



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Treetops, Gaylord, MI

Date: November 5, 2021

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

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC):

- Dan Kennedy, Chair
- Miles Falck – participated remotely from Mason, Wisconsin
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Ed Golder, Public Information Officer
- Cody Norton, Large Carnivore Specialist
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Present for the Natural Resources Commission

- Carol Rose, Chair

Meeting minutes

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:05 a.m. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. **Council Member Falck** participated remotely from Madison, Wisconsin due to medical reasons. 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 Trotter** to accept the day's agenda. The motion was supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. There being none, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2021, meeting. The motion was made by **Council Member Pershinske** to defer the approval of the October 10, 2021, minutes until the December 7, 2021, meeting. The motion was supported by **Council**

Member Trotter. Chair Kennedy called for discussion. **Council Member Pershinske** requested the conversations during the meeting be provided in the minutes. **Council Member Friedlander** expressed she would also like more of each discussion to be provided in the minutes. She would also like the position of each vote to be stated within the minutes. **Chair Kennedy** noted for the council members the information the minutes should provide according to the Open Meetings Act. The minutes should not be a transcript of the meeting. **Council Members Friedlander and Trotter** would like as a minimum the October 10, 2021, two corrections – 1) correct the vote for the motion made by **Council Member Thorman** to recommend the DNR establish a dedicated 24-hour phone number for reporting human/wolf encounters/activity in addition to existing methods. The vote was 3 Nay and 2 Yea, 1 abstain: and 2) Correction of **Council Member Friedlander’s** first name. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to defer the minutes until the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council Updates

- a. DNR’s Accomplishments on 2015 Wolf Management Plan (Cody Norton)

Chair Kennedy requested a 10-minute break at 10:35. The WMAC returned from a break at 10:50.

Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting’s public comment which began at 10:52.

- a. 5 Minute Comments

Gary Gorniak
Bill Largent
Nichole Biber
Steve Dey
Molly Tamulevich
Marcie Terwilliger

- b. 3 Minute Comments

John Riddey
Steven Miller
Rebecca Miller
Robert Warner
Jen Vigilant
Dave Johnson
Thomas Gilpin

Chair Kennedy adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 12:00. The WMAC adjourned for lunch and returned at 12:50 pm.

New Business

- a. Review recommendations for 2015 Wolf Management Plan update
 - i. Section 6.2: Maintain active research and monitoring programs to support science-based wolf management
 - ii. Section 6.3: Enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population - identify the content of LED presentation

Recommendations from the discussion:

- WMAC will draft interim recommendations and post them on the WMAC website. Recommendations will include majority and minority opinions.

Section 6.2 discussion

- Transparency in research/survey processes is important. Results incorporated into our outreach and education efforts.
- Who are the research partners? Can we expand those partnerships?
- Be specific about what survey we're referencing during the discussion: public attitudes vs wolf population survey.
- No agriculture partners were identified.
- Potential recommendations from 6.4 belong in 6.2.
- The department should draft an annual wolf report to increase transparency in the program.

Old Business

- a. 2015 Wolf Management Plan Section 6.1 – Increase public awareness and understanding of wolves and wolf-related issues.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to prioritize working with management partners (defined in 6.1.1 as “e.g., other agencies, tribes, and private organizations”), and engaging additional “management partners” who represent a more diverse perspective on wolves, including partners who promote wolf education, conservation, and advocacy, through government-to-government consultation tribal perspectives. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Trotter** offered an amendment to the motion supported by **Council Member Thorman** to read. To prioritize working partners (defined in 6.1.1 as “e.g., other agencies, tribes, and private organizations”), and engaging additional partners who represent a full range of perspectives on wolves. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion on the amendment. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment passed 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) – 0 Nay – 1 abstain (Friedlander).

Chair Kennedy called for a vote on the amended recommendation to read - To prioritize working with partners (defined in 6.1.1 as “e.g., other agencies, tribes, and private organizations”), and engaging additional partners who represent a full range of perspectives on wolves. The motion passed as amended 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter) – 0 Nay – 1 abstain (Friedlander).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to focus more information and education on positive interactions with wolves to both hunters and non-hunters. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed – 5 Yea (Falck, Kennedy, Pershinske, Friedlander Trotter) – 0 Nay – 1 Absent for the vote (Thorman).

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to prioritize providing “unbiased accurate” information and dispelling rumors or inaccurate information, particularly important with the proliferation of misconceptions about wolves, and prioritize the evaluation of its effectiveness of the wolf-based information and education program. **Chair Kennedy** called for further discussion. After discussion **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion passed 5 Yea (Falck, Friedlander, Kennedy, Thorman, Trotter) – 1 Nay (Pershinske)

- b. 2015 Wolf Management Plan Section 6.4 – Maintain sustainable populations of wolf prey – reporting wolf Interactions

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to maintain prey populations required to provide for sustainable human uses and a viable wolf population – reporting wolf interaction to fulfill its obligation to use best available science rather than claims, perceptions, and anecdotes, continue to research topics as such adaptive behavioral shifts by deer; that wolves and their prey will reach equilibrium if left to their own devices; and whether wolves may limit diseases in ungulates. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After the additional discussion about the decision earlier in the meeting, that potential recommendations from 6.4 belong in 6.2, **Council Member Friedlander** withdrew her motion.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion supported by **Council Member Falck** to maintain prey populations required to provide for sustainable human uses and a viable wolf population reporting wolf interaction to acknowledge that “sustainable human uses” include non-consumptive uses. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion did not pass – 3 Yea (Friedlander, Falck, Kennedy) – 3 Nay (Pershinske, Thorman, Trotter).

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Pershinske** 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 2:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2021, at Little Bear East Arena & Community Center, located at 275 Marquette St., St. Ignace, MI 49781.

Approved: 
Daniel Kennedy, Chair