

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 20, 2017
6:30-8:30pm Eastern
LMAS Health Department Conference Room, Newberry

Chair: Dick Pershinske Vice-Chair: Glenn Moll Secretary: Tom Buckingham

Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich	Tim Hass	Tom Paquin
Tom Buckingham	Jim Hoy	Dick Pershinske
Ivan Darling	Bernie Hubbard	Mark Spencer
Grant Dewitt	Travis Kangas	
Al Garavaglia	Glenn Moll	

Council Members Excused/Absent

Allan Augustyn	Jason Garvon
Kristy Beyer	Gary Gorniak
Jim Duke	Michael Lawless
Hawk Erickson	

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails Specialist, Newberry
Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Newberry
Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Division, Newberry
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry
Michelle Zellar, Finance & Operations Division, Newberry

Call To Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:30pm Eastern by **Chair Pershinske**, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members introduced themselves and the groups they represent.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Pershinske asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda; there were none. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; **Mr. Hass** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Gorniak, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the February 23, 2017 EUPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Spencer** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; **Mr. Moll** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Gorniak, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the March 14, 2017 Joint UPCAC minutes; none were brought forth. **Mr. Spencer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Dewitt seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Gorniak, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

Chair Comments

Chair Pershinske welcomed former DNR employee Ms. Christina Hammill to the meeting and explained that Ms. Hammill recently left the DNR to take a position with the Michigan Department of Transportation. He thanked her for working with the Council the past several years and being a valuable resource. He and Ms. Haughey presented her with flowers; the Council gave a round of applause.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for public comments.

- Mr. Daryl Browning, Graymont representative, provided a brief update on the company's activities in the Rexton area, stating despite low activity this time of year, they are still moving forward and going through the NEPA process with the US Forest Service.

Reports

1. Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator: **Mrs. Haughey** noted DNR Director Keith Creagh was in the UP over the weekend to attend a meeting in Marquette on April 21st, as well as the UP Sportsmen's Alliance meeting in Iron Mountain on April 22nd. She also referenced the legislation in the reports pertaining to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, stating any change to the use of the fund would require a change to the state constitution.
2. DNR Division Reports: Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on April 14, 2017. The following were verbal additions to those reports:
 - Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Kovacs** provided a fishing report from area waters and updated the group on the AuTrain boat ramp that is in disrepair due to erosion. The boat ramp is owned by the Forest Service who does not have funding to repair it. The DNR is partnering with them to help get it back in service. He also indicated several fisheries workshops and public meetings have been held in the last month, with two more occurring on April 27th in Cedarville regarding Lake Huron and on May 24th in Marquette for Lake Superior. The recent Coffee and Conversation meetings focused mainly on regulations; attendance by those who came was very much appreciated. **Mr. Hoy** asked about net dipping results from Milakokia Lake; **Mr. Kovacs** replied over 1,000 walleye were marked; results will be complete in another month or two. He stated questions regarding the results can be directed to Mr. John Bauman from the Escanaba Office.
 - Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Division: **Ms. Sitar** stated she did not have any additional updates to the submitted report. **Mr. Hoy** congratulated Ms. Sitar on her daughter receiving a scholarship to MSU. Ms. Sitar further explained the requirements for the prestigious honor.
 - Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails: **Mr. Gaberdiel** indicated he is working with the Forest Service on an environmental review to change the status of a few roads north of Cedarville to allow a snowmobile bridge over I-75. He also mentioned a bridge wash-out that will be repaired once water recedes.
 - Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division: **Mr. Stampfly** indicated, in response to **Mr. Moll**, there is a large number of open timber sales currently in the eastern UP. The DNR is conducting a sustainable level of harvesting. **Mr. Moll** commended the department on their efforts. A good

amount of employment is occurring as a result. **Mr. Stampfly** also stated there are several active forest health issues to be aware of and encouraged the Council to access the website for more information: www.michigan.gov/foresthealth. He discussed a recent infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid found in southern Michigan near Hoffmaster State Park. **Mr. Kangas** asked about the number of acres affected; **Mr. Stampfly** indicated the acreage is still being assessed.

- **Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division:** **Mr. Cowing** reported the electrical project at Muskallonge State Park will start back up and be completed by mid-May after a signed agreement was secured. He noted that parks are having a very difficult time filling summer positions this year and encouraged Council members to spread the word of jobs being available. There are close to 40 positions to fill in the eastern UP.
- **Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division:** **Mr. Spieles** updated the group on expansion of the Outdoor Skills Academy program and explained the type of sessions available, the skills taught, and the popularity of the programs. Sessions are held around the state, including Porcupine Mountains State Park and Tahquamenon Falls State Park. For more information: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10369_68658---,00.html.
- **Michelle Zellar, Finance & Operations Division:** **Ms. Zellar** introduced herself to the Council, indicating she was taking over representation for Ms. Christina Hammill. **Chair Pershinske** welcomed her to the meeting.

Old Business

1. ***Information and Outreach Subcommittee Report:*** **Chair Pershinske** indicated Dr. Garvon was not able to attend and a report will be deferred to the next meeting.
2. ***Deer Subcommittee Report:*** **Mr. Buckingham** reported the subcommittee met two days ago (April 18). The group decided no additional action was necessary on the previous four resolutions that did not move forward. The group did develop two new resolutions for the Council's review and subsequent approval: ***Resolution #1: The EUPCAC supports the efforts of the UP Habitat Workgroup and will assist the Workgroup in sharing their formal recommendations to stakeholders in the Eastern UP.***

Mr. Hubbard, who sits on the Workgroup, explained the group's purpose to enhance deer wintering complexes in the UP, membership that includes a wide variety of people from forestry, wildlife, conservation, and landowner perspectives, and goals to help private UP landowners manage their properties for deer habitat. He also explained the changes he has seen since he's been a part of the Workgroup and feels the group has been and will continue to be instrumental in the future of deer hunting in the UP. **Mr. Moll** indicated a large ownership of property is from absentee owners; **Mr. Hubbard** noted some lower peninsula landowners did attend the meetings that have been held. **Mr. Buckingham motioned to approve the resolution as submitted; Mr. Darling seconded the motion.** Discussion took place. **Mr. Buckingham** stated the subcommittee is looking at the ability to help the Workgroup get the message out to stakeholders that they can make a difference and that private landowners play a large role. **Chair Pershinske** stated the Information and Outreach Subcommittee may want to be involved in the messaging. **A vote on the motion was taken. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Gorniak, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Buckingham reviewed the second resolution: ***Resolution #2: The EUPCAC applauds the efforts of the UP CWD Taskforce and supports the Taskforce's final recommendations (motions) to prevent and/or eradicate CWD in the UP.*** He stated Mr. Gorniak is a member of the Taskforce and was going

to provide further information, but couldn't attend due to travel issues. **Ms. Haughey** stated she can provide an update on the Taskforce since it is the next agenda item (see next item for report given and further discussion). **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to approve the resolution as submitted; **Mr. Hass** seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was taken. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: **Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Gorniak, Mr. Lawless.** Motion carried unanimously.

3. UP Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Taskforce & CWD Update: **Mrs. Haughey** provided an update on the work of the UP CWD Taskforce. She explained the history of the Taskforce and indicated the NRC at its April meeting voted to "establish a panel of scientific experts to advise the NRC, DNR or other applicable agencies on further steps and actions which could be implemented to substantially mitigate or eliminate CWD in Michigan". She noted the progression from the EUPCAC's CWD subcommittee to now a state panel. She reviewed the Taskforce's communication and outreach methods (banquet placemats, billboards, radio spots by UP Whitetails, meetings), review of the current state CWD management plan, and the motions made to recommend changes to the plan for the UP only. These recommendations were submitted to the Wildlife Division and the NRC commissioners.

After further Council discussion on the topic, **Ms. Haughey** will forward the following additional suggestions to the Taskforce: a) work with the International Bridge Authority on halting the transportation of deer carcasses across the bridge into Sault Ste. Marie; b) educate judges and prosecutors on the enforcement of higher end penalties; and c) look into the selling of bait when a feeding ban/zone is activated and determine if a feeding ban affects the Tribes. **Mr. Kangas** asked about bait that is grown in a prion-infected area; **Ms. Haughey** stated the Taskforce did discuss this with Dr. Straka, the state veterinarian, who indicated CWD can be transmitted in this fashion, but in a limited way, and that baiting and feeding has more of an impact.

Ms. Sitar provided a current CWD update. She stated the last two cases, as mentioned at the February meeting, were found in Mecosta County, which is the most northern location in the state. The Michigan Department of Agriculture indicated a warrant was served and the facility was depopulated. The statewide number of deer tested is just shy of 13,000, with 9 total confirmed CWD cases, all in the lower peninsula and none in the UP. A total of 616 UP deer have been tested to date. **Mr. Moll** indicated the prion that makes up the disease can only be killed by heat at 1700 degrees. **Chair Pershinske** asked if a solution is being researched at MSU. **Ms. Sitar** stated there is research being done in the country, but she is not sure MSU is involved. **Ms. Haughey** noted she will look into any research being done in Michigan.

4. Forest Road Inventory Project Update: **Mr. Stampfly** stated the project is moving along with the UP portion progressing as expected and the northern lower peninsula almost complete. Minor issues have come up along the way, such as the military land in the Grayling area.
5. Status of Mackinac County ORV Route Proposal: **Mr. Gaberdiel** indicated there has been no further movement since the last Council meeting in February. Townships are working on their resolutions for the state highway department with two of the four having been received. **Chair Pershinske** asked about the role of the regional planning group with this proposal. **Mr. Gaberdiel** stated their role is to be aware of the project and make it available for mapping. There has been only one regional planning meeting so far.

New Business

1. **Cormorant Control**: **Mr. Kovacs** explained there is no federal movement on the control of cormorants. He provided a short presentation on the history of the depredation order which included a timeline of events, different control methods used, graphs of trend lines before and after control was implemented, and yellow perch sport fishery harvest numbers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to harassment in key locations; however, culling and egg oiling is no longer allowed. Nest counts are still being conducted. He indicated folks will have to work legislatively with congressmen and senators as this is a federal issue. **Chair Pershinske** asked about the effectiveness of the harassment methods being used; **Mr. Kovacs** stated some can be effective if constantly used, but they are not effective long-term. **Mr. Darling** asked if the Tribes are also under the same depredation order; **Mr. Kovacs** stated yes. **Mr. Hoy** asked what methods can be used by individuals; **Mr. Kovacs** stated those methods that are indicated on the order. **Mr. Kangas** asked about natural predators for the nest sites; **Ms. Sitar** stated natural predators would have a hard time getting to the nests and would not be effective. **Chair Pershinske** asked what Council members could do help the issue; **Mr. Kovacs** indicated it may be helpful for members to have their stakeholder groups write letters or make phone calls to their congressmen. Discussion ensued with a member from the audience regarding oiling of eggs in an island location.
2. **Wolf Legislation Status**: **Ms. Haughey** indicated she spoke with the DNR legislative office who stated there has been no movement on House Resolution 424 since it was introduced in January 2017.
3. **Historical List of Agenda Items & Summary of Resolutions**: **Chair Pershinske** stated a copy of a historical list of EUPCAC agenda items and a historical summary of EUPCAC resolutions were included in the meeting packets for information. He asked Council members to review the listings and if there were any topics that were of interest to revisit again, he asked that it be suggested at the next meeting.
4. **Council Self-Evaluation Survey Review**: **Chair Pershinske** indicated an updated copy of the survey results were in the meeting packets. He asked members to review the information and to bring forth any comments at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

1. **Next Regular EUPCAC Meeting**: **Chair Pershinske** indicated the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be on Wednesday, June 14th in Munising (location TBD) beginning at 6:30pm.
2. **Items for Next EUPCAC Meeting Agenda**: **Chair Pershinske** asked for agenda topics for the next meeting.
 - **Mr. Paquin** suggested the need to talk about transportation of firewood to Michigan state parks with forest health issues becoming more widespread. He also suggested a discussion on the upcoming increase in campground fees for this year.
 - **Mr. Moll** suggested wood energy/fossil fuels and aquaculture. **Mr. Kovacs** added the recent State of the Great Lakes Report was not in support of aquaculture on the Great Lakes. **Chair Pershinske** asked Mr. Kovacs to bring any new information to the next meeting.
 - **Mr. Hoy** suggested an update on wolf counts. He stated it is very frustrating to have local control of cormorants and wolves taken away. He asked if there is any interest in bringing the failed resolution regarding not spending any money on wolves from last year forward again. Discussion

continued. **Ms. Haughey** stated she understood his frustration; however, the counts and scientific evidence need to continue to make a case. **Ms. Sitar** added that Michigan is involved. She recently attended the Midwest Wolf Stewards Conference and Michigan seems to be in a better position than some other states. She indicated Wyoming will be hearing the Midwest state's appeal on the matter soon. She stated Michigan is doing their due diligence to keep management control when it comes. She noted that a wolf survey is done every other year, alternating with the moose survey, and it will be done again in 2018. Last year, the estimated count was 618 animals. Discussion continued on Isle Royale wolves.

Public Comments

Chair Pershinske opened the floor for additional public comments. No comments were made.

Closing Comments from the Council

1. **Mr. Paquin** commented on the letter from Ms. Duncan read at the last meeting pertaining to equestrian trails. He stated the district only receives \$5,000 a year to work on equestrian campgrounds each year. When requests are received, it needs to be known that there isn't much funding allotted to do the work. Discussion ensued regarding trail fees for equestrian use, which would require legislative support.
2. **Mr. Spencer** noted a Rough Grouse Banquet will be held on May 13th in St. Ignace. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact him.
3. **Mr. Moll** asked about the sandhill crane population. **Ms. Haughey** stated she will seek an update for the next meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm EST.