



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Quality Inn & Suites, Escanaba, MI

Date: January 18, 2022

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

January 19, 2022

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

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC):

- Dan Kennedy, 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
- Jared Duquette, Chief, Wildlife Division
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Meeting minutes

Chair Kennedy opened the work session by providing the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak on January 19. **Chair Kennedy** announced he has accepted another position and **Director Eichinger** has appointed the Wildlife Division Chief, **Jared Duquette**, to replace **Chair Kennedy** as the Chair of the Wolf Management Advisory Council. The Council welcomed **Jared Duquette**.

Chair Kennedy read the mission for the Council.

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 1:04 p.m. on February 18. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. All other council members were present.

The Council reviewed and discussed the Draft Interim Report and the existing recommendations. The Council reviewed and discussed recommendations to be brought forward for Section 6.2

(tabled from December meeting) -- Maintain Active Research and Monitoring Programs to Support Science-based Wolf Management; Section 6.5; maintain habitat necessary to sustain a viable wolf population and Section 6.3; enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population.

Section 6.2:

- The Department prioritizes research and literature review that examines:
 - How to maintain prey populations required to provide for sustainable human uses and a viable wolf population.
 - Best management practices for public reporting of wolf interactions to fulfill DNR's obligation to use best available science.
 - Adaptive behavioral shifts and stress-related mortality by deer due to predators and other influences
 - The changing diet of wolves across seasons and the proportional impact of wolves on their prey (both game and nongame).
 - Whether wolves may limit disease in ungulates.

Section 6.5:

- The Department adopts a way to minimize impacts to den and rendezvous sites on state land and pursues partnerships to implement this on all other lands.
- The Department manages state land for "no net loss" of aspen and pursues partnerships to implement this on all other lands.
- The Department prioritizes the cooperation with federal, state, and Tribal agencies and private landowners to identify and protect wolf habitat linkage zones, as currently stated in Section 6.5.2, Action 1.

Section 6.3:

- The Department prioritizes Section 6.3.3, Action 5, which states "recommend modification of the law, at the state level, to make penalties for illegally killing a wolf commensurate with other highly valued species with similar legal status (endangered, threatened, game, or protected animals)."
- The Department contacts the prosecuting attorney association of Michigan to initiate a conversation about the importance of all fish and wildlife regulations, including the protection of wolves and hunter harassments laws.
- The Department incorporates wolf education materials into the hunter safety program.

The Council discussed what sections of the Plan would be discussed at the February through May meetings, and potential presenters.

- Topics for discussion at February meeting:
 - 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.
 - Identify presenters for 6.10 and 6.12 and what info to present

- 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.

The Council recessed at 4:19 p.m.

January 19, 2022

Chair Kennedy opened the meeting by providing the opportunity for the public to sign up to speak during public comment. **Chair Kennedy** announced he has accepted another position and **Director Eichinger** has appointed the Wildlife Division Chief, **Jared Duquette**, to replace **Chair Kennedy** as the Chair of the Wolf Management Advisory Council. The Council welcomed **Jared Duquette**. **Chair Kennedy** read the mission for the Council.

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:06 a.m. on February 19, 2022. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. All other council members were present.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the day's agenda. The motion was made by **Council Member Friedlander** to accept the day's agenda. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Chair Kennedy** requested to add under old business Section 6.2: maintain an active research and monitoring program, supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the amendment to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2021, meeting. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to approve the December 7, 2021, minutes. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Pershinske** and **Council Member Friedlander** requested the names of the public comment be updated to indicate which of the people signing up actually made a public comment. The minutes reflected all who signed up but did not distinguish those who spoke when their names were called. **Chair Kennedy** called for additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council – Science-Based Management

- a. Preliminary Public Attitudes Survey of Wolves in Michigan (*Shawn Riley, MSU*)

Chair Kennedy requested a break at 10:19.

- b. Update on the Wolf White Paper (*Brian Roell, DNR*) who reported that it is expected to be available for the March WMAC meeting

Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public comment which began at 10:38.

- a. 10 Minute Comments

Steve Dey, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Jordan Farmer, Concerned Hunters

- b. 5 Minute Comments

Marcie Terwilliger
Gary Gorniak, Vice President, Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance
George Lindquist
Greg Stoll (signed up, did not speak)
Molly Tamulevich, Humane Society of the United States
Nancy Warren
David Johnson, UPSA President
Theresa Pitts
Rory Matson

- c. 3 Minute Comments

Matt Dagenais
John Fox
Jim Hoy
Justin Farmer
Tim Dusterwinkle
Alan Ettenhofer
Rick Kell
Tim Olsen
Clinton Seawright
Joe Hudson

Chair Kennedy adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 12:10 p.m. The WMAC adjourned for lunch and returned at 1:08 pm.

New Business

- a. Public attitudes survey of wolves in Michigan

Chair Kennedy opened the meeting after the lunch break with an opportunity for the Council to ask Dr. Riley additional questions. After discussion, Dr. Riley said he would be available at future meetings.

Old Business

- a. Section 6.2: Maintain active research and monitoring programs to support science-based wolf management.

Council Member Trotter made a motion to un-table her motion on Section 6.2, supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Kennedy** called After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (**Council Member Pershinske** was absent for the vote).

Council Member Trotter made a motion supported by **Council Member Friedlander** to add to Section 6.2 – **Introductory** - *WMAC recommends that the DNR prioritize based research and literature review that examines:*

- How to maintain prey populations required to provide for sustainable human uses and a viable wolf population
- Best management practices for public reporting of wolf interactions to fulfill the DNR's obligation to use best available science
- Adaptive behavioral shifts and stress-related mortality of deer due to predators and other influences
- The changing diet of wolves across seasons and the proportional impact of wolves on their prey (both game and nongame)
- Whether wolves may limit diseases in ungulates.

Chair Kennedy called for discussion. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (**Council Member Pershinske** was absent for the vote).

- b. Section 6.5: Maintain habitat necessary to sustain a viable wolf population

Chair Kennedy made a motion to recommend the Department adopt a way to minimize impacts to den and rendezvous sites on state land and pursue partnerships to implement this on all other lands. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called discussion. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to table the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (**Council Member Pershinske** was absent for the vote).

Chair Kennedy made a motion to recommend the Department manages state land for “no net loss” of aspen and pursues partnerships to implement this strategy on all other lands. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed 4 Yea (Falck, Friedlander, Kennedy, Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Abstain (Pershinske).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to recommend the Department prioritize the cooperation with federal, state, and Tribal agencies and private landowners to identify and protect wolf habitat linkage zones. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. During discussion **Council Member Pershinske** requested the motion include a reference to the section in the Plan. **Council Member Friedlander** agreed to the friendly amendment to add “as currently stated in Section 6.5.2, Action 1.” After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion to recommend the Department prioritize the cooperation with federal, state, and Tribal agencies and private landowners to identify and protect wolf habitat linkage zones, as currently stated in Section 6.5.2, Action 1. The motion passed unanimously. (**Council Member Thorman** was absent for the vote).

c. Section 6.3: enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population

Council Member Falck made a motion to recommend the Department prioritizes Section 6.3.3, Action 5, which states “recommend modification of the law, at the state level, to make penalties for illegally killing a wolf commensurate with other highly valued species with similar legal status (endangered, threatened, game, or protected animals).” supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Pershinske** stated it wouldn’t make any difference what type of law enforcement program we have unless we have an adequate plan. **Council Member Trotter** stated she would abstain from voting on this recommendation. MUCC has not discussed wolves internally. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The amendment to the motion passed 4 Yea (Falck, Friedlander, Kennedy, Pershinske) – 1 Nay (Thorman). 1 Abstain (Trotter)

Chair Kennedy opened the discussion of reaching out to prosecutors on the importance of wolf protection laws. **Chair Kennedy** made a motion to recommend the Department contact the prosecuting attorney association of Michigan to initiate a conversation about the importance of all fish and wildlife regulations, including the protection of wolves. The motion was seconded by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** asked for a discussion. A discussion regarding adding hunter harassment. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion to recommend the Department contact the prosecuting attorney association of Michigan to initiate a conversation about the importance of all fish and wildlife regulations, including the protection of wolves and hunter harassment. The motion passed 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Abstained (Friedlander). A friendly amendment was requested to add “laws to hunter harassment”, which was passed unanimously. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the amended motion to recommend the Department contact the prosecuting attorney association of Michigan

to initiate a conversation about the importance of all fish and wildlife regulations, including the protection of wolves and hunter harassments laws. The amended motion passed 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Abstained (Friedlander).

Council Member Pershinske discussed the focus on wolf education. **Council Member Pershinske** put a motion forward to recommend the Department incorporate wolf education materials into the hunter safety program. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for additional discussion. After discussion, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion reference 6.3.1 Action 2 – recommends that this includes consideration of the impacts of the removal from the federal endangered status of illegal killing of wolves. The motion was supported by **Council Member Falck**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** provided additional comments to support her motion. **Council Member Pershinske, Thorman, and Trotter** discussed their concern about the motion and what impact it would have on the section. **Chair Kennedy** stated the motion to add the language is already in the action. After further discussion **Council Member Friedlander** stated her motion to read – recommends that this includes the consideration of the impacts of hunting on the illegal killing of wolves. **Chair Kennedy** called the motion for a vote. The motion failed 1 Yea (Friedlander) 4 Nay (Kennedy, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) 1 Abstain (Falck).

Next Steps or information for February 23, 2022, meeting:

- 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. Friedlander objected to discussing this Section before the White Paper updating the science was available.

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Thorman** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Falck** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** 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 February 22 – Work Session and February 23, 2022 – Meeting, at Treetops, located at 3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Approved:


Daniel Kennedy, Chair