

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 1/24/24
Wednesday, September 6, 2023
5:00-7:30pm Central / 6:00-8:30pm Eastern
Dee Stadium, Houghton

Council Members Present

Floyd Dropps	Horst Schmidt	Warren Suchovsky
Barb Gajewski	Kirk Schott, Vice Chair	Lucas Vold
Mike Holmes	Jeff Sierpien	Faye Williams
Dave Johnson	Tom Solka, Chair	
George Lindquist	Dwaine Starr	

Council Members Absent/Excused

Erik Bessonon	Suzanne Petschke	Kelly Bennett Simon
Dave Hall	Skip Schulz	
Chauncey Moran	Carol Mason Sherrill	

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff & Guests

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette
Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy, Executive Division, Marquette
Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division, Sault Ste. Marie
Sgt. Marc Pomroy, Law Enforcement Division, Baraga
Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division, Baraga
Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Ron Yesney, Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails, Marquette

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:02pm Eastern, **Chair Solka** called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed several students from Michigan Tech University, as well as members of the public and DNR staff.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Solka asked the Council if there were any further additions or revisions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the agenda as presented; Vice Chair Schott supported the motion. After no discussion, Chair Solka called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Introductions of Council Members/DNR Staff/Public Attendees

All public attendees, DNR staff and Council members introduced themselves at the request of **Chair Solka**. He noted that all Council members volunteer to serve on this Council on their own time and expense.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Solka asked if there were any further changes to the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes, which were distributed to the Council via email for review. **Mr. Holmes motioned to accept the minutes as submitted; Vice Chair Schott supported the motion. After no discussion, Chair Solka called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided to Council members on August 30, 2023. The following brief updates were added.

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

- Council members, staff and guests were thanked for attending. A brief overview of the 15-year history of the Council was provided.

- The Governor appointed a new DNR Director, Scott Bowen, yesterday to replace former Director Dan Eichinger. A message sent to all DNR staff about the new Director was shared with the group. It was highlighted that Director Bowen grew up fishing for walleye on Lake Gogebic with his grandfather from Mass City. **Ms. Haughey** met him this morning during a meeting, and he indicated he's not coming in to change anything and that staff are doing a great job.
- The first UP DNR public outdoor range will be open soon in Marquette County. A picture of 142 tons of garbage that was removed from the former illegal site with the help of the National Guard was shown. The new range is not open yet, and the Council's help was asked in spreading the word. Some folks were trying to use it and some items were found missing. A dedication ceremony is slated for the beginning of October. The range will be named after two fallen conservation officers, Erickson & Skoglund. Pictures of the work being done on the new range was shown.
- An update on the Houghton Douglass Falls project was given. UP Engineers & Architects (UPEA) are reviewing wetland mitigation, deciding where walkways will go, etc. Once they are finished with their process, a public meeting will be held later this fall or early winter. There is about \$300,000 for design and construction from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Parks & Recreation Division added another \$300,000 to get through phase 5 design and construction.
- **Mr. Lindquist** stated he is hoping with the new Director's financial background, he can obtain the necessary funds to get things done. He also noted he visited the shooting range yesterday and it looks wonderful. **Ms. Haughey** added this next fiscal year's budget was approved and is the largest the DNR has seen. The entire DNR budget is 0.6% of the entire State of Michigan budget.

2. **Mr. Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division**

- The Gwinn unit conducted a prescribed burn yesterday. It was a jackpine area with some green spots. Despite a lot of smoke laying down in the Ishpeming area due to uncooperative winds, it went well.
- Fire dispatch has been slowing down nationwide. The south and southwest US is starting to pick up and resources may be sent there.

3. **Sgt. Marc Pomroy, Law Enforcement Division**

- There were no updates since the written report was submitted.

4. **Mr. Doug Rich, Parks & Recreation Division**

- Mr. Eric Cadeau, planner for PRD, is working with Gundlach Champion to begin projects at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Gundlach Champion will be spearheading projects at Fort Wilkins and Twin Lakes State Parks as well.
- State parks across the state were 95% occupied over the Labor Day weekend; it was slightly lower in the UP.
- A couple graciously donated \$10,000 to Baraga State Park to help with a new playground.
- **Mr. Schmidt** asked how busy Lake of the Clouds camp sites have been. **Mr. Rich** stated he doesn't have final numbers; however, weekdays have been like weekends and weekends have been like holidays this year so it's okay if the numbers are slightly lower. State parks are self-funded, so increased activity helps to fund improvements. **Mr. Schmidt** also asked if Houghton Douglass Falls will be functional next year. **Mr. Rich** stated it is hopeful the 115-acre site will be ready, but it will depend on contractor availability.
- **Mr. Williams** asked for an explanation of the difference between state forest campgrounds and state parks in terms of funding for projects and maintenance and noted the forest campgrounds never seem to get attention, citing a few specific locations. **Mr. Rich** stated APRA (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars, which is providing the funding for several projects, are specifically appropriated toward state parks. State forest campgrounds are under the Parks & Recreation Division (PRD); however, the only funding source for them is a small part of the recreation passport. Funding is not available for forest campgrounds like they are for state parks right now. **Ms. Haughey** noted Pike Lake Road was just fixed this summer. **Mr. Rich** added Pike Lake Road is not a state road, so they worked with the local residents to get it done. The same with Bass Lake. **Chair Solka** stated in the past,

the Forest Resources Division (FRD) administered state forest campgrounds and asked when the administration change. **Mr. Seablom** stated the change occurred in 2011 when former Director Stokes moved all forest recreation from FRD to PRD to place all recreation under PRD. He stated FRD does work projects for PRD in those areas, but it is all administered by PRD. Most of the state forest campgrounds were designed back in the day for 4x4s, pickup campers and tents, not travel trailers. Road maintenance funding comes out of timber sales. **Mr. Rich** agreed that state forest campgrounds will not see the level of maintenance that state parks receive due to the lack of amenities, adding state forest campgrounds were designed to be rustic.

- **Mr. Schmidt** asked if the program for challenged young people occurred this year. **Mr. Rich** stated yes, the Michigan Rehabilitation Program that partners with state parks to provide challenged youth with a work experience did occur at Baraga, Porcupine Mountains, Fort Wilkins and McLain State Parks this year.

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

- The Lake Linden trail, which has received a lot of funding to repair, is coming along well. The DNR's snowmobile advisory workgroup, which is charged with making recommendations to the DNR, will be touring the trail before their meeting tomorrow morning at 10:30am at the Portage Lake Library. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.
- The reroute on Trail 2 in Gogebic County, which was rerouted through city streets last year when the local ski hill owner closed the trail on his property, will no longer be an option this year. All options for a connection have been exhausted. This will be huge economic hit to the area as snowmobile traffic from Minnesota and Wisconsin will no longer have a trail connector to the area. A press release will be issued tomorrow. Snowmobile behavior was not a factor in closing use of city streets. Rather it was a complaint by the local hospital whose shift change ran into heavy snowmobile traffic and who wrote a letter not supporting it. Since they are a major business in the area, the city had to make the choice to close the rerouted trail. The ski hill owner was approached again but refused. It is one of the most heavily traveled trails in that area and there is no workable option at this time.

6. **Mr. Dave Lemmien, Wildlife Division**

- Sara Thompson, who had been in an acting role was recently named chief of the division. Steve Chadwick, assistant chief for the last 8 years, has taken a new position in the Executive Division. His position will be backfilled soon. Amy DeRosier, who was acting in a position in the Office of Public Lands, will be returning to the Wildlife Division.
- **Mr. Lindquist** stated he would like to see an update on habitat work being done in deer wintering complexes at a future council meeting by some of the new division folks. With the deer herd less than half of what it was 20 years ago, something needs to happen to reverse the continued decrease. **Chair Solka** stated he will add that topic to the agenda list for next year's meetings.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Chair Solka opened the floor for public comments on agenda items only.

1. *Nathan Miller, Copper Harbor Trails Club – Trails Management & Planning in Keweenaw County:* Mr. Miller spoke about several projects the trails club has undertaken to improve and/or create new trails in the Keweenaw. He noted Keweenaw Point Trail is making good progress and was funded by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. He stated the club has been making great strides, but with a recent slowdown on several trail permits submitted to the DNR for approval, they are concerned with losing their private funding to move forward. He indicated he's worked with several DNR staff on these submissions and would like an update on the permit approval process and how they can help streamline it. He noted they have also been pushing the DNR for three years to allow ebikes on their trails in Copper Harbor and throughout the state, but they haven't heard anything on the ebike policy. **Mr. Lindquist** asked if he worked with the Wildlife Division on the ebike policy as UP Whitetails is not in favor of any bike riding through deer wintering complexes. Mr. Miller stated the division evaluates all trail permits and their trails are not near any deer wintering complexes. **Ms. Gajewski** asked how long does it take for a trail permit

application to get approved. **Mr. Yesney** stated Mr. Miller is referring to the trail proposal process to propose a designated DNR trail. Review occurs with several divisions, such as Law Enforcement, Forest Resources, Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Divisions, as well as national rivers. It's a thorough process. If state land is involved, the process can take 5-6 months. If state land is not involved, the turnaround time is about 90 days. In Mr. Miller's case, it is a complex trail plan that involves several parties. Some parts of it have been put in place, such as the Montreal River pathway, and others are still in the review phase. He mentioned the Nature Conservancy recently acquired lands at the tip of the Keweenaw and are reviewing some of that land with the DNR's Office of Public Lands. Fort Wilkins State Park management plan is also a factor. He stated there are several factors to consider and all take time to work through. **Mr. Miller** indicated he is attending the Nature Conservancy meetings but wants to be more involved in the DNR's process. **Mr. Seablom** added that there are multiple projects and issues to contend with in the Keweenaw currently which affect trail proposals on state forest land. **Ms. Haughey** asked if a meeting can be scheduled to discuss this in more detail; **Mr. Yesney** indicated he will schedule a meeting. **Mr. Williams** asked if there are any environmental impacts to consider with this trail proposal. **Mr. Yesney** indicated all facets are reviewed. **Chair Solka** summarized the discussion stating Mr. Miller seems to be connecting with the right people and divisions in going through the trail proposal process and it will obviously take time to come to a decision. He appreciates the input and encouraged Mr. Miller to continue connecting with staff.

Old Business

1. **DNR Response to Joint UPCAC Resolution-Cormorant Funding & Control (Ms. Haughey)**

- **Ms. Haughey** reviewed the DNR's response to the Joint UPCACs resolution regarding cormorant funding and control (also shown on screen). There have been several conversations with EUPCAC Vice Chair Gorniak and she has worked with Fisheries Chief Randy Claramunt to prepare this response. The response indicates what needs to be done to address the issue and the process that needs to occur which includes a more strategic approach and working with the DNR's legislative liaison. Both CACs will be involved in the conversation.
- **Mr. Lindquist** spoke about the cormorant control program back in 2015 and how the funding being asked for now is the same as what it cost 8 years ago and wouldn't cover what is needed today. He feels a defined plan is needed to ask for funding. **Ms. Haughey** stated it would be a general fund ask and there is a strategy in place now that will be of great help.
- **Mr. Dropps** noted nothing will be done until 2025. **Ms. Haughey** stated that was correct and confirmed there is no funding for 2024. She indicated the DNR has so many restricted funds that much of the funding cannot be used for cormorant control. The DNR cannot make the decision alone.

New Business

1. **Nuisance Regulations Update (Mr. Lemmien)**

- **Mr. Lemmien** provided the update on behalf of Mr. Cody Norton who was unable to attend.
- Mr. Norton's slide presentation from the April NRC meeting, at which the regulations were presented for information, were reviewed (see: [Furbearer & Small Game Nuisance Regulations - April 2023 NRC Meeting](#), pages 74-86). The regulations, presented in a Director's Order, were approved by the Director at the May NRC Meeting.
- **Mr. Holmes** mentioned muskrat tunnel under and up and then it caves in the next year and the hill is twice as big. **Mr. Lemmien** stated erosion is not included as part of the wildlife order, only damage if there is flooding or culvert blockage.
- **Mr. Lindquist** asked if one has to prove it's their private property. **Mr. Lemmien** indicated it is the location where damaged occurred.
- A variety of additional questions were asked and answered.

2. **UP Trails System Overview & Current Trail Update (Mr. Yesney)**

- *Parks and Recreation Division Trails Section – UP:* The UP is divided into three sections for staffing: Western (Jeff Kakuk-Trails Specialist), Central (Rob Katona, Trails Specialist) and Eastern (PJ Costa-Trails Specialist). Ron

Yesney is the UP Trails Coordinator. Matt Torreano is the Easement and Lands Analysis and the UP Trails Property Analyst position is vacant.

- *Western UP (WUP) Trail Mileage by County:* A slide by county and trail type was shown. In the WUP, there is a total of 4,368 miles of trails in the WUP. Interconnecting communities and bring people to special places of interest are two main goals of the UP Trails Section.
- *Mountain Biking in the WUP:* Growth in the sport (millennials). Major riding destinations are Copper Harbor and Marquette/Ishpeming. Mountain bike events = economic impact (Ore to Shore, Margi Gesick, Crusher, Keweenaw Cup, Bells Bear Fat Tire Fest). 339 miles of biking trails.
- *Snowmobile Trails in the WUP:* A map of the snowmobile trail system in the WUP was shown. 1,885 miles of trail (5 new miles approved in Delta County). Permanent easement program, nationally recognized, focus on sustainability and infrastructure, reorganization with unit contacts.
- *ORV Trails in the WUP:* A map of the ORV trail system in the WUP was shown. 898 miles (751 miles ORV route, 64 miles ATV trail, 80 miles of motorcycle trail). Growth in sport, 313,362 trail permits sold in 2021, saddle bagging and side by sides, focus on connecting trails.
- *Equestrian Trails in the WUP:* A map of the equestrian trail system in the WUP was shown. 35 miles in the WUP. 13.5 miles at Courtney Lake, 8.1 miles at Cedar River, 13.4 miles at Thunder Valley. Growth in activity-added mileage at Thunder Valley, focus on amenities, new Equestrian Trail Subcommittee member is from the UP.
- *Ski Trails in the WUP:* 139 miles of DNR trails, many other venues, funding, recreation passport required.
- *Rail-Trails in the WUP:* A map of rail-trail trails in the WUP was shown. 466 miles of DNR owned rail-trails are in the WUP. Focus on aging infrastructure, stream collector. A L'Anse to Baraga update was provided. Most rail-trails are multi-use except Chocolay and Houghton to Chassell.
- **Mr. Suchovsky** noted that use of county roads is under road commission/city/county jurisdiction and asked how much planning goes into the taking care of these trails 15 years from now and when considering more trails. **Mr. Yesney** stated they are focused on sustainability with what the DNR currently has and indicated a great amount of consideration goes into planning.
- **Mr. Schmidt** asked if the Lake Linden trail will be finished by December 1. **Mr. Yesney** indicated it is currently 65-70% finished. Culverts are in and detail work is being completed. It was also noted the DNR is aware of the erosion issues in Hubbell.
- A copy of the presentation will be sent to Council members at their request.

3. Forest Resources Division (FRD) Western UP District Overview (Mr. Seablom)

- An overview of the FRD's infrastructure investments and market in the WUP was provided.
- *East Pipeline Culvert Replacement (Dickinson County):* Replaced undersized culvert for \$164,000; work was completed by contractor in July.
- *Deerfoot Lodge Road/McCucheon Creek Culvert Replacement (Iron County):* Replaced 2 undersized culverts with a timber bridge for \$206,700. Substantial completion took place during deer season 2022. Major through road in Iron County that provides access to thousands of acres of state and commercial forest as well as private lands.
- *Butter Field Lake Road/Black Creek (Houghton County):* The road was upgraded for \$25,000 and replaced a timber bridge for \$208,000. It is used to access state and commercial forest and provides an alternate route for impending road closure.
- *Lateral Creek Bridge Replacement (Baraga County):* Replaced temporary bridge structure with a new timber bridge at \$320,000. Provides access to state and commercial forest lands as well as some private lands.
- *Donken-Tapiola Road Bridge Replacement (Houghton County):* Replaced aging bridge with new structure for \$300,000. This is a through road providing access to state forest as well as forestland.
- *Wells Grade (Dickinson County):* Form, ditch, grade and cap 1 mile. Form, ditch and grade an additional 2 miles. Total budget is \$70,000.
- *Various Road & Bridge Projects (Marquette County):* In previous years, Black River bridge replacement \$250,000, Deer Creek bridge replacement \$288,750, Ross Grade gravel improvements ~\$20,000 in 2019 and

another \$48,000 in material has been purchased for upgrades yet this fall or next summer. Several other projects are in the works.

- Facilities Projects: Furnace upgrades at the Gwinn fire garage and Escanaba Field Office & garage; lighting upgrades at the Ishpeming and Gwinn garages, roof upgrades at the Ishpeming Field Office (in progress) and Crystal Falls fish/fire shop.
- The severely depressed timber market conditions were addressed. It is the worst market in the UP since the early 1980s, and worse than the Great Recession. Equipment dealers are seeing very high levels of loan defaults on logging equipment.
- State timber sales in August alone: Current status of no-bid sales statewide, 30-no bid, 24-sold, 16-being reoffered, 2-discontinued, 72 total (6 sales have been offered twice). In the WUP, Baraga 9 (37.5%), Crystal Falls 3 (13.64%), Escanaba 4 (22.22%), and Gwinn 7 (25%). A chart of no-bid timber sales by month and unit was shown.
- A copy of the presentation will be sent to Council members at their request.

4. Parks & Recreation Division Search & Rescue Overview (Mr. Rich)

- An overview of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Search and Rescue operations was provided.
- *Park Stats:* 60,000 acres of designated wilderness area that extends into two counties and two time zones. There are 90 miles of hiking trails, 26k of winter trails, 23 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, 230 campsites with 27 cabins and yurts, 3 scenic sites and 2 boating access sites. The park includes a winter sports complex with ski hill and a shooting complex. A map of the acreage was shown along with picture of different facets of the park as well as staff.
- *Rescue Stats:* 450,000-600,000 people have visited the park in the past 4 years. Rescues per year average between 30-78. The most rescues occurred in 2021 with 78, totaling 840 staff hours. 51 of these were lost or overdue hikers and 27 were medical in nature, primarily tib-fib fractures. Most searches are resolved in under 24 hours. The recent Neimi rescue went 50 hours. There is an average of 2 fatalities per year. Rangers and Ski Patrol also conducted 20 rescues at the ski hill.
- *Common Injuries:* Wearing the wrong shoes/boots cause a significant number of injuries as well as oversized loads causing broken ankles and exhaustion.
- *Reasons Hikers Get Lost:* No cell coverage, unfamiliar with the wilderness, misreading maps, etc.
- *Challenges:* Rugged terrain (rocks, roots, mud, fast moving rivers, waterfalls, cliffs, extreme temperatures), extremely limited cell service and poor radio communications, access (80% of the park is only accessible by foot due to topography), limited outside resources, no two rescues are alike, always a race against time (it takes 45 minutes to get from Lake of the Clouds to Presque Isle/golden hour), rescuer fatigue. A map of the Porkies overlaid on the city of Lansing showed the Porkies to be much more expansive than the city.
- *Anatomy of a Search & Rescue (SAR):* 99% of the time, park staff act as the incident commander. State Police, DNR Law, Sherriff's Department, and federal agencies team up with park rangers on the search. A copy of a missing person checklist and some stats were shown.
- *Search Strategies:*
 - *Hasty Search:* This is a quick and efficient search by small teams that travel quickly to the likely spots and by the route of least resistance. A hasty search is generally the first tactic used in the early hours of a search. The hope is the subject is still alive and responsive.
 - *Active Search:* This is a more organized yet rapid search of a large area checking likely spots. Search teams will hike all the probable trails that the lost person could be on.
 - *Line Search:* Used to search for someone unresponsive, injured or off trail. Spacing may be as much as 100 feet between searchers. Density of the brush dictates how far apart searchers may be and the distance will fluctuate depending on the visibility. This tactic maximizes the probability of detection and area searched.
 - *Training for Staff:* Winter survival and snowmobile operations training, ice rescue training with the US Coast Guard, chairlift evacuation training with Porkies ski patrol, NASAR search function training with the US Coast Guard, high and low angle rope rescue training, and boat training and water rescue.

- *Equipment:* Rescue packs and 10 essentials, communications (800 MHz radio and SpotX), Garmin GPS and OnX, oxygen administration and AEDs, cascade and mule rescue litters, rescue tent with portable wood stove, Tundra 600s and Skandic 900 snowmobiles, enclosed rescue pod primarily used to respond to snowmobile incidents, aerial evacuation and mountain rescue toboggan, tracked Gators and Bobcat UTVs, Rescue Argo with tracks, 21-foot Munson landing craft with twin 115 motors (named after William Doan, former Porkies supervisor), mobile incident command rescue trailer. Additional resources include Michigan State Police (MSP) K9 units, Civil Air Patrol out of Houghton, and a US Coast Guard helicopter via the Traverse City Coast Guard Station.
- *Advantages to Successful Outcomes:* Highly dedicated and professional staff who are a “rescue team”. Division support for trainings and resources. Annual trainings in a variety of rescue scenarios. Strong partnerships with local Michigan State Police, DNR Law, Ontonagon County Sheriff’s Department, EMS and US Forest Service.
- The Porkies has had one “cold case” stemming back to 1967. In 2022, staff worked with K9 cadaver dogs and MSP forensic teams...no new leads were uncovered.

Committee Activity

1. Fisheries (Mr. Dropps)

- **Mr. Dropps** reported the committee met on August 24 and did not have any resolutions to bring forward.

2. Wildlife (Mr. Lindquist)

- **Mr. Lindquist** reported the committee met on August 15 to develop a resolution regarding a Michigan moose hunt. This resolution was emailed to the council last week according to the bylaws for their review and consideration at this Council meeting. He further explained the reasonings behind the resolution, one of which is to charge an application fee that would provide a funding base for the development of a moose management plan. He read the entirety of the resolution to the Council.
- **Mr. Lindquist motioned that the Council recommend the Michigan DNR conduct a very limited moose hunt in the UP of Michigan with up to 5 possible bull moose tags, possibly using the Pure Michigan Hunt and a separate lottery, much like the current elk lottery, with monies derived going to sustain and growing this iconic species in Michigan. Vice Chair Schott supported the motion.**
- **Chair Solka** called for a discussion. Discussion ensued regarding monies used for research, sustainability for 5 tags, 3% growth rate previously established, tribal inclusion, lack of a management plan, previous goal of 1,000 moose, comparison with the elk management plan and hunt, former moose council sunset by legislation, etc.
- **After no further discussion, Chair Solka called for a vote.** He stated **Mr. Williams** had to leave the meeting but indicated to him that his vote would be a yes. **With 10 voting in support and 2 opposed (Schmidt & Solka), the motion passed by majority.**

3. Trails/Rec/Law Committee (Ms. Gajewski)

- **Ms. Gajewski** reported the committee met on August 23 via zoom and discussed a variety of items including a safety concern on an ORV trail in Ontonagon and getting information back to the DNR on local wake boat issues including effects on habitat. **Mr. Lindquist** mentioned that MUCC has several resolutions regarding wake boats for reference if needed.

4. Other Committee Activity: None.

Next Meeting

1. Annual Joint UCAC Meeting: **Chair Solka** encouraged everyone to attend the annual Joint Meeting between the Eastern and Western UPCACs scheduled for Wednesday, October 11 in Escanaba (venue to be determined) from 3-5pm. An NRC welcome reception will be held afterwards. The NRC meeting will be held in Escanaba at Bay College on Thursday, October 12.

2. Next Regular Meeting Date: **Chair Solka** noted the next regular meeting will be held in January 2024. Meeting dates for 2024 will be drafted and emailed to the Council for review/approval at a later date.
3. Items for Joint UPCAC Meeting Agenda: **Chair Solka** stated planned topics for the Joint UPCAC meeting agenda include an overview of the DNR budget, an update on the wolf abundance survey by Dr. Tyler Petroelje and an overview of the Office of Public Lands. There will be no matters requiring approval by the Councils at this meeting since it is a combined meeting with a shortened meeting time.

Public Comments (On Any Topic)

Chair Solka opened the floor for public comments on any topic; none were brought forth.

Closing Comments from the Council

Chair Solka opened the floor for closing comments from the Council:

1. **Mr. Johnson** mentioned the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Logging Expo starting tomorrow at the UP State Fairgrounds in Escanaba. He stated it is best show in the country and encouraged all to attend.
2. **Mr. Starr** gave praise to Ms. Dahlstrom, Ms. Haughey and the conservation officers on a job well done at the DNR Pocket Park during the UP State Fair. The officers were outstanding and looked great. He and his wife had a wonderful time volunteering. He encouraged others to volunteer as it was a great experience.

Adjournment

Chair Solka thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm ET.