



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Kewadin Casino, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste Marie MI

Date: March 15, 2022

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 16, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (Council):

- Jared Duquette, Chair
- Miles Falck
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Cody Norton, Wildlife Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Tyler Petroelje
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Meeting minutes

Chair Duquette opened the work session by providing the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak on March 16, 2022, during the public comment period. **Chair Duquette** read the mission for the Council. *Purpose of the WMAC:* The Council shall annually submit to the Natural Resources Commission and the legislature a report that makes non-binding recommendations as to the proper management of wolves in Michigan. At the August 2021 meeting in Ishpeming, **Director Eichinger** asked this Wolf Management Advisory Council to focus our recommendations on the 2015 Wolf Management Plan update.

Chair Duquette called the work session of WMAC to order at 1:02 p.m. on March 15, 2022. **Chair Duquette** called for a roll call. All council members were present.

The WMAC reviewed and discussed the draft minutes from the February 22, 2022, work session, and the February 23, 2022, meeting. The WMAC submitted their edits to Victoria. **Council Member Pershinske** discussed the wording of a motion made by **Council Member Friedlander** regarding Section 6.10.2 – regarding the word “predation”. Each council member provided their definition. **Council Member Pershinske** stated he would provide a motion for more discussion at the March 16, 2022, meeting. **Council Member Trotter** discussed concerns regarding the edits provided by **Council Member Friedlander** on page three of the draft minutes. **Council Member Trotter** requested the added information regarding the process of providing motions on new business. After discussion **Council Member Trotter** regarding the survey count on page three. For clarification, the sentence should read “Brian stated the survey method is being conducted with no changes throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.”

The Council discussed the agenda for the March 16 meeting and possible recommendations that members would make at the March 16 meeting.

Old Business Items:

- Section 6.10: Manage wolf depredation of domestic animals
- Section 6.12: Develop socially and biologically responsible management recommendations regarding the public harvest of wolves

New Business Items:

- Section 6.7: Achieve compatibility between wolf distribution and abundance and social carrying capacity.
- Section 6.8: Facilitate positive wolf-human interactions and other wolf-related benefits.
- Section 6.6: Monitor and manage adverse effects of disease and parasites on the viability of the wolf population (this topic could be moved to April, depending on workload).
- Topics for April meeting:
 - Section 6.9: Manage actual and perceived threats to human safety posed by wolves.
 - Section 6.11: Minimize the negative impacts of captive wolves and wolf-dog hybrids.
 - White Paper
 - Public Attitude Survey
- Topics for May meeting
 - Finalize recommendations and report for submittal to House and Senate Natural Resource Committees, the NRC, and the DNR.

Council Member Thorman made a motion to recess until March 16 at 9:00 a.m. supported by **Council Member Trotter**. After requesting discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote and the motion to recess passed unanimously.

The Council recessed at 3:35 p.m.

March 16, 2022

Chair Duquette opened the meeting by providing the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak during public comment period. **Chair Duquette** read the mission for the Council. *Purpose of the WMAC:* The Council shall annually submit to the Natural Resources Commission and the legislature a report that makes non-binding recommendations as to the proper management of wolves in Michigan. At the August 2021 meeting in Ishpeming, **Director Eichinger** asked this Wolf Management Advisory Council to focus our recommendations on the 2015 Wolf Management Plan update.

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (Council):

- Jared Duquette, Chair
- Miles Falck
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Cody Norton, Wildlife Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Chair Duquette called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:02 a.m. on March 16, 2022. **Chair Duquette** called for a roll call. All members were present.

Chair Duquette called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to approve the March agenda. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. **Chair Duquette** requested a discussion. Hearing no discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote to accept the March agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Duquette called for a motion to approve the minutes from the WMAC from the February 22, 2022, work session, and the February 23, 2022, meeting. **Council Member Friedlander** made a motion to accept the February 22, 2022, work session, and February 23, 2022, meeting minutes to include her edits as submitted. The motion was not supported. **Council Member Trotter**

made a motion to approve the minutes as originally submitted by Victoria prior to **Council Member Friedlander's** edits. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion failed. 3 yea (Trotter, Thorman, Pershinske) 1 nay (Friedlander) 2 abstain (Falck, Duquette).

Chair Duquette called for a motion to approve the amended minutes for the February 22, 2022, work session, and the February 23, 2022, meeting. **Council Member Thorman** made a motion to approve the minutes as amended supported by **Council Member Pershinske**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. There being no additional discussion **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 4 yea (Trotter, Thorman, Pershinske, Duquette) 2 abstain (Friedlander, Falck).

Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council – Science-Based Management

- Accomplishments and Overview of Sections 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8 from the 2015 Michigan Wolf Management (45 minutes, Brian Roell, DNR)

Chair Duquette requested a break at 10:36.

The approval of the minutes was revisited. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to amend the minutes regarding the statement made by Brian Roell on page 3 of the draft minutes to avoid confusion. The original sentence read – “Brian stated the survey count is being conducted with no changes throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.” The changed sentence would read “Brian stated the survey *method* is being conducted with no changes throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.” The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Duquette** requested a discussion. There being no further discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the amendment. The motion passed. 4 yea (Trotter, Thorman, Pershinske, Duquette) 2 abstain (Friedlander, Falck).

Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public comment which began at 10:19 a.m.

a. 10 Minute Comments

Steve Dey, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

b. 5 Minute Comments

Leon Hank

Marcie Terwilliger

Gary Gorniak, Vice President, Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance

Nancy Warren

Molly Tamulevich, Humane Society of the United States (not present, submitted written comments)

c. 3 Minute Comments

Bob Warner
Robert Swailes
Mike Zimmerman
Jill Fritz

Chair Duquette adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 11:09 a.m.

New Business

Discussion for new business included:

Section 6.6: Monitor and manage adverse effects of diseases and parasites on the viability of the wolf population

Section 6.7: Achieve compatibility between wildlife distribution and abundance and social carrying capacity

Section 6.8: Facilitate positive wolf-human interactions and other wolf-related benefits
The WMAC adjourned for lunch and returned at 1:03 pm.

Chair Duquette opened the meeting after the lunch break with the Old Business on the agenda.

Old Business

Section 6.10: Manage wolf depredation of domestic animals

Council Member Falck made a motion supported by **Council Member Thorman** to amend the recommendation, from the February meeting, made by **Council Member Friedlander** supported by **Council Member Trotter** on Section 6.10.2, Action 4, that the WMAC recommends the Department prioritize working with MDARD and the legislature to develop, implement, and enforce amendments to the Bodies of Dead Animals Act, MCL 287.651 et seq that will more effectively discourage human activities that increase the risk of wolf predation. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Council Member Falck made the amendment supported by **Council Member Thorman** to recommend Department prioritize working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the legislature to develop, implement, and enforce amendments to the Bodies of Dead Animals Act, MCL 287.651 et seq with the goal to prevent predator visitation to carcass dumps and consequent conflicts. After discussion **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the amended motion. The amended motion passed. 5 yea (Falck, Friedlander, Trotter, Thorman, Duquette) 1 nay (Pershinske)

Council Member Falck made a motion supported by **Council Member Thorman** to recommend the Department prioritize working with MDARD and the legislature to develop and implement incentives for livestock producers to adopt practices to minimize conflicts with wolves. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 5 yea (Falck, Friedlander, Trotter, Thorman, Duquette) 1 nay (Pershinske)

Council Member Falck made a motion supported by **Council Member Friedlander** to recommend the Department does not support lethal control of wolves in response to dog depredation on public lands. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion did not pass. 2 yea (Falck, Friedlander) 3 nay (Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) 1 abstain (Duquette)

Council Member Thorman made a motion to recommend to the Department to develop recommendations for voluntary methods of bearbaiting, including bait barrels, to minimize wolf visitation to bait sites. The motion was supported by **Council Member Falck**. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 5 yea (Duquette, Falck, Pershinske, Trotter, Thorman) 1 nay (Friedlander)

Council Member Trotter made a motion, supported by **Council Member Pershinske**, to recommend the development of a rapid public awareness system for verified depredation events, in addition to current information sharing. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 5 yea (Friedlander, Falck, Pershinske, Trotter, Thorman) 1 abstain (Duquette)

Chair Duquette made a motion to request the legislature provide the Department with adequate general funding to staff, research, and implement non-lethal methods to minimize the risk of human-wolf conflicts. The motion was supported by **Council Member Falck**. After a brief discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion to recommend the Department work with the legislature to amend Public Act 487 of 2012 regarding compensation for missing livestock and the timeliness of prior wolf depredation. The motion was seconded by **Council Member Falck**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After discussion **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 4 yea (Friedlander, Falck, Trotter, Thorman) 1 nay (Pershinske) 1 abstain (Duquette)

Section 6.12: Develop Socially and Biologically Responsible Management Recommendations Regarding Public Harvest of Wolves

Council Member Falck made a motion that the Department does not recommend a public wolf harvest supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion did not pass. 2 yea (Friedlander, Falck) 2 nay (Pershinske, Trotter) 1 abstain (Duquette); Thorman was absent for the vote.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion to recommend the Department be transparent in all updates as they implement 6.12 citing the evidence to support each update. The motion was

supported by **Council Member Falck**. **Council Member Friedlander** amended her motion to read – recommend the Department be transparent in all updates and implementation *of the Plan* citing the evidence to support each update. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion on the amendment. **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps:

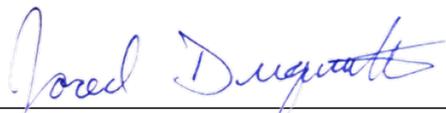
- Topics for April meeting:
 - Section 6.9: Manage actual and perceived threats to human safety posed by wolves.
 - Section 6.11: Minimize the negative impacts of captive wolves and wolf-dog hybrids.
- Topics for May meeting
 - Finalize recommendations and report for submittal to House and Senate Natural Resource Committees, the NRC, and the DNR.

Adjournment

Chair Duquette asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Friedlander** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Trotter** supported the motion. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2022, with a Work Session on April 6, 2022, at Ralph A. MacMullan Center in Roscommon, MI 49783.

Approved:



Jared Duquette, Chair