



# Wolf Management Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Treetops Resort, 3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord MI

Date: February 22, 2022

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

February 23, 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 - Absent
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Ed Golder, Public Information Officer, Executive Division
- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Cody Norton, Wildlife Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

## Meeting minutes

**Chair Duquette** opened the work session by thanking **Chair Dan Kennedy**, from the Wildlife Division, for his service leading the Council. He will be greatly missed. **Dan Kennedy** announced he accepted another position with the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. **Chair Duquette** provided the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak on February 23 during the public comment period. **Chair Duquette** stated effective the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, the gray wolf has been placed back on the federal Endangered Species list. The relisting stems from a United States District Court decision that the USFWS has failed to show gray wolf populations are sustainable in the lower 48 states without Endangered Species Act protections. The court did accept USFWS' conclusion that state management plans in several western and Great Lakes states provide adequate protection after delisting. The possibility of the wolf being relisted has been a key consideration of **Director Eichinger**, in addition to completing

our state wolf management plan. The Council will continue updating the plan with completion in May. **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 nonbinding 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 meeting of WMAC to order at 1:19 p.m. on February 22. **Chair Duquette** called for a roll call. **Council Member Falck** was absent.

The WMAC reviewed and discussed the minutes from the January meeting. The WMAC submitted their edits to Victoria. **Council Member Trotter** discussed concerns regarding the edits provided by **Council Member Friedlander** on page two of the minutes. The first sentence of the paragraph was fine. **Council Member Trotter** requested the remainder of the paragraph be struck from the minutes. After discussion **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to keep the first sentence of **Council Member Friedlander's** edits on page 2: "The Council discussed what sections of the Plan would be discussed at the February through May meetings, and potential presenters.", to remove the rest of the paragraph, which referenced the timing of consideration of Section 6.12, and to add the information to be discussed for March, April, and May meetings in the minutes. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. After **Council Member Friedlander** stated she had provided her discussion. **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 4 yea – 1 nay

The motion included the following next steps for March, April, and May meetings.

- Topics for March meeting:
  - 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.
- Topics for May meeting
  - Finalize recommendations and report for submittal to House and Senate Natural Resource Committees, the NRC, and the DNR.

**Council Member Friedlander** stated it's important for everyone that signed up to be listed on the minutes as discussed in the January meeting. The list should indicate if the person signed up but did not speak during public comment. The minutes will reflect with a notation next to their name if they did not speak.

The Council continued with the review and discussion of the current recommendations on the interim report. **Council Member Trotter** asked what the process will be for submitting the minority opinions. **Chair Duquette** stated the minority opinion would be a part of the interim report as part of the document as endnotes.

**Council Member Trotter** asked if the Department has made any changes to the current wolf count currently being conducted. **Chair Duquette** referred the question to Brian Roell, who was seated in the audience. Brian stated the survey method is being conducted with no changes throughout the entire Upper Peninsula.

- Section 6.10: Manage wolf depredation of domestic animals.
  - Ensure adequate appropriation for the general fund for livestock depredation compensation – a recommendation to the legislature as part of the baseline budget.
  - Discuss the BODA - Bodies of Dead Animals Act, MCL 287.651.
  - More emphasis on outreach.
- Section 6.12: Develop socially and biologically responsible management recommendations regarding the public harvest of wolves.
  - **Council Member Pershinske** discussed a motion he brought to the Council for discussion at the January work session. He will bring forward this motion regarding the management of wolves.
    - The Council discussed the process of bringing forward motions for items under new business.
- Part of the next steps will be to agree on clarity of the procedures moving forward. An amendment to the February agenda to add an additional old business item on the agenda for procedures.

**Council Member Thorman** made a motion to recess until February 23 at 9:00 a.m. supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. After requesting discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote and the motion to recess passed unanimously.

The Council recessed at 3:58 p.m.

## **February 23, 2022**

**Chair Duquette** opened the meeting by providing the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak on February 23 during the public comment period. **Chair Duquette** stated effective the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, the gray wolf has been placed back on the federal Endangered Species list. The relisting stems from a United States District Court decision that the USFWS has failed to show gray wolf populations are sustainable in the lower 48 states without Endangered Species Act protections. The court did accept USFWS' conclusion that state management plans in several western and Great Lakes states provide adequate protection after delisting. The possibility of the wolf being relisted has been a key consideration of **Director Eichinger**, in addition to completing our state wolf management plan. The Council will continue updating the plan with completion in

May. **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 nonbinding 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 - Absent
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Ed Golder, Public Information Officer, Executive Division
- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Cody Norton, Wildlife Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Present for the Natural Resources Commission

- Carol Rose, Chair
- Tom Baird, Commissioner

**Chair Duquette** called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:13 a.m. on February 23, 2022. **Chair Duquette** called for a roll call. **Council Member Falck** was absent.

**Chair Duquette** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to amend the day's agenda by adding under Old Business a discussion for adopting a process recommendation moving forward. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. **Chair Duquette** requested to add under old business the motion made by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Duquette** called for a vote to accept the amendment to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chair Duquette** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 18 work session and January 19, 2022, meeting. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to approve the minutes as presented via email following the work session. The motion was supported by **Council**

**Member Thorman. Chair Duquette** called for discussion. **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

## Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council – Science-Based Management

- a. Accomplishments and Overview of Sections 6.10 and 6.12 from the 2015 Michigan Wolf Management (45 minutes, Brian Roell, DNR)

**Chair Duquette** requested a break at 10:36.

## Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public comment which began at 10:56 a.m.

- a. 10 Minute Comments

Steve Dey, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

- b. 5 Minute Comments

Roger Thorman, MI Fox Hunters

Marcie Terwilliger

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

Tim Olsen (signed up-unable to attend)

Nichole Biber (signed up-unable to attend)

Molly Tamulevich, Humane Society of the United States

- c. 3 Minute Comments

Nick Buggia

Wallace Matthew

Jeff Kerns

Joe Matthew

**Chair Duquette** adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 11:54 p.m. The WMAC adjourned for lunch and returned at 1:03 pm.

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

## New Business

- a. Section 6.10: Manage Wolf Depredation of Domestic Animals

**Council Member Trotter** made a motion that the WMAC recommend to the legislature that they ensure adequate appropriation of general funds for livestock compensation. The motion was supported by **Council Member Pershinske. Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After no discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council Member Friedlander** made a motion 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. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council Member Friedlander** made a motion on Section 6.10.2, Action 5, that the WMAC recommends the Department, in light of recent science, recommend modifications to law, policy, enforcement, or practice that could reduce wolf visitation to bear-bait sites. **Council Member Pershinske** supported the motion. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the motion. The motion did not pass. 1 yea (Friedlander), 4 nay (Duquette, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter).

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

**Council Member Pershinske** made a motion the WMAC recommend the Department prepare a recommendation for a wolf hunting and trapping season across the UP. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Duquette** called for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Duquette** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed. 3 yea (Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter), 1 nay (Friedlander) 1 abstain (Duquette).

## Old Business

- a. Public attitudes of wolves in Michigan
- b. WMAC Procedures

**Council Member Trotter** made a motion for the March and April 2022 meetings of the WMAC no official action will be taken on New Business items only on Old Business items. The motion was supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Duquette** asked for a discussion. After discussion **Chair Duquette** called for a vote. The motion passed. 3 yea (Duquette, Friedlander, Trotter) 1 nay (Pershinske) 1 abstain (Thorman)

## Next Steps:

- Topics for March meeting:
  - 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.
- 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 2:09 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2022, with a Work Session on March 15, 2022, at Kewadin Casino, located at 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Approved:

  
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Jared Duquette, Chair