

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council Meeting  
McMillan Township Hall, Newberry  
Saturday, May 10, 2008**

**Small Group Discussion**

1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
    - Access to the NRC
    - Get meaningful answers to inquiries
    - Trustful relationships among all parties
    - The truth
    - Good listening skills
    - Good method of disseminating information
  
  2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen's advisory council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
    - No units of government on council, only those who represent users of the resources
    - Getting a broad spectrum of members from all affected user groups, excluding units of government
    - A manageable size work group; for example, 8-10 council members
    - Define scope of the council's work
    - Will council members be picked by a committee or application
    - Who makes the decision of the council membership
  
  3. **What challenges need to be overcome?**
    - How to select the committee member
    - Good selection process of personnel
    - Funding issues
    - Staffers of the committee (administrative staffers)
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1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
  - Honesty
  - Understanding and answers
  - Timeliness of response
  - Respect
  - Availability – right person
  
2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen's advisory council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
  - Stakeholders
  - Respect others opinions
  - Believe committee will work
  - Cooperation
  
3. **What challenges need to be overcome?**
  - Trust
  - Communication
  - Lack of teamwork between conservation interests

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- Finding common ground
  - Corridor between UP residents and Lansing
  - Manageable size
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1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
    - Being able to honestly exchange ideas
    - Straight answers and conversations
    - Follow through on what your communication was about; for example, I'll get back with you – then do it!
    - Openness to new ideas and concepts
    - Be flexible when listening
    - Identify limitations up front
    - Knowing who to talk to and how to access them
    - Understand the culture of people you are communicating with
  
  2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen's advisory council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
    - Need DNR representative who understands area, economics, and culture of people
    - Economic development vs. conservation
    - Who ever is chosen from area needs to be able and willing to represent the diversity of issues
    - Willing to devote time and expense
    - Rotate meeting locations
    - Follow up notes – distributed to all
    - Issues should be well documented in advance to allow a more local discussion before meeting
  
  3. **What challenges need to be overcome?**
    - Diversity of opinion
    - Recognizing that each groups agenda is equal
    - Distance - travel cost - time
    - Council has to know that their input is going to be used – do not waste their time
    - Follow up procedure – “develop”
    - Obtaining the right people on the council who is willing to compromise – both from the community and the DNR
    - Clear exchange of ideas.
    - “Valid Communication”
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1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
  - Honesty

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- Listening skills
  - Two way conversation – feedback
  - Objectivity
  - Open mindedness
  - Understanding
  - Ability to compromise
  - Vehicle – regular well defined meetings
  - Awareness (public) of advisory group
  - Clarity
2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen’s advisory council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
- Clear process of representation
  - Balance of views
  - Consider “at large” members (unaffiliated)
  - Central meeting location
3. **What challenges need to be overcome?**
- Public perception of cooperation
  - Image
  - Commitment to advisory council – both ways
  - Availability

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1. **To establish good communication, what factors are most important?**
- Truth – no B.S.
  - Ability to reach the “players” - DNR and user groups
  - Know that you are being listened to – communication is two-way
  - Simplify the rules – cannot communicate if too complicated
  - Open discussion – agree to disagree – play fair and don’t get personal
  - Build trust level
  - KISS theory
  - Use common sense and common language
2. **What elements are necessary to create a citizen advisory’s council that meets the needs of all parties involved?**
- Broad based
  - Better communication
  - Identify those who will be committed
  - Travel – cost - time – can we overcome?
  - What kind of input is needed
  - What are the goals
  - Time when everyone can attend
  - Establish by-laws – rules of the road

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- Education – education – education – let the people know
  - One local DNR person at minimum and federal representation
  - Involvement from all sides
  - Trust the professionals
  - Ideas and decisions need to go someplace
  - NRC involvement is necessary
  - The CAC needs to communicate with community and public (2-way street)
  - Buffer group – liability an issue? Don't shoot the messenger
  - Ground rules needed
  - Commitment from people
- 3. What challenges need to be overcome?**
- Travel cost – who will pay
  - Lansing vs. UP image – decision making too centered
  - UP residents feel like second class citizens
  - Lacking good legislative representation – those representing other parts of the state have more power
  - The UP is the state's playground in eyes of the LP – UP needs a voice
  - Getting people involved and keeping them involved
  - State forest management plan – will that dictate what happens
  - Communication - participation
  - Perception – preconceived from the past
  - Fear of change
  - Image of the DNR as an opponent or dictator
  - Avoid personal agendas
  - Understand the NRC objectives so the CAC's can come up with solutions
  - Those who tend to be involved tend to be very busy
  - Reaching middle ground
  - Size of the CAC can't be too big or too little