

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 24, 2017**  
**6:30-8:30pm Eastern**  
**LMAS Health Department Conference Room, Newberry**

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

**Council Members Present**

Keith Aldrich	Jason Garvon	Glenn Moll
Tom Buckingham	Gary Gorniak	Tom Paquin
Ivan Darling	Tim Hass	Dick Pershinske
Grant Dewitt	Jim Hoy	Mark Spencer
Al Garavaglia	Bernie Hubbard	

**Council Members Excused/Absent**

Allan Augustyn	Hawk Erickson
Kristy Beyer	Travis Kangas
Jim Duke	Michael Lawless

**Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons**

Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails Specialist, Newberry  
Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator, Marquette  
John Bauman, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Newberry  
Karen Rodock, Forest Resources Division, Sault Ste. Marie  
Michelle Zellar, Facilities & Operations, Newberry

**Call to Order**

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:31pm Eastern by **Chair Pershinske**, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members introduced themselves and indicated the groups they represent.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there were any corrections to the June 14, 2017 EUPCAC minutes, which were emailed to the Council previously; none were brought forth. **Mr. Moll motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Hass seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Kangas, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried.**

**Chair Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** noted he will be sending an article to members via email that was published in Farm News Media regarding the recent court decision on wolves; it is a good article with important

information. He also indicated he spoke to a retired, highly respected commercial fisherman who is beginning a campaign on the cormorant population, which includes the sportsmen's perspective. Discussion took place regarding the estimates of cormorants. **Mr. Minzey** indicated there are no funds appropriated to work on cormorant data and there is no authority for any control measures due to a court ruling. **Mr. Gorniak** explained the efforts he is working on through Rep. Jack Bergman's office to bring back control measures. **Ms. Haughey** indicated this may be a good topic for the next meeting; **Chair Pershinske** agreed.

### **Public Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for public comments; none were brought forth.

### **DNR Reports from Division Staff**

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on August 17, 2017. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator: **Ms. Haughey** provided the following additions:
  - The UP State Fair was held August 14-20<sup>th</sup> and the DNR displayed a big presence at the fair through the DNR Pocket Park. Ms. Jo Ann Alexander, from Escanaba, and Ms. Kristi Dahlstrom, from Marquette, took over the volunteer coordination for fair week after the former staff coordinator retired. The week turned out great. She thanked those EUPCAC members and eastern UP staff who volunteered and encouraged everyone to consider helping out next year.
  - Every month, an employee or employees from UP staff offices are recognized for good work, and she wanted to acknowledge Mr. Paul Gaberdiel for his work on the Mackinac County ORV route. She read the write-up in the staff notes. She thanked Mr. Gaberdiel and all who worked on the route.
  - Slides from a brief DNR budget update were shown. The DNR's budget team spends a great deal of time reviewing the budget and explaining to legislators what is needed. Supplemental adjustments for this year include wetland mitigation banking, wildlife management, and a swimmer's itch pilot program. The new budget highlights the following initiatives: ensuring sustainable harvest of Great Lakes fish, increase understanding of wildlife management, improve state park expenditures, connect trails to communities (she noted the Governor visited one of the DNR's newest trails during a trail dedication while he attended the UP State Fair), increase transparency and accountability for public lands, save lives, property and timber, protect public safety, enhance environmental stewardship on state land, and align spending authorization with available revenue.
  - The new hunter's digest is now out and chronic wasting disease is noted on the front cover. Copies were distributed to Council members.
2. Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division: **Mr. Cowing** reported the supplemental funding they received for state park infrastructure is in addition to the capital outlay. **Mr. Moll** noted the recreation passport is a wonderful idea to generate additional revenue for maintenance and restoration. **Mr. Cowing** stated it has also increased attendance in a lot of locations causing a few infrastructure issues, although it is a good problem to have; **Mr. Moll** added the attendance has been unbelievable.
3. Paul Gaberdiel, Eastern UP Trails: **Mr. Gaberdiel** noted the Trek the Mac event will be held September 30.

4. Michelle Zellar, Finance and Operations Division: **Ms. Zellar** indicated she did not have any updates to her report.
5. Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division: **Mr. Minzey** stated there is a new rule in the wildlife conservation order that anyone who processes deer has to be licensed. The licenses are free to obtain, and will help find the processor if an infected animal is found. He added if anyone processes deer for someone other than themselves, he has informational cards with him to hand out. He also added the DRIP manual is not yet available online; he had mentioned it was at the last meeting.
6. John Bauman, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Bauman**, who was attending on behalf of Mr. Kovacs, introduced himself and indicated he covers northern Lake Michigan. He did not have any additions to the report.
7. Karen Rodock, Forest Resources Division: **Ms. Rodock**, who was on attending on behalf of Mr. Stampfly, indicated a few additional staff and equipment have been added to the western US and Ontario Canada fire assignments. She stated there are road issues with the amount of rain received as well as beaver issues. Anyone interested in trapping beavers can contact her for permit information.

#### **Old Business**

1. Information and Outreach Subcommittee Report: **Dr. Garvon** reported the subcommittee met in July and came up with a quick survey for Council members designed to be utilized as a starting point. Questions focused on demographics and modes of communicating Council information. There was a 90% response rate; a summary of the responses was distributed and reviewed by item. He stated the subcommittee will meet again to determine the next course of action based on responses. He also reviewed an email by **Mr. Spieles** who shared information about the Michigan Wildlife Council's newly approved communications plan. **Chair Pershinske** thanked **Dr. Garvon** for conducting the survey and for his efforts on the subcommittee.
2. UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update: **Mr. Hubbard** noted the Workgroup has spent the last three years developing winter deer complex plans, hired consultants, and planned for on-the-ground activities in the west UP in 2017 and in the east UP in 2018. They are working to get information out to non-industrial private landowners on those plans that affect winter deer complexes in their areas. In the six western UP counties, there are 910 parcels that have a management plan within a mile buffer of winter deer complexes which may also need updating. A newsletter and direct mailings have been sent to 140 consultant foresters who are practicing in the UP on the ground as well. He noted rarely are chainsaws used to harvest timber, rather big expensive machines are used now. He added the forest services are providing educational outreach for private landowners within their boundaries. Discussion ensued regarding CFA lands near winter deer complexes and how to work those into the process. **Ms. Haughey** suggested an update on CFA and QFA lands at the next council meeting may be beneficial for council members and the public. **Mr. Gorniak** noted the Workgroup has been largely funded by the DNR and Safari Club International with all 11 chapters in the state donating \$2,000 each. He would like to see more sportsmen's clubs in the UP contribute and involved since it's primarily based in the UP. It's a very good program and if a presentation is needed to a group, let him know and he will arrange for it. **Mr. Hubbard** explained he also sits on another group that is looking at how to use low value wood as fuel.

3. *Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Ongoing Update:* **Mr. Minzey** updated the Council on the UP deer movement study which is waiting for budget approval from the legislature. The study will help biologists to better understand the movement patterns and social mixing of deer in the UP, if CWD were to arrive in the UP. In this three-year segmented study, 150 GPS collars will be placed on does, fawns and bucks. If Wisconsin were to agree, GPS collars would also be utilized on the Wisconsin side of the UP border as well. Preparation has begun for an October start date; tagging will be in January/February once the budget has been approved. He also provided an update on the CWD Symposium that will be held October 3-4 in Lansing. Mr. Al Ettenhoffer from UP Whitetails has been invited to participate as the UP representative on the CWD Task Force panel, who will take information from this symposium and make recommendations to the NRC on how to tackle the disease. **Mr. Gorniak** and **Chair Pershinske** have been invited to attend the symposium. **Mr. Minzey** stated there have been no new CWD cases found, with the total remaining at 9. **Mr. Stephen King** from the audience asked once an area is depopulated, would CWD return when repopulated; **Mr. Minzey** indicated they are not sure where the infected deer actually came from. **Mr. Gorniak** asked if Wisconsin's resident hunters are encouraged to get their harvested deer tested for CWD; **Mr. Minzey** indicated they are, but not many are tested. **Chair Pershinske** reminded folks that something will need to be done with bait supplies as well if the disease is to be prevented from appearing in the UP; **Mr. Minzey** noted some hunters only know how to hunt by baiting.
4. *Deer Regulation Update:* **Mr. Minzey** indicated there continues to be no antlerless harvest for most of the UP with the exception of five units. An antlerless tag will be needed to harvest antlerless deer with archery equipment. Both the Garden and Nahma peninsulas have been opened up with a modest antlerless harvest. Drummond Island has a one buck (3 points on a side) harvest limit.
5. *Federal Court Action Update:* **Mr. Minzey** indicated a federal court judge ruled against taking wolves off the endangered species list, but did provide a road map on how to get there. The judge agreed the management plan was adequate, but disagreed the population was in jeopardy. He stated he doesn't believe any further action will take place until after recess.

#### **New Business**

1. *Transportation of Firewood in State Parks (Resolution):* **Mr. Cowing** reiterated the new process that will be implemented to prevent the transportation of any firewood into state parks which was presented at the last meeting. He stated it will be another year or two before its fully implemented, but it is necessary due to the number of trees being lost to disease. **Mr. Paquin** added, as a result of previous Council discussion, he worked with Mr. Cowing in preparing a resolution in support of this process for the Council's consideration. The resolution read: ***The EUPCAC supports the efforts of the MDNR, Parks & Recreation Division as they move forward on limiting the types of firewood allowed on Division administered lands to help reduce the spread of invasive species. With the damage beech bark disease, emerald ash borer, oak wilt and other invasive species have had on the forests lands of the Upper Peninsula, we feel this is a step in the right direction to help curb the spread of these and other exotic pests in the future.***

**Mr. Paquin** motioned to approve the resolution as read; **Mr. Buckingham** seconded the motion. **Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for Council discussion. **Mr. Spencer** noted his concern on how this would affect local firewood sellers who may depend on that income. He indicated they mostly obtain/sell wood already from the area. The required drying/kiln process was explained. **Mr. Cowing** added local wood can have the disease as well and explained the diseases that exist in the UP now.

**Mr. Hoy** stated many concerns he had with the proposal, including not having seen proof that firewood is spreading the disease and how transportation of potentially diseased wood over the Wisconsin border would be monitored and controlled. He would like to see some data. Discussion ensued at length. **Mr. Darling** stated if logs are over three feet long, it is not considered firewood and can still be brought up from lower Michigan; he questioned how that would be handled with the new process. **Ms. Rodock** explained where beech bark disease and emerald ash borer was initially found in UP state forests, how it was depopulated and then reappeared in other locations. **Mr. Cowing** indicated there are also links to studies that can be emailed to the Council. **Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if there was enough information available to vote on the motion. After consideration, the majority of the Council felt the resolution is to support the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Division and a vote should be taken. ~~Ayes: 14. Nays: 1 (see below).~~ **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Augustyn, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Duke, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Kangas, Mr. Lawless. Motion carried by majority unanimously (see below).** **Ms. Haughey** indicated she will relay the issues presented this evening to the Chief of the Parks and Recreation Division. She also asked for interested Council members (Mr. Paquin, Mr. Hoy, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Buckingham, and Mr. Cowing, DNR) to possibly serve on a Council subcommittee to help refine the process as it is developed. ***Later on in the meeting, the Council member with the only dissenting vote changed his vote to support the resolution, thereby allowing the motion to pass unanimously; the Council supported this change.***

2. *Graymont Land Exchange Update:* **Ms. Haughey** explained the Marquette County land involved in the exchange and the interest shown by Marquette Township. She indicated the transaction has taken longer than first thought; however, it was approved at the August NRC meeting, although it's not officially closed in real estate terms. Mr. PJ Stoll of Graymont added the Attorney General's office and Graymont are working on the documents for closure.
3. *Aquatic Habitat Grant Information:* **Chair Pershinske** stated he asked for this to be on the agenda as it is getting a lot of attention due to the \$1.2 million available in funding. **Mr. Bauman** stated the funding comes from a portion of license sales and the deadline for applications this year is August 28. The 30-page application document is online and projects involving stream restoration, dam removals, and culvert replacements are eligible. The minimum request is \$20,000 and state, federal, local and tribal government entities can apply. He indicated he will be available after the meeting for any questions. **Mr. Minzey** also provided information on the recently submitted wildlife habitat grants.
4. *Trail Definitions and Updates:* **Mr. Gaberdiel** explained the different off road vehicle models and their widths as well as the new trail markers and symbols (copies included in the meeting packets). He also reviewed the definition of a designated trail, licensing requirements on trails and routes, forest roads, and what signs users will see on specific designated trails/routes. He stated there are 3,600 miles of ORV trails in the Michigan. Suggestions from user groups on how the language can be clarified further are always welcome. Novice users can contact a conservation officer and/or go to the DNR website to learn more about the trails available to them and what is required. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Moll** added that all designated trail maps are online. **Mr. Gaberdiel** provided an update on new area trails that are being developed, including the Mackinac County ORV route. **Mr. Buckingham** noted it would be helpful to have an officer present at a meeting to help answer user questions.
5. *Additional Agenda Items Added by Council:* There were no added items of New Business.

### **Next Meeting**

1. *Next EUPCAC Meeting:* **Chair Pershinske** indicated the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Lake Superior State University's Cisler Center in Sault Ste. Marie beginning at 6:30pm.
2. *Items for Next EUPCAC Meeting Agenda:* **Chair Pershinske** encouraged Council members to submit any items for the next agenda to Ms. Dahlstrom. He stated cormorants, CFA/QFA lands, and other items discussed this evening that need follow-up will be placed on the agenda.

### **Public Comments**

**Chair Pershinske** opened the floor for additional public comments; none were brought forth.

### **Closing Comments from the Council**

1. **Mr. Spencer** stated the Great Lakes Fur Harvesters will be having an archery shoot and an arts and crafts show in Kinross on September 22 and 23. The public is welcome to attend.
2. **Dr. Garvon** asked about the loss of maple leaves in Brimley State Park. **Ms. Rodock** stated the amount of rain received is part of the issue, as well as some disease problems.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm EST.

Approved 10/20/17