

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

5:30-8:00pm Central / 6:30-9:00pm Eastern

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Chairman: Jim Lorensen - Vice-Chairman: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

Jim Baker	Dave Johnson	Kirk Schott
Floyd Dropps	George Lindquist	Skip Schulz
Joan Duncan	Jim Lorensen	Tom Solka
Barb Gajewski	Chauncey Moran	Trevor St. John
Dave Hall	Mary Peterson	Warren Suchovsky
Mike Holmes	Horst Schmidt	

Council Members Absent/Excused

Travis Smith

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff & Guests

Lt. Ryan Aho, Law Enforcement Division, Crystal Falls
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
John DePue, Wildlife Division, Baraga
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga
John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette
Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division, Baraga
Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Ron Yesney, Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails, Marquette

Welcome & Call to Order

At 6:30pm Eastern, **Chair Lorensen** called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A review of participants in virtual attendance (37) was provided by Ms. Dahlstrom.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Lorensen asked if there were any changes to the September 17, 2020 WUPCAC meeting minutes that were distributed to the Council via email for review. None were brought forth. **Mr. Schmidt motioned to accept the minutes as submitted; Mr. Schulz supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See attendance on page 1. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on November 3, 2020. The following verbal updates were provided.

- **Ms. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy:** Ms. Haughey pointed out most staff are continuing to work remotely and those than can are continuing their field work. She encouraged everyone to reach out to staff or to call the office with any questions as phones are forwarded and staff are answering calls as normal. She also reported that staff met with engineers at the proposed Marquette County shooting range last week and it looks as though construction is on target to start in the spring. A public meeting will be scheduled before then. She stated she received a note from Ms. Kerry Wieber as a follow-up to a question that was asked by Mr. Johnson and Commissioner Richardson at the last WUPCAC meeting in relation to funding used to purchase deer yards. She indicated once she has a chance to review the information, she will report back to them. She also reported for informational purposes that along with EGLE staff, the DNR has been working with Renewable World Energy in AuTrain Township as they have filed to surrender their hydro license for the AuTrain project (Forest Lake Dam or Reservoir). Ms. Duncan asked if the dam is going to be removed. Ms. Haughey replied they are not sure what their plan is, but they would have to modify the structure. She indicated she can send a summary on it, which is FERC project 10856. Mr. Lindquist asked if the DNR has any thoughts on purchasing it. Ms. Haughey stated there is significant maintenance that needs to be done and maintenance would have to be up to date on all structures before it would even be considered. In response to Mr. Holmes question, Ms. Haughey stated there is a north dam and a southern levee. She indicated she can obtain more information and have it as a topic for the next meeting as she thinks it is an important conversation; Chair Lorensen agreed.

- **Mr. George Madison, Fisheries Division:** Mr. Madison added the dam conversation is a good one to have with many dams well over their lifespan and in a state of disrepair. As for fisheries updates, he shared a picture of the Thompson Hatchery infrastructure improvements, including 6 new drainable rearing ponds, which should be operational next spring. He stated the ponds are on the Thompson Hatchery property making it easy for staff to keep an eye on them on a daily basis. The ponds will allow for bigger walleye fingerlings which in turn will allow better survival after stocking. Mr. Johnson asked if the ponds would require more staff. Mr. Madison responded they will hire a couple of summer college students to do plankton totals, etc., but no full-time employees will be added. Mr. Hall asked about the total expenditure for the rearing ponds; Mr. Madison stated he believed it was approximately \$6 million. Mr. Dropps asked if the \$6 million was just for the ponds or for a hatchery overhaul; Mr. Madison replied it was just for the ponds. He noted they typically stock the ponds with walleye in May and harvest them in late June. They may put minnows in the ponds then raise muskies through the fall for the muskie program and once the muskies come out, possibly put steelhead in there and raise them through the winter months. It is hoped these can be multi-use ponds to provide more stocking. Mr. Holmes asked if those muskies will be put in bodies of water where they will migrate out into other streams and populate other lakes. Mr. Madison there is not a definitive plan to put them in landlocked waters at this point.

- **Mr. Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division:** Mr. Seablom noted the two bridges mentioned in his written report are almost complete. One was installed on the Escanaba River last week with finishing work continuing and the other was over Warner Creek which should be completed sometime next week. He also provided and update on the DNR's substantial involvement in the western fires this year with several engines being utilized from the end of summer to just recently as well as several staff resources who were rotated in and out August through October in California, Colorado and Oregon. These opportunities provide staff with a wealth of experience. Mr. Schulz thanked Mr. Seablom immensely for his help with a forestry article he was writing, along with Mr. John Pepin. He also thanked the Council for looking into the school forest program at the last meeting as he feels it's important. Mr. Seablom stated he will continue to work with Mr. Schulz to pursue this option for those schools interested. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Hall asked if the Forestry Division has any type of report or publication on their involvement in fires outside of Michigan to share with the public as he

feels it an important story that should be told. **Mr. Seablom** referred the question to **Mr. Pepin**, who mentioned the fire section is in the process of compiling information and statistics so that a report can be produced for the public.

- **Lt. Ryan Aho, Law Enforcement Division:** **Lt. Aho** indicated with the increase in license and local bait shop sales, it looks to be a busy season for law enforcement. He spoke about a recent trophy buck case the officers were involved in. **Mr. Schulz** asked about the quiet time hours for ORVs during deer season. **Lt. Aho** replied it is listed in the hunting guide on page 20 (It is unlawful to operate an ORV or a snowmobile between the hours of 7 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. on any area open to public hunting during the Nov. 15-30 firearm deer season. Limited exceptions also listed.)

- **Mr. Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division:** **Mr. Rich** echoed Lt. Aho's view about a busy season, stating this time last year November 8-10, 2019, there were 877 camps statewide. This year, it is 4,300! He reported that the unit supervisor from McLain and Twin Lakes State Parks has moved to a new position below the bridge and with the hiring freeze, Mr. Rich has taken over that role temporarily. Blueberry Ridge Ski Pathway's warming shelter in Sands Township, which is run by the Superiorland Ski Club, will be closed this upcoming season as they will be unable to maintain COVID regulations. The ski trails will be groomed and open as always. **Mr. Schmidt** asked about summer walk-ins to state parks. **Mr. Rich** stated all facets of use at state parks increased this season, which has helped them financially recover from the poor outlook at the beginning of season. **Mr. Lindquist** asked when the parks opened for the season; **Mr. Rich** replied the campgrounds did not open until June 22 although the parks were open for hiking, walking, etc. **Mr. Lindquist** noted parks staff were able to work out methods of doing business while protecting workers and felt other state functions could do the same. **Mr. Rich** stated the Governor's executive order required specific work plans and allowed state parks to open once those were met. **Mr. Solka** asked if there is a specific date the state parks close for the winter. **Mr. Rich** replied state park campgrounds are closed to camping by November 1st or earlier if weather conditions warrant; however, parks are open for hiking and walking. **Mr. Schmidt** asked about the erosion status of state parks. **Mr. Rich** indicated they are monitoring conditions, citing McLain and Porcupine Mountains have endured the worst of past storms and shoring work continues in those areas. **Mr. Dropps** asked about the November election ballot proposal regarding changes to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). **Mr. Rich** stated it involves the MNRTF and the Michigan State Park Endowment Fund. He explained the proposed funding and allocation changes listed on the ballot and suggested that anyone interested in learning more can research it online. **Ms. Haughey** added these funds are constitutionally protected for their intended use and any changes to them require a ballot initiative. **Mr. Suchovsky** asked about a decrease in gas and oil drilling production and the effects on these funds. **Mr. Rich** stated it could affect the funds in the long-term future if a decrease continues. **Ms. Gajewski** asked for clarification of the pie charts in the division report; **Mr. Rich** explained. **Ms. Haughey** asked if there are cabins or yurts available to hunters during hunting season. **Mr. Rich** there are opportunities available such as cabins and yurts in a few locations, state forest campgrounds and dispersed camping.

- **Mr. Ron Yesney, Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails:** **Mr. Yesney** provided a few updates to his report:
 - Ride Right safety education materials are being worked on for the snowmobile community. The campaign's main focus has been to remind riders to ride on the right side of the trail. The new focus this year will be to ride on the trail and not to trespass on private property, which is to target backcountry trail riders who often go off trail. Poster and placemats will also be used as forms of education this year.
 - Trail closures include Trail 109 between Twin Lakes and Alston due to a new landowner from Chicago who does not want snowmobilers on his property. There are no reroutes options at this time. Trail 15, north

between Baraga and Chassell, is also closed due to a bridge washout. This trail should be open next year, but until then, if coming from the east to Houghton or the Keweenaw, travel to Mass City/Greenland area will have to be taken as there is no current route to get from Baraga north. There is also a trail closure between Crystal Falls and Sagola on Trail 16, which affects the east/west traffic across the UP. This closure is due to off trail riding and loud pipes.

- A new trail, 174, is open. This is an ORV route called the Ontonagon east connector that will be open for snowmobiling again this year.
 - Trail permits and registrations were up 29% overall from last year. Snowmobile trail permits are also up significantly higher than this time last year, so a good season is predicted if weather cooperates.
- **Mr. John DePue, Wildlife Division:** Mr. DePue stated he did not have anything to add to his report and will be reporting on several additional items further in the agenda.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Chair Lorensen indicated there were no pre-registered public comment requests pertaining to agenda items and asked if there were any comments at this time. Ms. Marcy Cella of L'Anse asked if the modern campgrounds were closed at this time; **Mr. Rich** replied yes, they are.

Old Business

1. Follow-Up from Last Meeting: **Chair Lorensen** asked for a report on several topics that were discussed at the last meeting and needed additional follow-up:
 - *Horse Trailer Parking at Van Riper State Park (Ms. Duncan):* **Mr. Rich** stated he, along with Ms. Haughey and Ms. Deb Gill of Van Riper, met with Ms. Duncan regarding her question on whether she could park her horse trailer at Van Riper so that she can explore the areas outside of the park boundaries. Nearby alternative parking areas were provided, and she is able to explore using the county roads in that area. He noted the recommendation to make Van Riper State Park (north section only) equestrian friendly was moving ahead but is in pause-status due to the pandemic. He stated Ms. Duncan also suggested an equestrian friends' group and helpful information was provided. **Ms. Haughey** indicated they will follow-up on this topic again in the spring.
 - *Muskie Status in the Paint River (Mr. Holmes):* **Mr. Madison** indicated there was a plan to survey the south branch of the Paint River in the spring of this year, but it was rescheduled to May 2021 due to COVID-19. He stated fisheries biologist Jen Johnson was able to get tags this year to be used with next year's survey to help document the extent at which these fish are moving. **Mr. Holmes** asked if the upper reaches of the Paint River will be included; **Mr. Madison** stated he is not aware that it is included. **Mr. Johnson** asked how real numbers could be obtained so that it is scientific. **Mr. Madison** stated population estimates will not be done. He asked Mr. Johnson to contact Ms. Jen Johnson to obtain more information on what her plan is next spring and further explained the assistance of muskie guides and clubs in tagging these fish. An update at the next WUPCAC meeting was requested.
 - *Number of Deer Tested in UP CWD Core Area in 2019 (Mr. Lindquist):* **Mr. DePue** indicated, as listed in the information provided by Dr. Kelly Straka on screen, the number of deer tested in 2019 in the UP CWD core area was 727 (with no positives), which was significantly under the goal of 2,654 needed for a detection level at 0.1% prevalence. He stated for calendar year 2020, the goal is 1,927 deer tested for the same set detection level of 0.1% prevalence. As of October 30, 2020, only 6 deer were tested in the UP CWD core area. He added approximately 200 samples were just recently sent to the lab for testing. **Mr. Lindquist** asked why the tested number is not cumulative from year to year (since 2018) and **Ms. Gajewski** asked for clarification on the determination of prevalence levels. **Mr. DePue** indicated it may be best for the

explanation on modeling to come from Dr. Dan O'Brien who developed the model. Discussion ensued regarding the need for continued surveillance even when and if the testing goals were met. Additional discussion also centered on how and why the prevalence and detection models were developed, and as a result, **Chair Lorenson** asked **Ms. Haughey** to obtain a description from Dr. O'Brien for the Council to review prior to any official presentation.

- *Current Status of UP Moose Population (Mr. Schmidt):* **Mr. DePue** stated the last estimate of the moose population in the UP was just over 500 animals. He indicated a moose survey was to be conducted this winter 2021 (every two years); however, it will not occur due to COVID-19 restrictions; the next survey will be the winter of 2023. **Mr. Lindquist** stated he thought the wolf count and the moose survey were at the same time, using aerial methods. **Mr. DePue** replied moose and wolf surveys alternate years and the wolf count is mostly on the ground.

New Business

1. **Wolf Delisting:** **Mr. Pepin** reported on October 29, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced in Minnesota that the agency is going to remove gray wolves from the federal list of threatened and endangered species for the lower 48 states. He stated wolves have been delisted and relisted several times and there has been a lot of court action that has occurred over several years moving them back and forth from the delisting process. This current delisting is set to become law 60 days after the final rule is published in the Federal Rules Register which is set to take effect January 4, 2021. The DNR supports the wolf delisting. The comeback of the gray wolf in Michigan is a true success story—it has surpassed all federal and state recovery goals for many years. If the wolf is removed from federal protected status and it goes into effect, management of wolves will return to state wildlife authorities. In the case of Michigan, that means management under the wolf management plan that was created by a wide range of interests including Native American tribes and environmentalists, to hunters and farmers. The plan, which was most recently updated in 2015, is designed to help ensure the continued viability of wolves while also seeking to reduce human wolf conflicts. **Mr. Pepin** stated any discussions of a wolf hunt would be premature as the delisting would not take effect until January 4. After that, the DNR believes that before a wolf hunt is considered there are a few things that should take place, one of which being the legal status of wolves should be more permanently settled, especially given the long history of legal challenges to the listing decisions and the resulting shifting status of wolves. It is difficult to say whether that will occur between now and January 4. He stated it would not be surprising if there is a legal challenge presented before that. Secondly, the DNR wolf management plan should be updated, and completion of a public attitudes study would be conducted in 2021, which hasn't been done in many years. Thirdly, the DNR will consult with federally recognized tribal governments located in Michigan prior to developing any potential hunt. He noted it's early consensus that if there was a wolf hunt designed like the last one in 2013 which was for a specific purpose to reduce wolf conflict primarily with livestock and pets, the confines of any hunt would have to be defined and established by the Natural Resources Commission before it could be approved. Finally, the two state laws that were suspended when wolves were put back on the endangered species list would go back into effect after January 4 and those would give livestock and dog owners the authority to be able to kill a wolf that is in the act of killing their animal if it was deemed necessary. It would remain illegal for anyone to kill a wolf other than the circumstances just outlined.

Mr. Lindquist asked if groups intended to initiate a lawsuit, would they have to wait until after January 4 or can they initiate it now. **Mr. Pepin** stated he is not sure but would assume that they would wait until after it is published in the Federal Register. **Mr. Johnson** asked why the wolf management plan is not being updated now. **Mr. Pepin** stated the DNR would like to initiate a public attitudes survey on wolves prior to updating the plan, as was done before. He stated the current plan, available online, would become active once they are

delisted on January 4. **Mr. Johnson** stated there are problems with the current plan and there are issues on the ground that people are dealing with pertaining to the population in many areas. **Ms. Haughey** asked if there was a specific concern that the DNR had not responded to. **Mr. Dropps** discussed the issue of dog depredation and if it will continue to be a federal offense to kill a wolf that has killed a dog. **Mr. Pepin** restated that once delisted, a wolf can be killed if it is in the act of killing a dog or livestock. **Mr. Schmidt** asked if there are any updated statistics on wolf conflicts as he has not heard of any reported in a while. **Mr. Pepin** replied there is a map on the DNR website that is updated frequently and noted some of those stats listed online. Discussion ensued in length on depredation and conflict issues, as well as compensation. Referring to Mr. Lindquist's question, **Mr. Solka** stated in his opinion as a former judge, anyone wanting to pursue litigation would have to do it before January 4 otherwise it would be a steeper hill to climb. **Mr. Lindquist** stated the frustration with lack of management is high. **Mr. Pepin** added after the delisting goes into effect, the status of gray wolves, including population, is monitored for five years afterwards and if the population were to drop below thresholds, they would be candidates for relisting.

2. Status of White Nose Syndrome in the UP: **Chair Lorenson** deferred this presentation to the January meeting due to time constraints.
3. Bear Season Recap/Deer Season Forecast: **Mr. DePue** noted that in typical years, DNR offices are open for bear registration and this year staff were on call. There are a several private check stations as well and they use paper registration copies so there are still over 1,000 paper registrations that are not in the system yet causing preliminary numbers to not be available at this point. However, since he is in the Baraga management unit, he reported those numbers: 520 bears were harvested, up 92 bears or a 22% increase. A couple of cinnamon bears were taken in the Porkies, a 529-pound bear harvested in the Carney unit as well as two 460-pound bears and another 500-pound bear. There were also a couple of 400-pound bears taken in both the eastern and western Baraga areas. Overall, he feels hunters were happy with the season. As for a deer season forecast, he spoke with other biologists and they feel it will be comparable to last year and may even be slightly up in areas. The winter was average and spring break-up was not eventful. If the weather cooperates, it should be ideal deer season conditions. **Mr. St. John** asked about the status of antlerless permits for public and private lands. **Mr. DePue** stated he did not currently know the status. **Ms. Haughey** stated she feels the private land permits are most likely not sold out. **Mr. St. John** asked to see those numbers for the next meeting.
4. 2021 Deer Regulations Review & Timeline: **Ms. Haughey** provided information on the 2021 Phase II Deer Regulation Recommendations that will be formally introduced to the NRC on November 12th. She emphasized that this information is for 2021 and it is preliminary. She reviewed the tentative timeline for information and action (November 12-presented to the NRC for action, December 10, NRC could take potential action, and January 14, NRC will likely take action). The recommendations were displayed on screen for the Council's review: Deer Harvest Registration, Standardized Antlerless License, Remove of Hunter's Choice, Allowance of Crossbows During the Late Archery Season, and Changes to Supplemental and Recreational Feeding. She stated she will keep the Council informed as the process moves forward.

Mr. DePue stated details, justifications and data will be publicly available after the NRC meeting for those that would like further information. He touched on those recommendations that are specific to the UP. Hunters will be asked to voluntarily register their deer harvest electronically in a new system in 2021 (system is currently being tested), with a mandatory registration slated for 2022. Other states like Wisconsin currently have similar systems. It will provide biologists a lot of great data. **Mr. Johnson** asked what information or type of data is the DNR hoping to capture. **Mr. DePue** stated what is being captured now is a sub-sample, so it

obviously will provide a better understanding of different harvest scenarios and paradigms. **Ms. Haughey** stated this just a brief draft of what is going to be proposed at the NRC; further details that derive from the NRC meeting will be shared with the Council afterwards.

Mr. DePue explained the next recommendation which is to standardize the antlerless license system based on zones and answered several questions brought up by **Mr. St. John, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Lindquist, and Mr. Johnson**. **Mr. DePue** reviewed the Removal of Hunter's Choice and Allowance of Crossbows during the Late Archery Season recommendations next, noting Mr. Lindquist did not agree with the crossbow allowance recommendation. The final recommendation he explained was the changes to supplemental and recreational feeding, stating that information had gone out about this that misled people to think the supplemental feeding was changing to only two gallons per day whereas, the proposal is to only allow recreational feeding to two gallons per calendar day. **Ms. Haughey** added there have been problems in Marquette County with recreational feeding and this recommendation would help solve those issues.

Chair Lorensen stated he is aware that several of the recommendations are controversial for folks and feels there is a sense that these recommendations are moving along relatively rapidly and asked for clarification of the timeline. **Ms. Haughey** stated there is a typical 60-day process for recommendations to the NRC. Several virtual open houses for the public were held in August and several conversations took place with stakeholders. Typically, the timeline for NRC is for information the first month, and then for action the second month. She stated she feels it will be more likely in January before the NRC were to act on the recommendations. She noted without physically being at banquets and meetings having those constant interactions, she can understand how it may seem sudden. **Chair Lorensen** stated he hopes the NRC will understand that people are just now realizing the impact of the recommendations and will take more time to make a decision. Discussion ensued in great detail with perspectives given by **Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Dropps, Mr. Johnson, and Chair Lorensen**. **Chair Lorensen** asked if Ms. Haughey could provide some rationale for the UP recommendations, it may be helpful for the Council to understand the background; **Ms. Haughey** agreed. **Chair Lorensen** also suggested to Mr. Lindquist and Mr. Johnson that it may be helpful to share perspectives from MUCC and UPSA to the Council as well; **Mr. Lindquist** and **Mr. Johnson** agreed. Discussion continued on the supplemental and feeding recommendation with **Lt. Aho** providing a law perspective and **Ms. Haughey** explaining how it relates to a local issue. **Mr. Solka** indicated he has listened to everyone's view on the recommendations and proposed the discussion continue as an agenda topic at the January meeting. **Chair Lorensen** agreed and stated there have been several opinions discussed this evening and because of the timeline, he encouraged Council members to send a letter to the NRC expressing their concerns in the meantime.

Reports from Committee Meetings Held

Chair Lorensen opened the floor for Committee reports from those committees that held meetings.

1. **Fisheries**: No meeting held.
2. **Forestry**: No meeting held.
3. **Trails/Recreation/Law**: **Chair Lorensen** opened the floor for Mr. Yesney who had an update regarding the resolution passed by the Council in May on snowmobile noise and funding. **Mr. Yesney** reported the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) of the governor-appointed Michigan Trails Advisory Council reviewed the two items in the resolution, with the first item recommending a ban of any non-factory installed

snowmobile exhaust system, with the exception of those snowmobiles operated exclusively on privately owned land, for the purpose of improving snowmobile trail retention by reducing snowmobile noise and enhancing law enforcement efforts. He stated a SAW meeting was held in October and the group did support it and efforts are being made to further that recommendation. He is in the process of collecting data from other states and provinces and of those he's been able to talk to so far, at least a third of them have laws in place similar to the recommendation to make it illegal to modify a snowmobile exhaust. The second item of the resolution recommends a review and modification of the existing snowmobile trail funding formula to take into account changing labor and operational costs, as well as, differences in regional trail usage and operating factors (snowfall, terrain, etc.). **Mr. Yesney** stated the SAW did not look at this recommendation favorably and prefers to keep it fair; however, he did encourage them to add reimbursement for one element of the formula for DEF (diesel engine fluid) fluid, which several of the UP clubs have to use for their newer machines and is very expensive. Clubs will have to tabulate their costs for DEF fluid throughout the winter and they will receive reimbursement over and above their normal reimbursement costs for operation and maintenance. **Mr. Schulz** thanked Mr. Yesney for his efforts and stated he appreciated the extra reimbursement. He noted he doesn't understand how high snowfall can be important when considering deer recommendations but it is not important when clubs are grooming trails twice as much and snowmobile traffic is significantly higher in the in the UP than other area of the state. In response to **Mr. Schulz's** statement regarding the SAW's advisory role, **Ms. Haughey** clarified the SAW is an advisory subgroup to the Michigan Trails Advisory Council, who advises the Director and Governor the creation, development, operation and maintenance of motorized and nonmotorized trails in the state, including snowmobile, biking, equestrian, hiking, off-road vehicle and skiing trails. When the Director receives a resolution from the Council, he will confer with the appropriate division or body to address it. Due to the nature of this resolution, MTAC (SAW is a subgroup) was the most appropriate to consider and respond. **Mr. Yesney** stated SAW did recognize the situation but felt it was important to keep the reimbursement formula fair. **Mr. Schulz** spoke about the volunteer workload in the UP for clubs and the difficulty retaining volunteers due to the demands. **Mr. Solka** stated the Council may need to consider making a stronger stance in situations like these. **Chair Lorensen** asked if a response letter from the Director will be forthcoming; **Mr. Yesney** indicated it should be sent by the January meeting.

4. **Wildlife:** **Mr. Lindquist** reported the group met last week to review a resolution he had put together regarding the 2021 deer regulations. The group was going to request an emergency resolution, but he wanted to wait for more information and the group then decided against it at this time and would rather wait until the next meeting in January. **Ms. Haughey** stated the next January NRC Meeting is on January 14th and the WUPCAC is slated to meet afterwards (if 2021 proposed meeting dates are approved). **Chair Lorensen** also noted he is working to obtain an NRC calendar of agenda items to better plan for timely discussion at the WUPCAC meetings like those this evening.

Next Meeting

1. **Review/Approval of Proposed 2021 WUPCAC Meeting Dates:** **Chair Lorensen** asked Ms. Dahlstrom to determine an earlier meeting date in January and to email the Council for approval of that date. All other dates for 2021 were found to be acceptable. (11/24/20: January 7th was approved via email by Council members as the next meeting date via Zoom.)
2. **Next Meeting Date:** **Chair Lorensen** noted the next meeting will be in January (7th) prior to the next NRC Meeting beginning at 6:00pm Eastern / 5:00pm Central, held virtually.

3. Items for Next WUPCAC Meeting Agenda: **Chair Lorensen** stated he is deferring two items to the next meeting that Vice Chair Suchovsky asked to be placed on the agenda previously: Carbon Credit Program on State Land and Repurposing Former Mine Sites for Renewable Energy. He also noted the White Nose Syndrome presentation will also be on the January agenda. **Mr. Dropps** asked for the Fisheries Committee to be added to the next agenda for a report.

Public Comments

Chair Lorensen opened the floor for public comment; none were brought forth.

Council Closing Comments

Chair Lorensen opened the floor for Council comments.

- **Mr. Moran** pointed out the determination for the cost of damaged livestock from a wolf kill/depredation comes from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and is between the farmer and the group, and considers the age, sex, and type of animal that was killed. As for the Citizens' Advisory Council, he stated Council members organize these meetings and is an advisory group directly to accommodate the NRC, so he asked everyone to keep that in mind. He stated if there is an emergency issue, the Council can move the meeting so that they can accommodate it. He also mentioned, regarding the snowmobile funding formula, he feels a groomer should be reimbursed for the number of miles they drive, so if driven more, then they are compensated more as more money is being spent. He thanked the DNR staff as well as all the Council members who have served for so many years.
- **Ms. Duncan** stated she would like to review and discuss in the near future the random, informal rules that regulate horses being allowed in different places on state land, county roads and all other places. She stated she runs into other horse riders who have no idea where they can ride, insisting some places are off limits when they are open. She knows where she can go and who to ask, but many do not know at all and it seems the rules change all the time and staff across the UP are not consistent in providing the right information. She has names of staff who are saying riders cannot ride in locations where they are allowed. **Ms. Haughey** stated she be interested in receiving that information to ensure messaging is consistent. **Mr. Yesney** indicated he is sorry to hear this information and will do a better job of educating trail staff if it is trails staff providing the wrong information. He stated the Ride Right Act came out a few years ago and maybe more sharing of that information is needed. **Ms. Duncan** stated it came out 10 years ago and it seems to have gotten worse.
- **Mr. Hall** stated he was glad to hear Ms. Haughey and staff fought long and hard to make the Marquette Shooting Range happen. He asked when the public meeting will be held. **Ms. Haughey** stated she is not sure of the exact date of the public meeting and if it will be virtual when held. The goal is to get the bids out during the winter so that work can start in the spring. **Mr. Hall** also spoke about his wife working in a local hospital dealing with COVID-19 patients and wished everyone to be safe.

Adjournment

Chair Lorensen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous and safe Christmas holiday season. He also thanked everyone who participated and for their contributions. He adjourned the meeting at 9:27pm Eastern.