



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, MI

Date: October 11, 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 - Absent
- Bee Friedlander
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman – participated remotely from Imlay City
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Brooke Parmalee, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- John Pepin, Public Information Officer
- Cody Norton, Large Carnivore Specialist
- Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist
- Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant to Stacy Haughey, Upper Peninsula Field Deputy
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Meeting minutes

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 9:04 a.m. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. **Council Member Falck** was absent, and **Council Member Thorman** participated remotely from Imlay City 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** asked to amend the agenda to add legislative calls to begin the meeting and add Update Public Comment Guidelines to the Old Business. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. There being none, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the agenda with the amendments. The motion passed.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2021, meeting. The motion was made by **Council Member Pershinske** to accept minutes. The motion was

supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Trotter** requested more detail of the discussion be provided in the minutes. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Presentations

Wolf Management Advisory Council Updates

- a. Legislative Comments – All six Representatives were opposed to wolf management hunting and trapping.
 - i. Representative Sowerby – District 31
 - ii. Representative Stone – District 28
 - iii. Representative Ellison – District 26
 - iv. Representative Kupa – District 41
 - v. Representative Rabhi – District 53
 - vi. Representative Alyash – District 4
- b. Science-Based Management
 - i. Factors Limiting Deer Abundance in the Upper Peninsula (*Brian Roell, DNR*)
- c. Review and Update Policy
 - i. Handout: DNR'S Accomplishments on Section 6.1 of the 2015 Wolf Management Plan (*Cody Norton, DNR*)
 - ii. Handout: DNR'S Accomplishments on Section 6.4 of the 2015 Wolf Management Plan (*Cody Norton, DNR*)
 - iii. Handout: Factors Limiting Deer Abundance in the Upper Penninsula (*Brian Roell, DNR*) -

Chair Kennedy requested a 10-minute break at 10:55. The WMAC returned from a break at 11:05.

Public Comment

Brooke Parmalee read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public comment which began at 11:09.

- a. 10 Minute Comments
 - Nancy Warren – National Wolfwatch Coalition
 - Jordan Hoover – Hunter Nation
- b. 5 Minute Comments
 - Marcie Terwilliger
 - Jim Hammill
- c. 3 Minute Comments
 - Charles Markham

Alina Shively
Martha Dugdale
Bryan Reynolds
George Lindquist
Catherine Andrews
Lorraine Warson
Dwayne Holt

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

New Business

- a. 2015 Wolf Management Plan, Section 6.1, Increase public awareness and understanding of wolves and wolf-related issues.
 - **Council Member Friedlander** requested 1) more specificity to the accomplishments, 2) who are the management partners identified in 6.1.1 and who is missing, and 3) how are we engaging with Tribes – are they a management partner?
 - **Council Member Friedlander** requested clarification on the list of actions that need additional effort – are they prioritized and what’s the role of the WMAC in prioritization?
 - **Council Member Trotter** suggested the DNR have more active education and outreach on wolf conservation.
 - **Council Member Pershinske** suggested the DNR add a wolf education program to hunter safety.
- b. 2015 Wolf Management Plan, Section 6.4, Maintain sustainable populations of wolf prey.
 - **Council Member Trotter** liked the idea of increasing the understanding of the wolf diet – what else are they eating?
 - **Council Member Trotter** also suggested there should be a strong connection to the work of the UP-Habitat workgroup – better linkage.

Old Business

- a. Wolf Population Survey
 - DNR investigates and incorporates the use of volunteers in assessing the wolf population.

Council Member Trotter made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to ask the DNR to investigate and incorporate how to integrate the use of volunteers in assessing the wolf population. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After additional discussion, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion passed 4-1.

- Pursue a third-party review of wolf survey methodology regularly.

Council Member Trotter made a motion supported by **Council Member Pershinske** to recommend to the DNR pursue a third-party evaluation of the methodology of the wolf survey on a regular basis. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. After additional discussion **Chair Kennedy**

called for a vote. The motion passed 3-1 with **Council Members Thorman, Trotter, and Pershinske** yea; **Council Member Friedlander** nay; **Chair Kennedy** abstaining; **Council Member Falck** absent.

- Reporting wolf interactions recommendation.

Council Member Thorman made a motion to recommend the DNR establish a dedicated 24-hour phone number for reporting human/wolf encounters/activity in addition to existing methods.

Council Member Trotter supported the motion.

Chair Kennedy made a motion to table the vote until the next meeting supported by **Council Member Friedlander**. **Chair Kennedy** asked for a discussion. There being none, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion failed 3 - 2. **Council Members Thorman, Trotter, and Pershinske** with a nay vote; **Chair Kennedy** and **Council Member Friedlander** yea; **Council Member Falck** absent.

Chair Kennedy called for discussion. There being no further discussion, **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion brought forward by **Council Member Thorman**. The motion passed 3-1. **Council Members Thorman, Trotter, and Pershinske** with a yea; **Council Member Friedlander** nay; **Chair Kennedy** abstaining; **Council Member Falck** absent.

- b. Update the WMAC Public Comment Guidelines – **Chair Kennedy** asked for a motion to:
 - Change the Public Appearance Guidelines title to Public Comment Guidelines.
 - Change the word “appearances” throughout the document to “comments”.
 - Remove the sentence in item 4 “Anyone wishing to address the WMAC on an item not specifically appear on the WMAC agenda is limited to a presentation of no more than three (3) minutes.” The sentence does not pertain to the WMAC.
 - Change the word “several” to a three (3) in item 4 – In instances where there are “several” speakers on the same topic, the chairperson is authorized to request that the group appoint a representative to address the WMAC on the group’s behalf, or each individual presentation shall be limited to three (3) minutes. If a spokesperson is designated, that individual will be granted ten (10) minutes.
 - Remove 4d - The chairperson may schedule repeat presentations at the end of the session when the presenter has made previous presentations on the same topic during the preceding twelve (12) months. Such presentations shall be limited to three (3) minutes.

Council Member Friedlander made a motion to change public appearance guidelines as requested by **Chair Kennedy**. The motion was supported by **Council Member Trotter**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** would like to emphasize that it’s important for the DNR to work on getting hybrid meetings to facilitate participation by a larger group of people. **Council Member Trotter** requested the website reflect the email and phone number are more clearly stated to ensure the public knows who to contact. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Proposed presentations for the November meeting

- Discuss Sections 6.2, 6.3, and 6.8 of the wolf management plan
- 6.2: Maintain active research and monitoring programs to support science-based wolf management
- 6.3: Enact and enforce regulations necessary to maintain a viable wolf population
- 6.8: Facilitate positive wolf-human interactions and other wolf-related benefits
- Presentation on the DNR's accomplishments

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Pershinske** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Friedlander** 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 2:31 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2021, at Treetops Resort, 3962 Wilkinson Rd, Gaylord, MI.

Approved: 
Daniel Kennedy, Chair