.R., who will give a follow-up presentation on the P.R.C.S.F. Carbon Credit Pilot project. Dave made the initial presentation to the council at the January 2020 meeting. Lisha shared that members of the advisory council had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with Dave and Blue Source LLC representatives, which led to some of the topics Dave will present on today.

Dave opened by showing a video produced by the D.N.R. which will be shown at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland (a/k/a COPS26). The video describes how the State of Michigan is the first state in the U.S. to enroll a state forest (P.R.C.S.F.) into a carbon offset program.

To recap, the process for the P.R.C.S.F. Carbon Credit Pilot project started with a feasibility analysis, which Blue Source LLC completed prior to being contracted for the project by the state. Blue Source was contracted for this project early in 2020. Blue Source then contracted with Green Timber Consulting Foresters to install continuous forest inventory plots, which have all been put into place. The inventory was completed last winter. The project is currently in the modeling process in order to establish the baseline needed to determine the volume of carbon credits that can be sold. The next step is verification - the verifiers are SCS Global, who will start in November. SCS Global will conduct the third-party verification to assure that the Blue Source model meets all the requirements of the American Carbon Registry and **Forest Management Standards**. As the end of the project nears, the decision will be made to sell the credits, the credits will be registered, then sold.

DTE Energy has committed to buy all the credits generated by this project over the first ten years, with the estimated value being \$10 million dollars. Finalizing the baseline model should be completed by the end of 2021, with third-party verification completed by March 2022. The process of registration, issuance and sale of carbon credits is to be completed by the end of June 2022.

Dave reiterated that the D.N.R. is using the P.R.C.S.F. Concept of Management as a guide on providing information to Blue Source as they work on establishing the baseline model. His presentation concluded, Dave then opened the floor to questions and comments.

#### **DISCOVERY CENTER – SANDY FRANZ:**

Sandy reported that the Discovery Center opened on July 17, 2021 and will be open every weekend through the end of October. Three educational classes were held at the D.C., which were filled to capacity. Work is progressing on the Native American exhibit, finalizing text and images. With regards to the canoe excavated from the Black River, the carbon dating was completed - the most likely date range for age (with a 95.4% probability) on the canoe is from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Hoping to have input from a marine archaeologist to determine if wood or stone tools were used in crafting the canoe, what kind of wood it is made from, and if the shape indicates any particular origin. Using funds from the D.C. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant; a roofing company was contracted and a new roof is scheduled to be installed. Will also be working on additional log building preservation for the log chinking and log ends.

#### **PIGEON RIVER COUNTRY EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE – BARB CURTIS:**

Barb reported that the committee has not met since the last PRCAC meeting, nothing new to share.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **PRC “CONTRACT” PROJECTS UPDATE – LISHA RAMSDELL:**

Lisha opened with an update on the Cornwall Flooding dam project. The Cornwall Flooding dam is owned by the D.N.R. Fisheries Division and per E.G.L.E. inspections, the structure is showing some failure points. The D.N.R. Fisheries Division determined that they wanted to retain this structure, and Huron Pines became the project manager to replace the dam. Approximately one year ago, Huron Pines had the designs and permit ready to go, and the project was bid out. The project bids received were more than double

what had been estimated, therefore D.N.R. Fisheries is now reconsidering options for the site and the project has been placed on hold.

With regards to the "Tubes" bridge replacement project - there were a series of delays experienced with the contractor that have been resolved. The Otsego County Road Commission has plans to go out next week and finish the railings, however, they will not be able to pave the deck of the structure until next year. The timeline has been frustrating for all.

Lastly, will be meeting with Mark Monroe, Shelby Adams, and Brian Mastenbrook on forest management practices /wildlife projects in preparation for the upcoming wildlife habitat grants.

### **STATUS UPDATE – OIL & GAS PRODUCTION FULFILLMENT RESOLUTION – PAUL ROSE:**

Paul stated that there is nothing new to report.

### **FOREST TREATMENT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE PRC – LISHA RAMSDELL :**

Lisha reported that they will work with DNR Wildlife, Forest Resources and Forest Cover & Wildlife Committee to develop a plan with a set of communications for council members and the general public.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT – PAUL ROSE:**

Paul reminded council members that he is at the end of his term in office as Chair of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council. In 2018 the P.R.C.A.C. Articles of Organization were amended to add term limits for officers and a formal nomination committee process for officers was adopted. The nomination committee process allows Paul to appoint a nomination committee which consists of the five chairs of the standing committees. The five chairs are Sandy Franz, Drew YoungeDyke, Doug Reeves, Lisha Ramsdell and Randy Keen. Paul appointed Sandy Franz to chair the nomination committee. Between now and the January 2022 meeting, if anyone would like to submit their name or another name for consideration for Chair or Vice-Chair, notify Sandy Franz. If any of the committee members have an interest in serving as Chair or Vice-Chair, the member will advise Sandy Franz and withdraw from participating on the committee. At the beginning of the January 2022 meeting, the nomination committee will make nomination

recommendations, the floor would also be open to other nominations at that time. The election will then take place, electing a new Chair and Vice- Chair.

### **PROPOSED 2022 SCHEDULE – PAUL ROSE:**

Tentative meeting dates for 2022:

Thursday, January 13, 2022 – Corwith Township Hall (Hybrid meeting)

Thursday, April 21, 2022 – location to be determined

Thursday, July 21, 2022 – location to be determined

Thursday, October 20, 2022 – location to be determined

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

#### **P.R.C. UNIT REPORT – MARK MONROE :**

Mark reported that Jon Steigerwaldt, representing Ruffed Grouse Society was appointed to the P.R.C.A.C. to fill the seat left open by the departure of Brent Rudolph, formally with R.G.S., who submitted his resignation after getting a new position with Pheasants Forever. The P.R.C. Unit wrapped up timber sale work for Fiscal Year 2021, were successful in meeting the plan of work goal of 1408 acres. Completed the P.R.C. Forest Certification audit, FSC and SFI, which overall, went very well. There will be a press release coming out soon regarding road proposals that will be available for public review. Within the P.R.C.S.F., there will be 5 proposals out for public review. Received the public survey information back for both Storey Lake and Walled Lake –received over 1,000 responses for each survey. The DNR Marketing and Outreach Division will collate the data and interpret results. At that point, staff will then work with Randy Keen and the Recreation & Access committee on proposals. The Tyrolean Hills matter is still under review by the Attorney General’s office. Road projects were completed this year, for the Yellow gate project on Sawdust Pile Rd. a new culvert was installed and a new road built. Sawyer Road – restored area and closed off road to ORVs. Road 111 and Song of the Morning easement – the P.R.C. Unit had easement obligations to complete, funding was in place and now there is a parking lot and fence. Still trying to sell the buildings at Walled Lake and the Stevens cabin. If anyone has any interest, the Department is now free to sell them. The new well is finally in place and working at P.R.C. H.Q. Also worked with the Pigeon River Country Association on completing minor construction projects at the staff house and small residence. The P.R.C. has a new internet provider in Great Lakes Energy / Truestream; internet speed has been vastly improved.

#### **WILDLIFE REPORT – SHELBY ADAMS:**

Shelby Adams, the new P.R.C. Wildlife biologist gave a brief introduction on her D.N.R. background. She then presented results from the early elk hunt (Hunt 1). Most of Hunt 1

is open outside of the P.R.C., there are a few areas included within the P.R.C., Green Timbers, and a few other small pockets. The reason for that is it provides an opportunity to focus hunting on those animals on the edge of the range. For Hunt 2, which takes place in December, no area is closed to hunting. Hunt 1 results – there were a total of 70 tags – antlerless only and 30 tags – any elk. Harvest – 44 cows and 29 bulls were harvested. 3 Pure Michigan hunters chose to participate in the early hunt, 3 bulls were harvested for a total of 76 animals harvested to date. This does not include the tribal counts.

### **FISHERIES – TIM CWALINSKI:**

No report.

### **RECREATION REPORT – KELLY KINSER:**

Kelly reported that campground revenue numbers were up this year. All campgrounds had an increase in camping numbers except Elk Hill. As camping winds down, staff will focus on trail work. .

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE – LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

Conservation Office Tom Oberg reported that with deer season coming, things are picking up. Working on ORV issues within PRC. Conservation Office Matt Theunik, Cheboygan County, reported that he too was working on ORV issues, and getting ready for deer season.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Paul shared that the council will revisit the meeting structure moving forward. Also, Rique Campa will present the Elk /Recreation report his PhD student is working on.

Lisha Ramsdell requested an update on the forest planning process from Dan Heckman

Please forward any other future agenda items to Paul Rose.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022 at Corwith Township Hall in Vanderbilt.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
KAREN CHAPMAN, DNR