

MINUTES APPROVED 3/22/2022

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2022

5:00-7:30pm Central / 6:00-8:30pm Eastern

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Chairman: Jim Lorenson - Vice-Chairman: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

Jim Baker	Dave Johnson	Kirk Schott
Erik Bessonon	George Lindquist	Skip Schulz
Floyd Dropps	Jim Lorenson	Carol Mason Sherrill
Joan Duncan	Chauncey Moran	Travis Smith
Barb Gajewski	Mary Peterson	Tom Solka
Mike Holmes	Horst Schmidt	Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Absent/Excused

Olivia Castles
Dave Hall

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff & Guests

Lt. Ryan Aho, Law Enforcement Division, Baraga
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette
Rob Katona, UP Trails-Parks & Recreation Division, Marquette
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga
Ryan McGillviray, Wildlife Division, Crystal Falls
Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division, Baraga
Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Heather Shaw, Wildlife Division, Shingleton
Scott Whitcomb, Executive Division, Lansing

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

At 6:00pm Eastern, **Chair Jim Lorenson** called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members, DNR staff, NRC commissioner Dave Anthony, and guests to the meeting. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Haughey, DNR UP Field Deputy, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including newly appointed NRC Commissioner Dave Anthony and other guests who registered and were listed on screen. She indicated the meeting will be guided with a powerpoint presentation and reviewed virtual meeting tips. She briefly explained the 13-year history of the Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils (East and West) which are advisory groups to the DNR. She mentioned there are two opportunities for public comment, one focused on agenda items and the other for general public comments.

Chair Lorenson asked for roll call. Ms. Dahlstrom read the names of all those attending virtually. A list of Council members was also displayed on screen.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Lorensen asked the Council if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. **Mr. Johnson** motioned to accept the agenda as presented; **Mr. Schulz** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See page 1. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Lorensen asked if there were any changes to the November 3, 2021, meeting minutes which were distributed to the Council via email for review. **Mr. Solka** motioned to accept the minutes as submitted; **Mr. Schulz** supported the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See page 1. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on January 13, 2021. The following brief updates were added:

1. Ms. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy:

- Gratitude was extended to longtime NRC Commissioner JR Richardson for his dedication and service to natural resources. He was very supportive of the UPCACs. Newly appointed NRC Commissioners Dave Anthony and Leslie Love were welcomed. Mr. Anthony served as a WUPCAC Council member from 2011 to 2018.
- Low numbers of samples were turned in for CWD testing in Dickinson County this past year. Any suggestions to increase awareness and promote the submission of samples in this surveillance area is highly encouraged.
- The Parks and Recreation Division has many positions open for seasonal roles; please urge those interested to apply. With the large increases in state park visitors, the hiring of all positions is essential.

2. Mr. George Madison, Fisheries Division:

- Winter weather has produced good conditions for ice fishing and an increase in the number of those taking advantage has been seen recently.
- **Mr. Dropps** asked if any funding was going to be coming to Fisheries from the Governor that could be used for walleye rearing. **Mr. Madison** replied he is not aware of any additional funding, although the division could use it with the increase in product costs.
- **Mr. Moran** asked about changing the Iron River from being open all year to closing it at certain times. He indicated he spoke with the NRC commissioners about it but hasn't heard back. **Mr. Madison** suggested bringing the suggestion to the fisheries Coffee & Conversation sessions coming up in April.

3. Mr. Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division:

- **Mr. Schulz** asked about school forests in his area and if it is still possible to obtain a working forest. **Mr. Seablom** stated he will work with him to move it forward.
- **Mr. Holmes** asked about the berming of Kimball Road which leads to Mud Lake, a popular bluegill, pike and muskey lake. There was a clear cut in that area and the road to the lake was useable for over a year and it now not accessible. **Mr. Seablom** indicated he will review the situation. He added that policy dictates if the access was a closed road before the timber sale, it will go back to a closed road after the sale. Later in the meeting, **Mr. Seablom** researched the area and stated the road in question leaves state land before it gets to the lake; he further explained and indicated he can provide additional information at the next meeting if needed.
- **Mr. Dropps** asked about the status of a gate on Shank Lake Road. **Ms. Haughey** stated she forwarded an email previously to him indicating the gate was opened; she will resend it.

4. **Lt. Ryan Aho, Law Enforcement Division:**

- The busy snowmobile season has had a rough start with four snowmobile fatalities occurring within a week. The latest occurred in Baraga County.
- **Mr. Solka** asked for the total fatalities so far this season. **Lt. Aho** stated there have been six fatalities to date.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked if citations can be given to those riders who ride off trail and/or on CFA land. **Lt. Aho** stated every situation of trespass is different. If the rider commits the act in the presence of an officer, a citation for trespass (misdemeanor) can be issued. If a landowner witnesses a trespass, it will need to go into a police report for a prosecutor to review (complaint warrant).
- **Mr. Skrubellos** from the audience asked if there is a law against the plowing of snowmobile trails down to the dirt during logging, as is happening on a segment of Big Wheel Road. **Lt. Aho** stated there are no applicable laws. **Mr. Katona** explained state timber sales that share a segment of snowmobile trail has specs that include requirements to maintain at least a four-inch base on the shared corridor. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will connect Mr. Skrubellos with Mr. Katona or Mr. Seablom after the meeting to discuss further.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked if sound checks are being done on snowmobile trails this year. **Lt. Aho** stated sound checks are part of regular patrols. He did not have details on the number of citations given this season.

5. **Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division:**

- Recreation passport sales and camp nights for October and November were up 14% and 8% respectively. July 4th reservations are already filling up.
- \$400,000 was received to replace waterlines on the east side of Fort Wilkins, closing that part of the park this coming August.
- Michigan Cares for Tourism will be coming to the Porkies to volunteer their time for park projects potentially in 2023.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked if the project to reinforce the shoreline along M-107 to the Porkies will continue. **Mr. Rich** stated they are working with the Ontonagon County Road Commission to reinforce the shoreline as needed. To move the road would cost \$12-13 million and is not feasible at this time.
- **Mr. Moran** asked about the status of trail clean up in the Porkies from severe storms the last few years. **Mr. Rich** stated the Department of Corrections helped and made major improvements. However, there is still work to be done.

6. **Ms. Heather Shaw, Wildlife Division:**

- Several agenda items will be discussed later in the meeting.

7. **Mr. Rob Katona, Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails:**

- **Mr. Schulz** asked about the rules and fees for guided group riding and/or when it is promoted. **Mr. Katona** stated if the group would be operating on state designated trails on state land, a permit would be required and typically there are fees associated with it. **Ms. Haughey** stated several years ago there was a discussion on the cap and triggers for a permit. **Mr. Katona** stated he will look up the criteria and relay it back to Mr. Schulz.

Chair Lorenson thanked all the staff for participating and their willingness to take questions from the Council, adding it's very valuable.

Annual Election of Officers

Chair Lorenson noted the Bylaws require the Council to have a yearly officer election, which traditionally occurs at the first or second meeting of the year. He turned the floor over to Ms. Haughey to conduct the election; **Ms. Haughey** opened the floor for nominations for 2022:

1. **Chairman**: **Mr. Schulz** nominated Mr. Lorenson; **Mr. Lorenson** accepted the nomination. After three more opportunities, no additional nominations were brought forth.
2. **Vice Chairman**: **Mr. Schulz** nominated Mr. Suchovsky; **Mr. Suchovsky** accepted the nomination. After three more opportunities, no additional nominations were brought forth.
3. **Vote**: **Mr. Schulz motioned to close the nominations for the two officer positions; Mr. Bessonen supported the motion. A vote was conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Final Results**: **For 2022, Mr. Lorenson and Mr. Suchovsky remain as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.**

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Chair Lorenson, in the absence of any registered comments, opened the floor to general public comments on agenda items only; none were brought forth.

Old Business

1. **Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update (Ms. Haughey)**:
 - The WMAC was established under state legislation to make recommendations to update the current wolf management plan.
 - The January meeting in Escanaba was their sixth meeting and their fourth meeting held in the UP. The February meeting is in Gaylord and the March meeting will be in Sault Ste. Marie.
 - An excerpt of the legislation was shown on screen. Item 8 indicates, *“the Council shall submit to the NRC and the legislature a report that makes non-binding recommendations as to the proper management of wolves in Michigan.”*
 - To review the current wolf management plan, look up meeting information, and for public comment instructions: www.michigan.gov/wmac.
 - The following notes from the January meeting indicate what sections the WMAC will review at upcoming meetings: 1) February: 6.12 & 6.10, 2) March: 6.7 & 6.8, 3) April: 6.9 & 6.11.
 - Council questions:
 - **Mr. Bessonen** asked if a survey is being done. **Ms. Shaw** indicated a tracking survey is currently underway throughout the region and a brief update is listed in the division report.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** commented the Escanaba meeting was much more productive, perhaps due to the work session the day before, attendance was good and there were great comments from attendees. **Ms. Haughey** noted several WUPCAC and EUPCAC members were in attendance.
 - **Mr. Moran** asked if specific packs are being identified and if collaring is being done. **Ms. Shaw** explained the tracking survey and how it is conducted. Wolves are not being collared during the tracking survey.
2. **Solar Projects on State Land Update (Mr. Whitcomb)**:
 - Renewable energy is growing worldwide and is seen as a more affordable and reliable source of energy.
 - The DNR is reviewing its land portfolio and considering solar options for non-productive land, land that has degraded from past industrial activities (i.e., gravel pits, mine tailing sites) in order to generate a new revenue stream.

- Two current projects: northern lower Michigan near Grayling in Crawford County (169 acres, previously used for gravel reclamation) and the Groveland Mine site in Dickinson County (673 acres, mine tailing site). Through a competitive request for proposals process, both have been leased. Both sites do not involve taking productive forest land or farmland out of production.
- Crawford County: Gravel reclamation site, requires an extreme amount of civil work, not gaining as much traction as the second site in Dickinson County.
- Groveland Mine: A lease and use permit allows a five-year period for the company to conduct due diligence with interconnection studies. It takes a long time to do these studies. Wetlands in area are not included in the leased acreage. Site presents engineering challenges. The lengthy leasing process was explained.
- Council questions:
 - **Commissioner Anthony** asked if the door is being kept open for long-term observation studies that might benefit future management strategies. For example, allowing the solar structures to provide cover for wildlife, accommodate parking, etc. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated they will be learning throughout this new process and will take advantage on opportunities as they arise.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** stated he appreciates non-productive sites are being looked at that aren't a recreation or productive forest area and feels developing a protocol for these sites is important. **Mr. Whitcomb** agreed. **Mr. Lindquist** added the corridors between the highways on I-75 seem like a good space for development of this sort. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated he has seen discussion on that topic with federal interstate folks.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked about the lakes at Groveland Mine that provide recreational fishery opportunities, stating he hopes those are not included in this project and access wouldn't be blocked. **Mr. Whitcomb** and **Mr. Seablom** indicated the lakes are outside of and not near the perimeter of the solar site. **Mr. Dropps** asked if a final map or plans of the site would be available to view. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated he will get the map to Ms. Haughey to share with the Council and will share steps along the way.
 - **Mr. Holmes** asked about the number of acres involved at Groveland Mine as he feels, from his experience as a former conservation officer in that area, there isn't adequate acreage, and the soil was very soft. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated the lease is for 673 acres, which were mapped, and the development area within that acreage is a high grassland area with a few red pine.
 - **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked about the longevity of the solar field and who will be responsible for the removal of equipment afterwards. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated the overall life of the project is predicted to be 30 years and cleanup afterwards would be a condition of the final lease. **Ms. Mason Sherrill** also asked about the need for copper for this project. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated the project will require copper and discussed a fossil fuel economy versus a more sustainable use of energy and the need to be as environmentally responsible throughout the transition.
 - **Mr. Solka** asked, based on public comments and discussion from the November WUPCAC meeting, if there will be an opportunity for a public hearing and/or input before there is final approval of the Groveland Mine project. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated because the lease is over 80 acres, a public notice will be held. There would also be an opportunity for public input at the NRC meeting at which the Director would approve or disapprove. He added the site has been thoroughly vetted by the DNR and was found to have minimal wildlife, recreation, and forestry impacts. Staff also met with the local township planning commission and local and adjacent township leadership, and they were ecstatic of the idea. They considered the area a wasteland and are anxious for new economic development in that area.
 - **Chair Lorenson** asked if there were any assessments or documents that addresses the lack of impacts or shows the economic benefits of the project that could be shared with the Council. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated there isn't a formal report, however, he can share what has been done to date.

- **Ms. Duncan** asked if there was an aerial map of the proposed area that can be shared with the Council. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated he will provide a map.
- **Mr. Johnson** stated he is on the planning commission and asked if the project will be bonded. **Mr. Whitcomb** stated it is part of the leasing process to have the site bonded.
- **Chair Lorenson** gave permission for Mr. Skrubellos, public attendee who also attended the November WUPCAC meeting and raised his concerns of the project, to speak. Mr. Skrubellos asked if the map will show the wetlands area and other details, as he agrees with Mr. Holmes that there doesn't seem to be 673 acres of usable land available in that location. **Mr. Whitcomb** retrieved a current map of the project and displayed it on screen. He pointed out the location of wetlands, a nearby lake, roads/trails, etc. all which were shown to be outside of the marked project area.
- **Ms. Duncan** suggested an escrow account be required as part of the lease which could take care of the complete removal of all equipment at the end of the project life and not allow the equipment to be designated or passed to others. **Mr. Whitcomb** indicated the bonding process would ensure that reclamation would occur regardless if the equipment would be of value to others in the future.

Chair Lorenson thanked Mr. Whitcomb for discussing this project and stated the Council looks forward to the information/documents he can share as well as future updates and opportunities to provide input.

New Business

1. Deer Season Recap (Ms. Shaw):

- Most check stations were open Nov. 15-18 only. The Escanaba Customer Service Center and Norway Field Office check stations were open most days through the firearm season.
- The total from these two stations (Escanaba 547 & Norway 132 = 679) is up about 3% from the same time in 2020. It is important to note that there have been several changes to check stations over the past 10 years.
- Most of the deer checked were bucks. Most UP bucks aged at check stations have been 2.5 years old or older, but a higher percentage of bucks have been 1.5 years old than the past few years. Last winter was mild and provided good conditions for young deer to make it through the winter. An approximate breakdown of UP bucks aged at check stations in 2021: 1.5 years old - 28%; 2.5 years old - 40%; 3.5+ years old - 32%.
- Based on reports from check stations, most hunters seem to be satisfied with the hunting season. Many mentioned seeing more deer including multiple bucks. However, there were some that didn't see much. Deer have been in good condition overall, and antler development has been average to perhaps above average for some stations particularly on yearling bucks. Weather conditions were generally good for hunting most days, which was better than in 2020 when rain and high winds were widespread on opening day and poor conditions persisted for the next couple of days in many areas.
- Deer camp survey is being worked on and should be out mid to late February.
- License buyers were down about 3.7% statewide from 2020. Antlerless licenses were down 6.6%
- 6,700 deer were reported through the voluntary online harvest registration system this year. This may become mandatory next year if approved by the NRC in the spring.
- CWD samples collected in the state were 6,283 and of those, only 338 came out of the UP surveillance area. Everyone is encouraged to work together to increase samples from this area.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Bessonon** suggested an option to mail a successful hunter's patch be included with the online registration system if moving towards a mandatory system. This would streamline the process as people enjoy and look forward to receiving the patch. **Ms. Shaw** stated she will forward his suggestion to staff.

- **Mr. Lindquist** asked if the winter deer road survey is being done in conjunction with the wolf tracking survey. **Ms. Shaw** stated the strategy depends on the unit and further explained.
- **Mr. Lindquist** asked if more information on the deer checks will come out in the deer camp survey. **Ms. Shaw** stated the survey results will be published mid-February and the full statewide deer harvest survey report will come out in the spring. **Mr. Lindquist** noted Wisconsin puts out their report the week after deer season with their online system. **Ms. Shaw** indicated staff are diligently working on the reports and it takes time to compile manually at this time.
- **Mr. Lindquist** asked how deer will be aged with online reporting. **Ms. Shaw** stated she believes that opportunity will still be available in the field. It is currently being evaluated.

2. Wildlife Disease Updates (Ms. Shaw):

- *White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS)*: White-Nosed Syndrome is still present in Michigan. Unfortunately, due to Covid Wildlife staff were only able to survey a few bat hibernacula the past 2 years. However, the few sites that we have surveyed continue to hold bats at decreased but stable numbers. A full survey season is planned for this winter/spring and staff should have a better idea of the impacts of WNS on Michigan's bat populations. Strategies to mitigate impacts from WNS on bats continues with bat researchers from different universities.
- *Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2)*: Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) is a highly contagious virus affecting domestic and wild rabbits. RHDV2 is a Foreign Animal Disease that has appeared periodically in North America and has a high case fatality rate. It has been found in wild populations of hare and jackrabbit in numerous states but has not been detected in Michigan. The Wildlife Health Section is on the look-out and are currently conducting what is called passive surveillance for the disease. For passive surveillance to work, we are largely dependent on DNR staff and public citizens to be "eyes in the field". Any wild animals that are detected with symptoms or histories suggestive of RHDV2 are requested to be rushed to the lab for testing. This last year, there were a total of 9 individual animals submitted of species susceptible to the disease. Of those 9, only 2 had histories suggestive of RHDV2 and received disease specific testing. Both came back negative.
- Caitlin Ott-Conn is representing the DNR in a joint effort with MDARD to create a response plan to: 1) detail current passive surveillance efforts for wildlife (DNR) and captive (MDARD) animals; and 2) map out the who/what/when/where/how reaction for any detections. MDARD has taken the lead and the plan is largely complete. The public's help and any detections can be reported online (<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/ors/Survey/4>) or by calling Caitlin (517-582-5696) or the lab's main line (517-336-5030).
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked what may be causing Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease. **Ms. Shaw** stated it is not known at this time.

3. Review of State Parks/Harbors 2021 Survey Results (Mr. Rich):

- The statewide surveys are compiled from online surveys that are emailed to overnight visitors in state parks and state harbors and marinas.
- Harbor Survey: Despite a challenging year, user satisfaction remains high at 80-90%. 94% indicated they would visit again. Using these metrics, trends and future use are evaluated.
- State Park Survey: The number one factor when choosing state parks is amenities. 62% of respondents have a motorhome or large trailer and are looking for full-hookup sites. Future planning includes updating sewer systems to accommodate more of these sites. 78% of people get information regarding state parks from the DNR website indicating improvements in the online presence is working.

- Council questions:
 - **Chair Lorensen** asked about the size of watercraft indicated in the survey results. **Mr. Rich** stated the circles represent the size of the watercraft seen in marinas. Most of the watercraft using boating access sites are 26 feet and under.
 - **Chair Lorensen** asked if a colored copy of the survey displayed on screen could be sent to Council members. Ms. Dahlstrom indicated she will print and mail a copy to everyone.
 - **Ms. Duncan** asked about the expansion of facilities at Van Riper North so it can be used for horses. **Mr. Rich** indicated he can discuss the topic with Ms. Duncan after the meeting. He added the proposal has been given consideration by the equestrian trail subcommittee of MTAC and it was determined there was no interconnecting trail system.
 - **Mr. Solka** noted he received the state park survey and had a difficult time answering the question regarding the size/type camper as it didn't fit the category of one of the three options shown. **Mr. Rich** will share his input.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked if there was a UP-specific breakdown of the surveys that may be different than the statewide results shown as fishermen seem to use some parks more than most. **Mr. Rich** stated the survey results are generally the same across the state. There may be more hiking in the UP than the lower peninsula, but otherwise, the trends are very similar.
 - **Mr. Dropps** also asked what the Governor's recommended investment of over \$250 million for state parks will be used for. **Mr. Rich** stated the funding has not been appropriated yet and is currently with Senate Appropriations Committee. Once/if it is approved, the division will work through their capitol outlay needs assessment to make determinations.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** noted both surveys did not indicate if users fish while camping or boating. **Mr. Rich** stated the handouts report the top 10 activities; it is understood that many do fish.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked about ORV users who camp as it was also not listed. **Mr. Rich** explained not all activities could be listed to fit on this particular handout, so it only targets the top 10.

4. Council Consideration of Resolution regarding Superior Solar Project in Sands Township (Marquette County) (**Mr. Lindquist**): **Mr. Lindquist** discussed the resolution he prepared and was emailed to the Council last week for review.
- The resolution recommends the DNR oppose/not support the land agreement modification request by Superior Solar Project, LLC and Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. for a solar project in Sands Township, Marquette County, based on the considerable wildlife and public use of the property in compliance with the original land agreement, and to only agree to or support the sale of lands or rights for solar farms in areas ill-suited for other uses and that which fits into current DNR protocol for site selection requirements on DNR lands.
 - Council questions:
 - **Chair Lorensen** asked if the resolution should be re-written to include a broader scope of siting any of these types of projects versus targeting one specific project. **Mr. Schulz** agreed. **Mr. Lindquist** stated he was open to suggestions. **Ms. Haughey** added the resolution as written pertains only to the specific project, which is on private land. The state holds the recreation rights to this parcel and is a very unique situation. In reference to a broadly written resolution, she noted it could only address matters on state land.
 - **Chair Lorensen** asked if the current project is time sensitive. **Ms. Haughey** stated the public comment period has already ended and the DNR's land exchange review committee (LERC) is in the process of reviewing the proposal. **Mr. Seablom** added the divisions have already completed their reviews and sent them to the committee, noting the next step will be for the LERC to make their recommendations

to the Director. Discussion ensued regarding division recommendations and if they were known; **Mr. Seablom** indicated he does not know the overall stance.

- **Mr. Solka** recommended the resolution be considered as written for the specific project since it involves a decision to change to a specific land modification agreement.
- **Mr. Schmidt** asked who has the authority to nullify the original agreement that allowed the state to keep recreational rights to the parcel of land. **Ms. Haughey** stated Cliffs entered into an agreement with the State of Michigan. The project is between Superior Solar, LLC and Cliffs. Cliffs is asking for a modification to the original 1979 agreement to allow the project to continue. **Mr. Seablom** added after the LERC puts forth their recommendations, the Director has the final decision on whether to approve or disapprove the modification. He also noted for reference that not all the lands that were part of the 1979 agreement are included with this land agreement modification.
- **Chair Lorensen** called for the Council to consider the resolution as written. **Mr. Schmidt motioned to approve the resolution as written; Mr. Schulz supported the motion. A vote was conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Ayes: 15. Nays: 3. Absent: See page 1. No further discussion. Motion carried by majority.**
- **Chair Lorensen** noted since a broader-defined resolution would affect many types of recreational activities, he referred further discussion/development to the Trails/Recreation/Law subcommittee.

Reports from Committee Meetings Held

Chair Lorensen opened the floor for reports from the following Committees.

1. **Fisheries (Mr. Dropps):**
 - A committee meeting was not held.
 - The inland walleye management plan was published without comments submitted by the CACs. **Mr. Dropps** noted with the assistance from Ms. Haughey and Chair Lorensen, the DNR Fisheries Division republished the plan with all comments included. He thanked them and the Council for their support.
2. **Forestry:** No report at this time.
3. **Trails/Recreation/Law (Chair Lorensen):** A committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
4. **Wildlife (Mr. Lindquist):**
 - A committee meeting was held via conference call and discussion included the turkey tag resolution. No new resolutions were developed.
 - The DNR's response to the leftover spring turkey tag resolution was shown on screen and reviewed.
 - A DNR wild turkey stakeholder meeting will be held on January 26 at Bay College in Escanaba beginning at 7pm.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting Date:** **Chair Lorensen** noted the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, beginning at 6:00pm Eastern / 5:00pm Central. At this time, the meeting is planned to be held in person in Baraga (location TBD).
2. **Items for Next WUPCAC Meeting Agenda:** **Chair Lorensen** asked for any suggested topics for the next meeting be sent to him, Ms. Haughey or to Ms. Dahlstrom.

Public Comments (On Any Topic)

Chair Lorenson opened the floor for registered public comments:

1. *Mr. Frank Pearson, Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sports Fishermen – Walleyes (3 min):* Mr. Pearson spoke about walleye production in the UP, integrity of the strains raised, and 10 years of walleye planting data specific to Lake Superior and Lake Michigan watersheds. He noted the total plants for Lake Michigan are far less than Lake Superior and presented a graph of data to support his discussion. He'd like to see more in Michigan and none in Lake Superior. He stated if genetics are as important as claimed then stop putting Lake Michigan walleye in Lake Superior and utilize Lake Superior brood stock.

Chair Lorenson thanked Mr. Pearson for his comments and opened the floor for additional public comments; none were brought forth.

Council Closing Comments

Chair Lorenson opened the floor for Council closing comments:

- **Mr. Suchovsky** provided a deer report from his property in Menominee County, noting a very good hunting season with 18 out of 20 DMAP permits filled.
- **Mr. Lindquist** suggested an update of walleye in Lake Superior as a topic for a future meeting. **Mr. Madison** indicated quantitative historical baseline data is not available for walleye in Lake Superior.

Adjournment

Chair Lorenson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm Eastern/ 7:31pm Central.