

Western Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council (WUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 7/25/24
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
5:00-7:30pm Central / 6:00-8:30pm Eastern
Virtual via Zoom

Council Members Present

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Erik Bessonon | Dave Johnson | Carol Mason Sherrill |
| Floyd Dropps | George Lindquist | Jeff Sierpien |
| Barb Gajewski | Chauncey Moran | Warren Suchovsky |
| Dave Hall | Horst Schmidt | Faye Williams |
| Mike Holmes | Skip Schulz | |

Council Members Absent/Excused

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Suzanne Petschke | Kelly Bennett Simon | Dwaine Starr |
| Kirk Schott, Vice Chair | Tom Solka, Chair | Lucas Vold |

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff & Guests

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
John DePue, Wildlife Division, Baraga
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy-Executive Division, Marquette
Darren Kramer, Fisheries Division, Escanaba
Sgt. Mark Leadman, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette
Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division, Sault Ste. Marie
Mitch Marcus, Wildlife Health Section, Lansing

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Since both the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend and rather than canceling the meeting, **Ms. Haughey** stated she felt it was important to hold the meeting virtually without any action being taken due to a variety of informational topics planned for the agenda. At 6:12pm Eastern, she began the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions of Council Members/DNR Staff/Public Attendees

Ms. Haughey noted that attendees were listed on screen under the Zoom participant list and will be placed on record. She provided a brief overview of the Council's role as chartered by the DNR. She also reviewed virtual meeting etiquette and then welcomed everyone to the meeting including members of the public who registered to attend: Nathan Miller-Copper Harbor Trails Club, Mitch Marcus-DNR Wildlife Health Section, and Craig Woerpel from WYKX/WDBC News Radio.

Agenda

Ms. Haughey indicated because this meeting was informational, the agenda will remain as prepared without a need to approve.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Ms. Haughey noted the minutes from the March 25, 2024 meeting were distributed by email for review. She indicated approval of the minutes will be deferred to the July meeting. However, if there are any corrections to be made to please send them in advance to Ms. Dahlstrom.

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on May 22, 2024. **Ms. Haughey** opened the floor for Council questions on any items included in the reports.

- **Mr. Lindquist** stated he didn't see any references to the Great Lakes wolf population after he read the federal wolf update by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS). **Ms. Haughey** indicated the USF&WS has been in contact with the Michigan DNR and she feels they are not at the point of addressing specific regions. **Mr. Lemmien** added he got the impression from the USF&WS's newly announced national recovery plan they would be focusing on states that don't have a population but have a habitat for wolves. **Mr. Johnson** noted that Mr. Jim Hammill was invited by the Senate Natural Resources Committee to give testimony on wolves for the northern tier of Michigan and Wisconsin on May 3.
- **Mr. Schmidt** stated he read a report on Wisconsin's CWD problems which indicated they had a 6% increase in infections, mostly in the southwest portion of the state, and that infections are spreading north. With Wisconsin dairy farms being a source of infection in the past there, he asked if staff have heard about any problems coming from that way. **Ms. Haughey** stated the Department of Agriculture handles testing for private facilities and has strict requirements such as fence heights, etc.
- **Mr. Lindquist** asked about the Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) funding and how much is brought into the fund annually from the \$1.50 each deer license sold. **Mr. Lemmien** stated he can look up the statistics and report back. He stated it has been \$1.50 since the program began in 1971, and it has not kept up with inflation. He added the acquisition of deer wintering complex-type land has been the priority. He also provided an update on two other grant programs. The UP Deer Habitat Improvement Program (DHIP) recently awarded 14 successful grant applications totaling \$140,000. \$40,000 of the funding came from the lower peninsula program which put a hold on their grant cycle for a year. The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program, which is a statewide grant program with \$1 million in funding, also recently awarded successful applicants, including 6 proposals in the UP totaling \$300,000.
- **Mr. Lindquist** mentioned the wolf survey results listed in the division report and asked if estimates are used for the 8 units not surveyed. **Mr. Lemmien** stated there isn't enough staff to complete all units and for the ones not covered, there is a modeling equation that is used to estimate or project those units not surveyed. Units are rotated during the surveys as well.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked if CPL laws for a motor vehicle are the same for a side-by-side. **Sgt. Leadman**, who joined on behalf of Lt. Aho, indicated the CPL laws are the same no matter what type of motorized vehicle one is in.
- **Mr. Williams** asked why there is a coyote season now. **Ms. Haughey** indicated the decision was made by the NRC at their March meeting to close hunting season on coyotes between mid-April to mid-July whereas before this change it was open all year round. She stated this new change reverted the season back to what it was before 2017. This new decision does not impact private land. She noted over the period of two months when the NRC was reviewing this regulation, a great amount of public input was given with approximately 80 public comments occurring at the February and March NRC meetings.
- **Mr. Williams** also asked about the status of Ross Grade. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will seek an update from **Mr. Seablom** and report back. **Mr. Williams** stated he really appreciates all the work being done to improve public access.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked for an update on the well situation that occurred when the Bill Nichols trail was being rebuilt. **Ms. Haughey** explained the situation in which an old well from an unregulated water source was found during trail work and was ordered closed by EGLE. Through a lot of time and effort from DNR staff, EGLE staff, local health department, local citizens and county board, efforts are underway to have a new well drilled to provide a water source for local homeowners involved. **Mr. Schulz** thanked everyone for working hard to fix this issue.

- **Ms. Haughey** also relayed a message to **Mr. Schulz** from the last meeting in which he asked about a possible surplus of funding due to the lack of grooming needed last winter. She stated **Mr. Yesney**, who couldn't attend this evening, indicated there will not be a surplus of funds because very few trail permits were sold due to the warm winter. Any surplus from unspent grooming funds will need to be carried forward to the 2024-2025 winter season. The financial demand for funding to construct bridges, perform special maintenance projects, and purchase equipment is greater than the surplus and/or balance in the fund.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Ms. Haughey opened the floor for public comments on agenda items only; none were brought forth.

New Business

1. Update on White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in Michigan Bats (Mr. DePue)

- **Mr. John DePue**, wildlife biologist from Baraga, provided a slide presentation and update on White-Nose Syndrome in Michigan bats, specifically those in the UP.
- *Bats of Michigan*: There are 9 species, all insectivores (primary nocturnal insect predator). Two are federally endangered bat species, the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat. All have legal protection in Michigan. They are long-lived bats, with big brown bats living 30+ years in the wild.
- *Why Should We Care About Bats*: Economic Importance: Pest control benefits \$3.7-\$53 billion/year nationally. Michigan agriculture benefits equal \$528 million to \$1.2 billion annually (2011), ~\$74 per farmed acre. Bats like gypsy moths, tent caterpillars, cutworms, pecan nut casebearers, fruit worms, forest cone worms, hickory shuckworms, and corn ear worm moths.
- *What is WNS*: It is a disease caused by a fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), which causes energy depletion. It impacts a whole suite of cave bat species: little brown, Northern long-eared, tri-colored and big brown bats.
- *Impacts of WNS*: 80-100% mortality rate in hibernacula. Cause of northern long-eared bat (NLEB), little brown bat, and tri-colored bat declines.
- *WNS in Michigan*: Michigan is in its 10th year of infection. All hibernacula have presence of WNS.
- *WNS Impacts in Michigan*: Survey data indicates an 89% decline of the sites surveyed post-WNS infection. Colder hibernacula continue to have higher survival.
- *Michigan DNR Bat Conservation Actions*: Statewide bat monitoring (disease, population), protect critical hibernacula, WNS treatment trials, outreach/education, Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- *Hibernaculum Climate Manipulation*: Reduce internal temperatures to 36-38 degrees F.
- *Lake States HCP*: The Michigan DNR worked with the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs to prepare the HCP which provides protection from litigation for forestry management practices while providing habitat conservation for federally listed species. This plan lays out information needed to obtain an incidental take permit.
- *Lake States HCP Status*: HCP approved in March 2023. Committed to withstand retention. Private landowners with 10,000 or more acres who intend to conduct forest management activities and those with ownerships of any size near important bat habitat features will be eligible to apply for the landowner enrollment program.
- *Questions*:
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if any signage will be put up at the mineshaft in the Porkies where people sometimes visit to alert them that it is gated because of WNS. **Mr. DePue** stated it was closed previously to any WNS research due to safety concerns. He noted it is in the plans as the project progresses to include some sort of interpretive signage to educate folks on their projects.
 - **Ms. Mason Sherrill** stated she has been involved in bat education for years and asked what the minimum amount of property is needed to be involved in the landowner enrollment program. **Mr. DePue** stated it is currently a minimum of 10,000 acres. **Ms. Mason Sherrill** stated she encourages members of her lake association to put up bat houses like she does routinely. She has noticed the downturn in the number of bats in her area. **Mr. DePue** thanked her for providing bat houses and encouraging folks to be conscious and involved in bat conservation. He stated in the near future there may be a dedicated biologist to work

on bat conservation and provide programs for smaller landowners. He stated he'd be glad to talk about different things she can do to help bat habitat. **Ms. Mason Sherill** asked if anything can be used to kill the fungus in caves. **Mr. DePue** further explained.

2. Michigan Army National Guard (107th Engineer Battalion) Partnership with DNR State Parks (Ms. Haughey)

- Through a great collaborative partnership with the DNR, the Michigan Army National Guard 107th Engineer Battalion will be completing a range of construction projects at various Michigan state parks and other facilities as part of the Guard's Innovative Readiness Training. A community engagement day is scheduled on June 10 at Van Riper State Park to celebrate this collaborative and successful partnership. The appreciation for their partnership cannot be emphasized enough. Details from a recent press release included the following.
- The 107th Engineer Battalion (107th EN BN) of the Michigan Army National Guard has joined forces with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to embark on an ambitious journey of state park improvement projects this spring.
- The primary objectives are twofold: to elevate the quality of state park facilities and concurrently enhance the mission readiness of the Guard.
- Provides an avenue for skills training known as Innovative Readiness Training (IRT). As these soldiers engage in construction endeavors, they simultaneously fortify their proficiency in the intricate art of construction, ensuring a robust skill set for future challenges.
- For over two decades, the Michigan National Guard has fostered a robust and positive collaboration with the DNR, exemplifying a longstanding partnership rooted in mutual benefit.
- As a testament to the impact of this collaboration, the 107th EN BN IRT initiative, as of 2023, has resulted in saving the state of Michigan an estimated \$1.8 million in labor costs.
- The 1432nd Engineer Company, stationed in Kingsford and Gladstone, will assist the Western UP District of the DNR including the meticulous restoration of historic cabins at Craig Lake, a park favorite since 1954, and the rehabilitation of parking areas at over 9 locations across Marquette and Baraga Counties. The scope of their efforts spans six individual boating access sites, strategically situated between Negaunee and Champion, aiming to enhance access roads leading to Craig Lake and Van Riper State Parks.
- The 1430th Engineer Company, based in Traverse City, are slated to undertake more than eight construction projects at Wilderness State Park, located near Carp Lake in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula. Four of these projects carry a specific request to enhance camping accessibility for visitors with disabilities, aligning seamlessly with the vision set forth by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's 2021 park improvement initiative.

Old Business

1. Deer Management Initiative (DMI) Update (Ms. Haughey & Mr. Lemmien)

- The DMI was rolled out at the December NRC meeting. An application process followed to add members; over 2,000 people applied. **Ms. Haughey** thanked all the members of the UP DMI group, including **Mr. Johnson** (WUPCAC member, representing UPSA), noting the hundreds of hours put in by both members and staff and the enormous amount of dialogue that was exchanged.
- After several weekly meetings over two or so months, an in-person two-day meeting for the UP DMI group was held at the end of April in Marquette. This was the culmination of weekly meetings and when the group brought forward their suggestions for regulation changes to be considered by the NRC after DNR review. This entire process was requested by the NRC.
- **Ms. Haughey** acknowledged the confusion noted by a few members at the in-person meeting about the voting process. She stated the entire process is not yet finished. She then reviewed the following:
 - *Honoring the process, much time has been invested.*
 - *Final reports from both the UP and lower peninsula DMIs were submitted to the DNR for review by May 24.*
 - *Actionable recommendations will be presented to the NRC for information only at their June 13th meeting in Lansing.*
 - *An NRC work session is scheduled for June 26; this will be a public meeting. Location to be announced.*

- *Potential action on all regulation changes lies with the NRC and is expected at the July NRC meeting.*
 - *This is a starting point for conversation. It is understood that not every participant is satisfied with the outcomes and the process.*
 - *There are still opportunities for input and to work through some of these recommendations.*
 - **Ms. Haughey** then reviewed what she called the “raw UP DMI recommendations”, which are recommendations extracted from the UP DMI’s final report and not yet evaluated by the NRC. Some of these don’t require NRC action and some are legislatively set.
 - 1) Year-round coyote season: no regulatory change, outside of species regulatory cycle.
 - 2) Antlerless harvest during early archery season on single deer license and deer combination license: adding DMUS 127, 066, 131, 042, 0361, 007, and 048, remaining DMUs will have antlerless harvest opportunities during the late archery season removed.
 - 3) Eliminate antlerless access permits in DMUs 351 and 352: no antlerless license use in these DMUs.
 - 4) DMAPs only available in DMUs 022, 122, 255, 055, 155, and 121: DMAPs cannot be issued in rest of UP.
 - 5) 3-point APR on single deer license across the UP.
 - 6) Antlerless deer licenses expire on private land on November 14 in DMUs 022, 122, 255, 055, 155, and 121: no quotas in other DMUs.
 - 7) Bear season date changes: no regulatory change, outside of species regulatory cycle.
 - 8) UP-wide hunting and trapping season for wolves: recommendation cannot be taken up at this time.
 - 9) Review regulations every 3 years: no regulatory change.
 - 10) Promote hunter safety in schools: legislative change, no action.
 - **Ms. Haughey** reminded the group that these items are not final, and that the NRC was very active in this process and will be reviewing all work by the DMI at the work session on June 26.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** thanked those who were involved, including the DMI members and staff. He asked for a copy of the raw recommendations as he hasn’t seen these before. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will send a copy to Council members.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if there was any conversation on the use of crossbows during the DMI process. **Ms. Haughey** stated it probably was touched on during the many hours of meetings. However, during the last in-person meetings, discussion boiled down to these ten items. She asked if **Mr. Johnson** if he had any comments. **Mr. Johnson** indicated a lot of his comments came out pretty strongly in his letter (submitted to the DMI and NRC about the process, voting and results) and he had nothing further to add. **Ms. Haughey** asked **Mr. Johnson** to send her a copy of the letter he was referencing.
2. Moose Hunt Questions Following Resolution Response (Mr. Lemmien)
- After the submission of both the WUPCAC and EUPCAC’s joint resolution (in September & December of 2023 respectively) regarding the implementation of a moose hunt in Michigan to raise funds for moose research, the DNR’s resolution response letter and attachments prompted additional questions from the WUPCAC. **Mr. Lemmien** applauded both Councils for their resolution as a means to gain funding for research, stating, however, the need for research is paramount before any hunt can be possible.
 - *Question 1: Minnesota DNR uses helicopters to conduct moose survey. Can Michigan DNR do the same? What training are current moose spotters getting? Are there mostly new spotters each time?*
 - *Training and equipment would be cost factors that may not allow the Michigan DNR to use helicopters. It was also noted that trained staff are used as spotters; volunteers are not permitted at this time. Ms. Haughey added contrary to popular historical belief and rumor, the DNR does not have a fleet of black helicopters.*
 - *Question 2: We need to do some wider surveys to get a better handle of how many moose are emigrating out of the core area. Moose are well known to wander. How many car/moose accidents are not in the core area?*
 - *Less than 5% of vehicle/moose accidents in the west UP occur outside of the core area. I have submitted a research project request to reevaluate the core area to see if the core area has changed in size over time and/or shifted.*

- **Question 3:** Now that a great deal of the moose core area is in this Michigamme Highlands conservation easement project, what can be done to preserve or improve habitat for moose? Can we ask them to preserve hemlock and cut aspen at a younger age?
 - *We have been working on acceptable language to the conversation easement which will serve to protect DWC areas and provide/create moose habitat. Continues to be an on-going process which we are happy with the progress and potential outcomes.*
- **Question 4:** I would think wolves can't all follow deer to DWC's, without going into other wolf pack territories. The current DNR wolf lead has said that wolves don't take moose. With wolf pack ranges getting smaller, what do wolves eat in the moose core area after deer migrate out of that area for the winter?
 - *It may have been misunderstood what was said at the NRC meeting during a wolf presentation. **Mr. Lemmien**, who was at this meeting, further explained that a reference was made that if a wolf had an option, it would rather go after a deer rather than an adult moose as it would spend less energy doing so. He added during surveys, they have a lofty goal to collar one animal in each pack so their movement can be tracked, territories can be assessed, interactions and roaming reviewed, etc. Data shows there currently isn't one particular pack that lives within the moose core area. They may roam through the area, however.*
 - ***Mr. Johnson** asked if GPS collars are used and how many hits a day are obtained. **Mr. Lemmien** stated GPS collars are used and they are set to record approximately one hit per 8 hours. The collars also have a mortality signal. **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked why wolves have a longevity of only 3-4 years, when they are similar to dogs. **Mr. Lemmien** explained the harsh conditions of living wild in the UP, constantly hunting for their next meal, interactions with other packs, vehicle collisions, etc.*
- **Moose Drops:** Pictures from the moose relocation efforts to the UP in the 30s and the 80's were shown on screen and explained.
 - ***Mr. Schulz** asked about the effects of ticks and warm winters on moose. **Mr. Lemmien** stated one winter may not have much of an effect, but in general, tick load on moose can have an impact.*
- **Question 5:** Can the wolf cameras provide any data on the size of the moose herd? 5b) Are they recording any photos of moose where they are placed on the grid?
 - *Yes, the researchers will be noting moose activity from the camera survey and will be able to determine some data.*
- **Question 6:** The model is presuming a % of years seeing min. 3% growth, as stated in Table 1 of the response. Well, that is not happening, so should that be updated with the information that MDNR has? If the model just used data pre 2011, shouldn't it be run again with current data and new growth assumptions?
 - *The population model does not assume a growth rate but rather predicts the growth rate based on provided harvest rates (i.e., 10 or 20 bull moose) and vital rates from the early 2000's study. Vitals rates at this time were collected from a population which was growing 10% annually. Under the two harvest scenarios the population model estimated the percent of years where the growth rate would be 3% (the threshold for determining to have a moose hunt). If we wanted to update this model, we currently do not have the data to adjust the vital rates to describe the observed growth rate of <1% over the last decade. Updating the vital rates would be important to determine if bull moose mortality from harvest would greatly influence the population trajectory.*
- **Question 7:** At the time of the MAC recommendations, annual growth rate using every other year population estimates by MDNR maybe was one the best metric to determine sustainability of harvesting a few animals, health of the heard etc. The MAC recommendations and the white paper research is a few years old, could we ask MDNR to reassess the most important metrics to determine if a hunt is sustainable and how many animals would be included in the take if that? If that data does not exist, could DNR provide what data they would like to see to support a moose hunt?
 - *Yes, updated moose vital rates (e.g., pregnancy rates, calf twinning rates, calf recruitment, emigration rate, age and sex class survival) to identify what factors are limiting population growth would be required to update population models to determine the viability of a moose hunt and the projected effects differing harvest rates would have on the population trajectory.*

- **Mr. Schulz** asked who has the authority to set a wolf hunt both on Isle Royale and in Michigan. **Mr. Lemmien** stated Isle Royale is a national park and that would be determined through federal regulations. In Michigan, the NRC has that authority.
- **Question 8:** Can the model that was used in the 2011 reports as referenced in the response be run with a 5 bull hunt?
 - Yes, but the results would not be appropriate to apply to the current population given the estimated <1% annual population growth.
- **Question 9:** Is using just abundance the best information to use to determine the growth "rate" as reported on the first page of MDNR response to moose hunt? I don't see how you get a rate from just a population estimate. In the white paper (2011) the authors discuss "growth (positive, negative, or 0)... is the result of the interaction of the rates of birth, death, immigration, and emigration." I am sure there are many methods and models for looking at growth rates, I just am a little confused on how you get a rate from just looking at an aerial survey done every other year.
 - A rate can be any measure of change over a unit of time. Here we use the change in abundance over a 10-year period to estimate average annual growth rate which showed markedly different patterns between each decade. We could also estimate annual growth rate by using (birth rate + immigration rate) - (death rate + emigration rate). However, these data are not available for the last 18 years and it is not appropriate to apply values from the early 2000's to the current population.
- **Question 10:** Does figure 1 in the response take into account emigration?
 - Yes, as this is based off population estimates the change in abundance would reflect individuals that have emigrated out of the core range.
- **Question 11:** Is there an actual survey report, something similar to what MN does for their surveys? All I could find was the PP online of the moose survey summary.
 - Yes. A copy will be sent to both the WUPCAC & EUPCAC members.
- **Mr. Lemmien** thanked the group for their questions and indicated he has submitted formal proposals to the Wildlife Divisions' research section to conduct moose research in the UP to update the information that is outdated, such as moose vitals, pregnancy rates, twinning rates, and core range. The camera survey may help with data on any changes in the core range. Another part of his research proposal is to evaluate the effects of winter ticks on moose. Pulling in research university partners is also part of his plan for additional collaboration.
- **Additional Council Questions:**
 - **Mr. Lindquist** thanked **Mr. Lemmien** for diving into this issue and trying to find ways to do more for the moose herd, to update information and to collaborate with research partners. He noted an article he forwarded to the Council's wildlife committee regarding a moose hunt established in Nevada, where there are only 100 moose, in an effort to raise money to pay for a moose program, similar to the Council's resolution recommending a hunt for the same purpose.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if the DNR has a close working relationship with the Forest Service for habitat and other wildlife projects. **Ms. Haughey** stated the DNR has many partnerships with the Forest Service on a variety of projects and agreements, such as the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and participating on the DNR's UP Habitat Workgroup. **Mr. Lemmien** further explained the collaboration between the two agencies on the GNA as it relates to wildlife habitat.

3. DNR Responses to January Resolutions (Ms. Haughey)

- **Crossbow Hunting Be Allowed in a Portion of the UP**
 - **Ms. Haughey** showed a map of the core CWD area in the UP that was lifted in 2023 by the NRC and had included the use of crossbows during December. The resolution passed in January by the Council essentially is asking to allow it back in a similar southern UP area. She indicated once the DMI recommendations are evaluated by the NRC in June, a response will be provided.

- *Include Crop Damage & DMAP Numbers in Yearly Deer Harvest Numbers*
 - **Ms. Haughey** noted because this recommendation was implemented the day of or a day before the Council's resolution was submitted, an official response will not be needed.

4. **DNR Responses to March Resolutions (Ms. Haughey)**

- *Recommend any increase in DNR Fisheries revenue be prioritized to provide deliverables*
 - **Ms. Haughey** stated the EUPCAC will also be considering this same resolution at their June 5 meeting. A combined response to both Councils is expected to be available in July.
- *Oppose expansion of underwater spearing under regulation FO 219.25*
 - **Ms. Haughey** noted the same as above for this resolution as well.

Committee Activity

1. **Fisheries (Mr. Dropps)**

- **Mr. Dropps** reported he spoke with Mr. Dave Caroffino, the new Lake Superior Basin/Tribal Unit Coordinator about the recently negotiated 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree. **Mr. Dropps** stated he learned it looks like there will not be any non-tribal commercial fishing for lake trout in the Great Lakes. He also stated the walleye egg take was successful with over a million eggs retrieved. It should be known around the first of July how the rearing went and how many walleye fingerlings will be available for stocking.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked if the committee could look into getting some fish planted in the kid fishing ponds near him. Speaking of fishing ponds, **Ms. Haughey** mentioned a free fishing event for kids that is scheduled at the DNR Pocket Park in Escanaba on June 8. **Ms. Dahlstrom** further explained all the events scheduled for Kids Fishing Day at the park from 12 noon to 3pm. All kids who attend will receive a fishing pole, tackle box, or fishing backpack.

2. **Trails/Recreation/Law (Ms. Gajewski)**

- **Ms. Gajewski** reported the committee does not have anything to bring forward at this time. **Mr. Schulz** mentioned the committee will be looking at trying to get some funding for rolling and packing of the trails. He also wanted to thank **Mr. Rich** and **Mr. Katona** for their detailed division reports. He knows it takes time to prepare them and they are so informative. He greatly appreciates the time spent to do them.

3. **Wildlife (Mr. Lindquist)**

- **Mr. Lindquist** reported the committee has not met as they have been waiting for the UP DMI recommendations to be available. Now that the draft recommendations were presented, he will schedule a meeting after the June NRC meeting. He said there is no time to prepare and consider any resolutions by the Council since the next meeting is after the July NRC meeting, so it will be more of an education for the committee who could then make comments on their own behalf to the NRC. He felt it was unfortunate how the meeting dates fell this year and not being able to weigh in as a committee on the recommendations. **Ms. Haughey** stated it was fortunate the UP DMI group had members from both the WUPCAC and the EUPCAC. She reminded Council members the NRC work session to review deer regulation recommendations being held on June 26 is public and anyone can attend. She assured them they are being heard by both the UP DMI group as well as the NRC commissioners.

4. **Other Committee Activity:** None.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Meeting:** **Ms. Haughey** noted the next Council meeting will be held in person on Thursday, July 25 in Escanaba at the Delta County Chamber of Commerce multi-purpose room.
2. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** **Ms. Haughey** stated any items for the July 25th agenda can be emailed to Chair Solka, herself, or Ms. Dahlstrom by mid-July which is when a draft agenda is discussed.

Public Comments (On Any Topic)

Ms. Haughey opened the floor for public comments on any topic; none were brought forth.

Closing Comments from the Council

1. **Ms. Mason Sherrill** spoke about the Covert Project/Workshop for Woodland Wildlife Stewardship that is sponsored by the Ruffed Grouse Society, American Woodcock Society, Sustainable Forestry Initiative and others. She mentioned this is a three-day woodland wildlife management program for private landowners and offers a lot of information that one may not already know. Due to connection issues, **Ms. Mason Sherrill** was disconnected and could not finish her comments. **Ms. Haughey** indicated Ms. Dahlstrom will send out the brochure information to Council members to look into if they are interested.
2. **Mr. Lindquist** asked if he could be sent the slides on the moose questions and answers. **Mr. Lemmien** stated he will have Ms. Dahlstrom email everyone a copy.
3. **Mr. Schulz** asked if the Forest Service could provide a presentation at some time in the future about their public involvement. He also asked if there has been any evidence found of a mating pair of cougars.
4. **Mr. Hall** asked if there was any work on regulations for the wake boat issue and also asked for an update on the Marquette County shooting range, specifically any safety concerns. **Ms. Haughey** stated the range is in full use and there has been a bit of a learning curve with a variety of issues, but it's getting good use. The road which was in significant disrepair is getting fixed by the National Guard partnership mentioned earlier. She noted there haven't been any safety concerns, but getting the word out by sportsman's groups and Council members could help to keep it nice since a significant investment was made to build the range. She also addressed the wake boat issue stating that Lt. Wanless provided an update at the March meeting. Sgt. Leadman added it is a very extensive process and he believes the DNR is waiting on further research to come in.

Adjournment

Ms. Haughey thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm ET.