

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

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

Marquette Township Community Center, Marquette (Zoom & In-Person)

Chairman: Jim Lorenson - Vice-Chairman: Warren Suchovsky

Council Members Present

Jim Baker	Mike Holmes	Skip Schulz
Olivia Castles	George Lindquist	Travis Smith
Floyd Dropps	Jim Lorenson	Tom Solka
Joan Duncan	Carol Mason Sherrill	Warren Suchovsky
Barb Gajewski	Chauncey Moran	
Dave Hall	Kirk Schott	

Council Members Absent/Excused

Erik Bessonon	Mary Peterson
Dave Johnson	Horst Schmidt

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff & Guests

Sgt. Mark Leadman, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
Patrick Hanchin, Fisheries Division, Marquette
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette
Colter Lubben, Wildlife Division, Escanaba
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga
Russ Mason, MSU Wildlife Research, Lansing
Ryan McGillviray, Wildlife Division, Crystal Falls
John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer, Marquette
Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division, Baraga
Karen Sexton, Wildlife Division, Escanaba
Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Ron Yesney, UP Trails-Parks & Recreation Division, Marquette
Tom Weston, Licensing-Facilities & Operation Division, Lansing

Welcome & Call to Order

At 6:00pm Eastern, **Vice Chair Warren Suchovsky** called the meeting to order at the request of Chair Lorenson who attended virtually and could not attend in person. He noted Council members and staff are attending either in-person or virtually. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of those in attendance were made.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Suchovsky asked if there were any changes to the September 22, 2021, meeting minutes that were distributed to the Council via email for review. **Mr. Solka** noted a one-word correction on page 3. No other

changes were brought forth. **Mr. Lindquist motioned to accept the minutes as corrected; Mr. Holmes supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See page 1. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

DNR Reports from Division Staff & Follow-Up from Last Meeting

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on October 27, 2021. The following brief updates were added:

1. ***Ms. Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy:***

- Special guests were welcomed to the meeting: Ms. Aubrey Moore and Mr. Doug Lindblom from Senator Peters' office and Mr. Rich Rossway from Congressman Bergman's office.
- Current mineral lease requests in the UP (Menominee, Marquette, and Dickinson Counties) were displayed on screen. An updated listing is on the website (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79239_80485---,00.html) and includes valuable information such as maps and public meeting notices. Public comments on the Menominee County lease proposal for Great Lake Exploration are being accepted until November 11. A clarification was made between the two Menominee County proposals, Aquila Resources and Great Lakes Exploration.
- A positive CWD case was identified in a private facility about 8 miles from the Michigan/Wisconsin border in Vilas County, WI. This is not a free ranging deer. The Wisconsin DNR and Department of Agriculture are working with Michigan agencies.

2. ***Mr. George Madison, Fisheries Division:***

- **Mr. Patrick Hanchin**, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator was introduced (via Zoom).
- **Ms. Gajewski** asked about the 100°F water found at 12.5 feet when soil boring an area for potential disposal of stamp sands in the Gay, MI area as mentioned in the reports. **Mr. Hanchin** explained the soil boring process for this exploration and indicated it was surprising to find geothermal activity at that depth. He stated it does happen from time to time, although a geologist could explain the phenomenon better.

3. ***Mr. Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division:***

- Western fire season continues to wind down with most state resources returning home in the next week.
- Michigan fire activity has been quiet since the end of summer. Fire equipment is being winterized.
- Cultivation activities are also winding down with winter season approaching.

4. ***Sgt. Mark Leadman, Law Enforcement Division:***

- Dickinson and Iron County each received a new officer, PCO Phil Helminen and PCO Alex VanWagner, who are both now working in the field. Both were former state and/or county law enforcement.

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

- As part of the American Recovery Act, several legislative bills (Senate Bills 702, 703, and 704) were introduced and, if passed, would provide almost a billion dollars in funding for state park infrastructure, capital outlay projects, and local park grants. The funding would have to be encumbered by 2024 so the division has implemented a sprint team to prepare in advance if the funding comes through.
- **Mr. Schulz** asked about the status of ORVs being allowed in the parking lot at Bond Falls; **Mr. Rich** responded it is now open to ORVs.
- **Mr. Solka** asked for clarification on the use of income from the park endowment fund for park capital improvements and maintenance. **Mr. Rich** referenced a handout in the meeting packets and stated up to 20% of the park endowment fund must be funneled into capital outlay and 80% can be used for operations.

He further clarified the funding mechanism for state parks and the positive effects the proposals could have.

- **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked if the DNR receives any funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. **Ms. Haughey** responded funding is received from that fund each year for a variety of projects. **Mr. Yesney** added \$1.5 million was received from the fund for the Lake Linden projects as an example.

6. **Mr. Ron Yesney, Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails:**

- Trail work over the summer has been incredibly busy and work on trails in Houghton County will continue through the fall.
- Preparation for the winter snowmobile season is occurring with trail inspections as well as the signing and brushing of trails by local clubs. A banner year is expected with trail permits up by 20% this year, on top of a 20% increase the year before. As the program grows, staff continue to make improvements to the system as they can.

7. **Ms. Karen Sexton, Wildlife Division:**

- **Mr. Lindquist** asked why the deer check stations in the UP are open on November 15 when everyone is still at camp. **Ms. Sexton** stated check stations were drastically reduced last year due to the pandemic and when reviewing all harvest registration data, November 15-18 were the most frequent 4 days of checks across the state. She agreed there are far fewer deer checked on the 15th in the UP as most hunters spend more time at camp than in the lower peninsula.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Vice Chair Suchovsky opened the floor to registered public comments.

1. **Mr. Rene' Skrumbellos (Iron Mountain) – Solar:** Mr. Skrumbellos spoke about his concerns with the solar farm planned for the Groveland Mine area in Dickinson County. He indicated he thought it was a wildlife refuge area and is concerned about the wetlands located there. **Mr. Seablom** replied the proposed location is an industrial area that contains old tailings making the land unusable for state land management purposes. These types of areas are suited for solar development. He stated exploration of the area by an interested company is determining whether the area can support solar panels and that a decision has not been rendered either way. He explained the lengthy review process, including public meetings, that must occur before a decision is finalized.
 - **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked if public hearings are held and if problems with solar and wildlife (birds especially) as well as alternative energy like geothermal have been investigated. **Ms. Haughey** responded yes.
 - Sandy Nye from Iron Mountain asked if solar development would be better suited for land that has been clear cut, instead of land that has marshes and wetlands. **Mr. Seablom** indicated state land that can be harvested is not a candidate for solar development. He also noted the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) handles the process for wetland areas.
 - **Ms. Haughey** suggested this topic be added as an agenda item at the next meeting in which staff who specialize in this topic can provide more information. **Vice Chair Suchovsky** suggested that revenue generated from these projects would also be helpful to learn more about. The Council agreed.

Vice Chair Suchovsky opened the floor for other comments regarding agenda items; none were brought forth.

Old Business

1. October Wolf Management Advisory Council Meeting Update (Ms. Haughey):

- **Ms. Haughey** stated the October 11th meeting was held in Ironwood (she was unable to attend).
- Several lower peninsula legislators provided comments by phone.
- Meetings have been recorded by MUCC and posted on their Facebook page and additional meeting information (agendas, etc.) is available on the WMAC website.
- Upcoming meetings: November 5 in Gaylord and December 7 at Little Bear Arena in St. Ignace. The EUPCAC meeting has been changed to December 6th to coincide with the WMAC meeting the next day at the same location.
- For more information and public comment instructions: www.michigan.gov/wmac.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked how the Wisconsin court injunction will affect Michigan. **Ms. Sexton** stated the court hearing in Wisconsin was a state hearing and will only have impacts on their state hunt. The federal hearing scheduled in California could have impacts on the status of wolves.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** commented the Ironwood meeting was poorly attended; he encouraged those who have concerns to attend the St. Ignace meeting on December 6.

2. Marquette County Shooting Range Update (Ms. Haughey):

- Project is 9 years in the making. Support by Council members has been appreciated.
- Currently in a 30-day public comment period on the draft environmental assessment which ends November 20. The draft environmental assessment evaluates the variety of options considered and impacts to natural resources. A copy of the assessment is online (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79149-408170--,00.html). If approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the project will go out for bids.
- Funding of \$800,000 has been secured for the project, which will be the first state-of-the-art state-managed shooting range in the Upper Peninsula.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Hall** asked if there will be a public meeting held prior to construction. **Ms. Haughey** stated public input is important and a meeting will be held, possibly before a CAC meeting, to allow Council members to attend as well.
 - **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked about sound issues, hours of operation, and collection of discharged ammunition. **Ms. Haughey** stated sound testing was conducted by a Florida company who specializes in sound abatement. She indicated shooting has occurred in this location illegally for years, making it a logical location for the range. Many years were spent looking at a variety of locations. Once the range is built, discharged ammunition will be collected to make sure contamination is not an issue, which adds to the expense of the range as well. **Ms. Haughey** added UP Whitetails of Marquette County, representing 600 members, recently wrote a letter in support of the range.

3. Update on Solar Project in Sands Township (Ms. Haughey):

- This agenda topic is a result of questions from the September Council meeting.
- Superior Solar Project, LLC and the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. submitted a land transaction application to the DNR, involving approximately 1,080 acres of land in Sands Township. The property is owned by Cliffs and is part of a larger land exchange agreement dating to 1979 between the DNR and Cliffs. The original agreement requires the land be open to the public for recreational uses, except for areas used for active mining operations or those which must be restricted for safety purposes. Superior Solar Project and Cliffs are asking that the agreement be modified to allow solar energy development on the 1,080 acres and to remove the public recreation use requirement because of its incompatibility with solar development.

- It is a very unique situation and will go through the DNR's intensive land exchange review process in which every division of the DNR has an opportunity to provide input. This is expected to take about six months to complete.
- A press release was initiated on September 2 detailing the review process and multiple public comment options including at an NRC meeting and a public meeting held locally by the DNR (not yet scheduled).
- Public comments on the proposed modification to the agreement may also be sent to DNR-SUPERIORSOLAR-comments@michigan.gov.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Solka** clarified that due to the state's recreational interests in the land, that is the reason for an opportunity for public input before it's finalized; **Ms. Haughey** stated that was correct and that the land is also enrolled in CFA adding to the uniqueness of the issue.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** asked what the company would pay for the recreational rights. **Ms. Haughey** indicated there isn't a similar case as a reference to help make that determination and the agreement may not be able to be amended.
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked if EGLE was involved due to the nature of green energy. **Ms. Haughey** stated because this involves private property with recreational rights owned by the DNR, it is a DNR issue. Anything involving wetlands, would involve EGLE. **Ms. Duncan**, a retired EGLE employee, added further explanation.
 - **Ms. Mason Sherrill** stated 2,800 acres for a solar farm seemed too much and asked if the land must be logged. **Ms. Haughey** noted in this case, the DNR's interest is recreational rights. It currently is wooded, has no water, and is enrolled in commercial forest.
 - **Vice Chair Suchovsky** noted the increase in discussions related to windmills and solar to create other sources of energy instead of coal, gasoline, etc.
 - **Mr. Lindquist** referenced a document and recommended a possible resolution opposing the sale of the recreational rights for this project. Because the Council inadvertently did not receive the document and request for a resolution consideration within the bylaw requirement of 7 days, it was determined to postpone further discussion until the January meeting to allow time for Council review prior to that meeting.

4. Approval of Potential Revisions to WUPCAC Bylaws (Ms. Haughey):

- Potential revisions were presented to the Council at the July WUPCAC meeting with comments and suggestions encouraged by the end of September.
- A copy of the revised bylaws was shown on screen. Minor procedural changes and updates made including the removal of references to the Open Meetings Act since the Council is advisory and not established by statute were explained. No additional changes were brought forth by the Council.
- **Vice Chair Suchovsky called for a motion. Mr. Solka motioned to amend the WUPCAC bylaws with the presented updates; Dr. Schott supported the motion. No further discussion was brought forth. Approve: All. Oppose: None. Absent: see listing on page 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

1. Chronic Wasting Disease Research (Dr. Russ Mason): **Ms. Haughey** introduced Dr. Russ Mason, former Wildlife Division Chief and now DNR Executive in Residence and Professor for the DNR and MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who provided his latest findings on CWD research. **Dr. Mason** stated CWD is a problem not only in Michigan but has been across the Midwest and across North America for some time, and progress is beginning to be made both in terms of surveillance and diagnostics. He stated in 2017, the legislature provided

the DNR funding to conduct practical research that would be a benefit to managers. He provided an overview of the work researchers have been doing and what they expect the practical implications to be.

- Four segments of projects were funded initially to look at animal-side testing, ways to decontaminate equipment in the environment, education, and interjurisdiction of cooperation.
- Projects in the first round of funding were explained: Inactivation of CWD prions by peroxymonosulfate (oxone) and hypochlorous acid; Composting deactivation of CWD prions; Field animal-side testing and improving laboratory diagnostic sensitivity; Optimizing CWD surveillance (forecasting models); Agent-based surveillance and management modeling; High through-put genetic resource for deer disease and population management; Environmental behavior, bioavailability and persistence of CWD prions; Impacts of harvest regulations on demographics of harvest; Multistate CWD strategic planning initiative; Collaborative development of CWD education and outreach; CWD extension educator.
- Projects in the second round of funding were reviewed: Immobilization of CWD prions by activated charcoals; Importance of group size, bioaccumulation and baiting to CWD persistence and spread; Development of a regional CWD adaptive management framework; Evaluation of hunters' willingness to help manage CWD; Web applications for disease visualization and decision-making.
- A third round of "plus up" funding projects included: Reconvene multistate strategic planning initiative; Additional funding to support application and warehousing of surveillance tools; Additional resources to apply genomic tools to high priority management questions; Additional funding to evaluate whether UV light enhances oxidative inactivation of CWD.
- The final group are high dollar projects that are pending: Additional funding to produce videos that explore the impacts of CWD on various stakeholders (tribal entities, farmers, meat processors, etc.); Additional funding to explore the benefits of composting as a biomass reduction and CWD neutralization strategy.
- Highlights of upcoming developments include:
 - Wildlife Management Institute "Recent and Ongoing CWD Research and Management Projects": A webpage that lists every CWD educational research project in North America with a statement of intent, list of investigators and their location. It's primarily a tool to encourage researchers to talk to one another. It is constantly updated and available.
 - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Special Session of CWD surveillance and modeling tools; 94% of agencies will use tools developed with PA 208 of 2017 tools.
 - CWD Alliance/D.J. Case curated dashboard.
 - National Wildlife Disease Surveillance Network (for a variety of reasons, wildlife and zoonotic diseases are becoming more common, e.g., HPAI, hemorrhagic diseases, tick-vectoring diseases, African swine fever). Agricultural animal disease labs across the county have formed this surveillance network to be better informed of active and emerging wildlife diseases and take advantage of possible funding opportunities.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Schulz** asked a few questions regarding fire being a possibility to kill prions, if CWD is transferrable to humans through consumption and sharp-shooting options. **Dr. Mason** stated fire can work in areas where forest fires aren't a problem through controlled burns. There is no evidence that it can be transferred by human consumption (it does jump species though); however, the CDC and the WHO recommends disposing of the meat if an animal has been found positive. And sharp shooting is not always seen in a positive light by the public.
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked if deer can get COVID 19. **Dr. Mason** spoke of a report about mink farms getting COVID 19 and killing mink all over the world older than two years of age. After discussing different research being conducted, he stated if a deer was actively infectious, humans could get COVID 19 from

them. Reports indicate deer are infectious for 4 days. Although there hasn't been evidence of anyone getting sick from infected meat, wildlife associations are suggesting people who are immunocompromised may want to have someone else field dress the deer for them.

Vice Chair Suchovsky thanked Dr. Mason for the outstanding presentation and information on CWD research.

2. Wildlife Division Updates (Ms. Sexton):

- Hunting Season Projections: In 2020, 23,000 bucks were harvested, a slight decrease from 2019. After reviewing several different factors, it is projected that hunters are likely to see more deer activity on the landscape this season. Meat processors are already seeing more deer come in than last year and there has been an uptick in the number of permits for the south-central areas of the UP. Hunters and field staff are recording average to above average acorn mast this year.
- Deer Check Stations: Limited check stations will be open in the UP November 15-18 from 8am to 4:30pm. CWD areas will be open more hours (for example, Norway and Escanaba November 15-30 will be open more days except for Thanksgiving weekend). Check online for an interactive map that lists dates, times, and addresses of all check stations (www.michigan.gov/deercheck).
- Voluntary Hunter Harvest Reporting System: This voluntary harvest reporting system went live on October 1. It is voluntary this year and may become mandatory at a future time. All hunters are encouraged to report their harvest in this manner.
- Council questions:
 - **Vice Chair Suchovsky** mentioned a CWD positive deer found in Wisconsin near the Michigan border as stated earlier. **Ms. Sexton** reported a private facility deer test positive in Vilas County, Wisconsin, in the Eagle River area. This is closest to Gogebic County. Wisconsin and Michigan DNR staff are keeping in close contact at this time.
 - **Mr. Hall** asked if there could be an update on the bat population at the next meeting. The Council agreed.

3. Online Harvest Registration System Demonstration (Mr. Tom Weston): **Mr. Tom Weston**, DNR Licensing Systems, provided an online demonstration of the new harvest registration system.

- www.michigan.gov/dnrharvestreport
- System went live on October 1st and is voluntary this year.
- Fishermen utilize this same system for mandatory muskey reporting.
- It is recommended that all hunters report their harvest using this system.
- Wildlife Division is seeing a considerable decrease in respondents to their harvest survey using the mail system. The online harvest system is an easier way to interact with hunters.
- The e-license screen was shown and is where licenses can be purchased, points can be checked, and digests are available. This is where harvest registration can be accessed.
- Information to fill in was demonstrated. Unique license number (printed on tags), name, address, date and location of harvest, antler points, etc. Moving of pin onscreen can be difficult for some.
- To date, almost 800 have reported a harvest using the system. Please spread the word.
- Council questions:
 - **Mr. Dropps** asked if a hunter must indicate with the pin exactly where a deer was harvested. **Mr. Weston** stated the pin is not an exact point but rather a general location for the DNR to report to hunters any disease issues that crop up. The DNR does not report where a deer was taken.
 - **Ms. Haughey** stated she has received questions regarding how to obtain a patch if a harvest was reported online. **Mr. Weston** stated patches will not be mailed. An online harvest receipt can be brought in to any DNR customer service center to receive a patch.

Reports from Committee Meetings Held

Vice Chair Suchovsky opened the floor for reports from those Committees that held meetings.

1. Fisheries (Mr. Dropps):

- Discussion took place at the October NRC Meeting on several fisheries orders, many of which pertained to Council resolutions recently submitted. Several amendments made to the orders by NRC Commissioners were also explained. He thanked the Council for their support of the resolutions.
- **Mr. Hanchin** explained an amendment made by Commissioner Nyberg (and not initiated by the Fisheries Division) regarding steelhead fishing, which would reduce the daily possession limit on steelhead from March 15 to May 15 on select streams, two of which are in the UP, the Manistique River and the Carp River in Marquette. He further explained his understanding of the rationale of the amendment, and indicated it was outside of the normal process of regulation changes. He encouraged those who have questions to contact him for more information and/or to provide comment at the November NRC meeting (nrc@michigan.gov).
- **Ms. Mason Sherrill** asked how it is determined whether fish are spawning when spearfishing. **Mr. Hanchin** indicated most spearfishing is not allowed during spawning seasons. Further discussion took place regarding spawning of bass. It was noted that spawning seasons are protected as much as possible.

2. Forestry: No report at this time.

3. Trails/Recreation/Law (Chair Lorenson):

- A committee meeting was held on October 28 via conference call.
- The group discussed equine and ORV status at Van Riper & Lake Gogebic State Parks, hierarchy and protocols of different DNR advisory groups, update on law issues especially on ORV traffic, and a decrease in late-night poaching. Meeting notes will be distributed soon.
- **Chair Lorenson** thanked Vice Chair Suchovsky for running the Council meeting during his in-person absence.
- **Ms. Mason Sherill** asked if silent sports have been discussed by the group as it seems to be largely focused on ORV use and trails. She noted recent sign postings by MI-TRALE along the Sylvania Wilderness and that it no longer is a quiet area to enjoy due to the ORV traffic.
- **Ms. Haughey** noted acres of public land are available for silent sports and added that motorized activity on water is under local control and ordinances. **Mr. Schulz** stated MI-TRALE is for silent sport enthusiasts as well although they haven't attended meetings. Funding for motorized vs. silent sports was mentioned. **Ms. Duncan** stated as a horse enthusiast, she has been a member of MI-TRALE for years. She stated she agrees with Ms. Mason Sherrill that discussions at all venues regarding silent sports are much smaller or nonexistent in comparison.

4. Wildlife (Mr. Lindquist):

- A committee meeting was held October 25 via conference call.
- The group is proposing a resolution recommending the DNR and NRC allow spring turkey hunters the opportunity to purchase one leftover turkey tag in addition to their already purchased tag when leftover tags become available to the general public. The Council received a copy of the resolution on October 27 for review. The resolution cites substantial unpurchased tags being left over that could increase opportunity, meet harvest goals, and provide an increase in dollars for conservation.
- **Vice Chair Suchovsky called for a motion. Mr. Lindquist motioned to approve the resolution with a minor wording correction; Dr. Smith supported the motion. Discussion took place.**

-
- **Ms. Gajewski** asked if the resolution implies a hunter can go into the field with two tags, one purchased and one leftover. **Mr. Lindquist** stated yes if the recommendation was enacted by the DNR.
 - **Mr. Holmes** noted most states have the ability to get more tags.
 - **Ms. Sexton** clarified the confusion between the number of applications versus quotas.
 - **Mr. Ryan McGillviray** from the Wildlife Division who heads up turkey management in the UP provided insight in his work with a variety of turkey stakeholders who help with quotas, etc. Quotas are set to allow anyone who wishes to turkey hunt the opportunity to do so. The quota of 6,000, which has never sold out before, sold out in 2020 and 2021, meaning approximately 2,000 new hunters had the opportunity to hunt a turkey the last two years. The stakeholder group helped to set up parameters such as success, satisfaction, and interference rates, all which are above goals. The 234 Hunt is a second available hunt with different season dates and typically never sells out. The DNR does not currently have a position on a two-bird limit and is conducting research on the topic. Many states are seeing a decline in turkey numbers and are scaling down their quotas. He looks forward to working with the Council on this resolution.
 - **Vice Chair Suchovsky called for a vote on the motion. Approve: All. Oppose: None. Absent: see listing on page 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

Next Meeting

1. Approval of 2022 Meeting Dates: **Vice Chair Suchovsky asked for approval of the 2022 meeting dates listed on the agenda. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the dates; Dr. Schott supported the motion. Approve: All. Oppose: None. Absent: see listing on page 1. Motion carried unanimously.**
2. Next Meeting Date: **Vice Chair Suchovsky** noted the next meeting will be on Thursday, January 20, 2022, beginning at 6:00pm Eastern / 5:00pm Central. **Ms. Haughey** suggested this meeting be held virtually due to winter weather conditions this time of year. The Council agreed.
3. Items for Next WUPCAC Meeting Agenda: **Vice Chair Suchovsky** asked for any suggested topics for the next meeting be sent to him, Ms. Haughey or to Ms. Dahlstrom.

Public Comments

Vice Chair Suchovsky opened the floor for public comment on any topic; none were brought forward.

Council Closing Comments

Vice Chair Suchovsky opened the floor for Council comments:

- **Mr. Lindquist** stated the Wildlife Committee discussed hemlock issues in the UP and he would like to add it as an agenda item for the next meeting. **Vice Chair Suchovsky** suggested it be a topic for the Forestry Committee to discuss; **Mr. Seablom** agreed.
- **Dr. Schott** noted the trails in Bruce Crossing are not being groomed. Some have ruts over a foot deep.
- **Ms. Gajewski** thought the Council may be interested in an update from Fisheries regarding the status and trends of cold water inland lake fisheries. She mentioned an MDNR listing of recent losses to cold water fisheries managed lakes, and though some losses are due to access, some loss appears to be due to a shift to more warm water fish management; **Mr. Dropps** noted the request on behalf of the Fisheries Committee.
- **Mr. Schulz** thanked Mr. Seablom for his help in a recent newspaper story and thanked Dr. Mason for a fantastic presentation.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Suchovsky thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 9:04pm Eastern/8:04pm Central.

Approved 1/20/22