

# Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2018

6:30-8:30pm Eastern

LMAS Health Department Conference Room, Newberry, MI

---

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

### Council Members Present

Keith Aldrich	Hawk Erickson	Travis Kangas
Allan Augustyn	Al Garavaglia	Glenn Moll
Tom Buckingham	Gary Gorniak	Tom Paquin
Ivan Darling	Tim Hass	Dick Pershinske
Grant Dewitt	Jim Hoy	Mark Spencer
Jim Duke	Bernie Hubbard	

### Council Members Excused/Absent

Kristy Beyer	Russell Utych
Jason Garvon	

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

Craig Albright, Wildlife Division, Escanaba  
Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division, Newberry  
Keith Creagh, Director, Lansing  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette  
Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry  
Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator, Marquette  
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Marquette  
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry  
Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division, Shingleton

### Call to Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:28pm Eastern by **Chair Pershinske**, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members introduced themselves and cited the groups they represent. **Ms. Haughey** also welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced special guest, DNR Director Keith Creagh to the meeting.

### Adoption of Agenda

**Chair Pershinske** asked if there were any additions to the agenda; there were no further additions or revisions suggested. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; **Mr. Erickson** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**

### Officer Elections

**Chair Pershinske** noted the Bylaws require the Council to have an officer election at the beginning of each year. **Ms. Haughey** opened the floor for officer nominations for 2018:

- **Chairperson:** Mr. Erickson nominated Mr. Pershinske to continue as Chairman. Mr. Pershinske accepted the nomination. Mr. Hass supported the nomination. After three additional opportunities, no additional nominations were received. **A vote was taken in favor of Mr. Pershinske for Chairman. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**
- **Vice-Chair:** Mr. Aldrich nominated Mr. Moll to continue as Vice Chairman. Mr. Moll accepted the nomination. Mr. Erickson supported the nomination. After three additional opportunities, no additional nominations were received. **A vote was taken in favor of Mr. Moll for Vice Chairman. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**
- **Secretary:** Mr. Garavaglia nominated Mr. Buckingham to continue as Secretary. Mr. Buckingham accepted the nomination. Mr. Hoy supported the nomination. **A vote was taken in favor of Mr. Buckingham for Secretary. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**
- **Final Results:** Mr. Pershinske remains Chairman for 2018, Mr. Moll remains Vice Chairman for 2018, and Mr. Buckingham remains Secretary for 2018.

Chair Pershinske stated he appreciated the Council's confidence to continue leading the group and will represent the EUPCAC as best he can. He noted the Council has been in existence for 10 years and has had some major accomplishments. He thanked the DNR staff for helping Council members do their job, and made a special mention of Ms. Haughey, Mr. Minzey and Ms. Dahlstrom.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Pershinske asked the Council if there were any corrections to the December 6<sup>th</sup> EUPCAC minutes, which were emailed to the Council previously. **Mr. Duke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Buckingham seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**

#### **Chair Comments**

Chair Pershinske stated he met with Rep. Jack Bergman and had a discussion with him regarding cormorants, wolves and a couple of other items. He noted one of the most important issues the Council will be looking at is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and it will not go away for a long time.

#### **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 February 8, 2018. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. **Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator:** Ms. Haughey stated she did not have anything further to report.
2. **Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division:** Mr. Kovacs provided an update on cormorants. He stated Mr. Dave Fielder, a DNR research biologist from Alpena, was one of two people who provided testimony in

Washington, DC on a bill (HB 4429) that could reinstate cormorant control similar to previous control efforts. He further explained and stated if anyone is interested in a copy of the testimony, he would share it. He noted the strategic plan for the Fisheries Division is now complete and available on the DNR's website. The new 2018 one-year fishing guide has been printed and available at offices and all locations where licenses are sold. **Mr. Augustyn** asked for information on Bay de Noc stocking. **Mr. Kovacs** indicated this is handled at the Escanaba office; however, stocking numbers (fish that actually hit the water) are available on the website and can be sorted by county, waterbody, species, etc. 2018 prescriptions, which hinge on production, can be provided by fish biologists at each office. **Ms. Haughey** mentioned a partnership with the Hannahville community on stocking the Bay.

3. *Eric Cowing, Parks & Recreation Division:* **Mr. Cowing** reported that he has spent the last few days assisting with interviews for an Assistant Chief for Parks and Recreation, which is a new position for the division. **Mr. Augustyn** asked if the campgrounds will have firewood this summer; **Mr. Cowing** replied firewood bids are out right now. There have been no changes on what is allowed in facilities at this point; the suggested changes in rules have been put on hold. What visitors can bring in has been changed for some time. He added that **Mr. Paquin** will talk about a subcommittee later in the meeting that will discuss this issue.
4. *Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:* **Mr. Minzey** provided a brief update on the deer collaring effort in the west UP, which is for a deer movement study. A total of 150 collars were put out, 50 at Little Girls Point, 50 on the east side of Lake Gogebic and another 50 in the southwest corner of Iron County. The funding used for the collars comes from Pittman Robertson dollars. The DNR would not otherwise have access to those dollars without Mississippi State University collaboration to provide the match donations in research and labor. A public website will be developed to monitor the movements of the deer across the UP landscape. **Mr. Augustyn** asked why Mississippi State is always utilized for research projects and not any Michigan universities. **Mr. Minzey** indicated that the primary investigator came from Michigan and the project went with him to Mississippi State; the deer movement study is a spin-off of the predatory prey study also conducted by Mississippi State.
5. *Jeff Stampfly, Forest Resources Division:* **Mr. Stampfly** stated he did not have anything to add to his written report. **Mr. Gorniak** asked about the sealing of red pine stumps and the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) with the Forest Service. **Mr. Stampfly** explained the sealing may be in response to a native pest/fungus. As for the GNA, it is still active and going well; the Forest Service is looking to increase the acreage this year statewide.
6. *Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division:* **Mr. Spieles** stated he did not have any additions to his written report.
7. *Lt. Skip Hagy, Law Enforcement Division (LED):* **Lt. Hagy** stated there have been several conservation officers (CO's) out on snowmobiles recently. This was due to a training held for new officers on snowmobile surveillance. He also distributed a copy of a press release on the I-500 in Sault Ste. Marie, which was covered heavily by area CO's. There were several contacts made and tickets given were a little higher than last year. Also in regards to snowmobile surveillance, there have been a few fatalities; officers are focusing on corners and intersections where these accidents tend to occur due to high speed. **Mr. Gorniak** asked about the total number of CO's; **Lt. Hagy** reported approximately 245 statewide with another academy starting in July to add 10 more which will all help keep up with attrition. There will be 3 officers in Delta County and 2 in Luce County with the new additions. **Mr.**

**Gorniak** also praised the *Wardens* show on *The Outdoor Channel*, which is helping to educate a lot of people. Discussion ensued regarding **Mr. Augustyn's** comment that CO's at times seem to be an extension of local law enforcement rather than specifically focusing on natural resources. **Lt. Hagy** noted local law enforcement agencies struggle with staffing and funding and if the CO's can provide assistance when needed, they will do so. **Director Creagh** provided insight into the law enforcement budget and discussed the positive changes made at Belle Isle in Detroit due to increased CO presence which was a direct result of an allocation of general funding. **Lt. Hagy** also referred to an item in the legislative summary of the division reports regarding loaded crossbows in vehicles and suggested members review it.

### **DNR Director Comments**

**Ms. Haughey** introduced **DNR Director Keith Creagh** and welcomed him to the EUPCAC meeting. **Director Creagh** thanked the Council, stating the CAC's make the DNR better by bringing the issues from the public forward and to make sure the DNR is paying attention. He stated he is thankful for all of the good work. He provided the following updates:

- **CWD:** There is still more to this issue that is not known and the DNR has learned what not to do from other states. The DNR still needs hunters as well. A conversation with the public needs to occur as a one-size-fits-all approach is not in the best interest when the deer landscape is not the same in the UP as in the lower peninsula. There needs to be a few less deer on the landscape in some areas of the state and the age/sex ratio needs to be changed a bit. The DNR will be looking to have conversations with the public for input and suggestions. A statewide taskforce was created and a report was generated. Science will be discussed in March and then discussions will move to management practices and regulations. The language and outcomes need to somehow be agreed upon; patience is needed. **Director Creagh** stated he doesn't anticipate getting it right the first time. It is a dynamic process, not a static process. It's an issue staring everyone in the face. He encouraged discussions to focus on what will work, what won't, and that's how everyone can help—to work hand in glove.
- **Invasive Carp:** This is a large initiative for the DNR in an effort to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes, specifically at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois. Fisheries dollars will be used towards the \$8 million dollars needed to operate and maintain the new system. Ohio, Ontario, and Wisconsin are also on board to contribute their share. An awareness campaign is running in other states and work is continuing with a congressional delegation.
- **DNR Budget:** A large amount of time is spent on the DNR's budget. In the budget is \$2.6 million for wildlife diseases from the general fund. This is a good start and the DNR may need to consider research needs. There is a Senate joint resolution to make some amendments to the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Park Endowment Fund; **Director Creagh** stated he feels it is a very good resolution that will keep the Trust Fund in perpetuity and further explained the proposed changes. It will be on the ballot in August as it would require a constitutional change.
- **Governor's Summit on Extractive Industry:** The summit was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Lansing in an effort, amongst other initiatives, to increase awareness of the state's extractive industries (oil, gas, minerals) and their economic and educational benefits.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:** \$300 million in federal funding by a bipartisan legislation was approved for this initiative. The DNR will be working with the delegation.
- **Questions:** **Director Creagh** opened the floor for questions from the Council.
  - **Mr. Augustyn** stated he sincerely hopes that based on the Governor's CWD Taskforce's recommendations, as Director, autonomy and decision-making will be maintained as he feels the scientific knowledge is way off base. **Director Creagh** stated the group was not appointed by the Governor, but rather appointed jointly by himself, the Department of Agriculture director, and the

NRC chair. He added they may not have gotten every recommendation right; however, it is still in conversation and autonomy will be maintained.

- **Mr. Garavaglia** stated he appreciates seeing Director Creagh in the eastern UP and believes he has seen him more than any other director. He also appreciates the efforts on Graymont. **Director Creagh** stated he likes the UP and likes to be out in it. He indicated the DNR needs to get its footprint and access right. The set of land bills will move in the near future. Users shouldn't care who owns the land, but rather they care about the experience.
- **Mr. Hoy** asked where the DNR is at with closing the Mackinac Bridge to bringing deer carcasses into the UP. **Director Creagh** stated the DNR needs to do a better job with stewardship first, educate and then change behavior. However, there are other solutions and many conversations to have.
- **Mr. Stephen King** from the audience asked if there has been any talk about finding a cure for CWD. **Director Creagh** stated there are people looking at that nationwide, but it's a long way out. He wants to work on the here and now.

**Chair Pershinske** stated he appreciated the Director's comments this evening, and he wanted to mention that the staff who attend these meetings, like those here this evening, are better than any other staff in the state. **Director Creagh** replied he values those thoughts and thanked the Council once again for inviting him to the meeting.

#### **Old Business**

1. *Implementation of Firewood Movement Subcommittee*: **Chair Pershinske** stated he has implemented a subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Paquin, to look into the outreach needed for future implementation of further limiting firewood in state parks due to disease. **Mr. Paquin** stated he would like to get a few council members to serve on the subcommittee together in a few weeks on a conference call to learn more about the issue. He has asked Mr. Jason Fleming of the Parks and Recreation Division to provide information. **Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Hass, Mr. Erickson, and Mr. Kangas** volunteered. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to approve the implementation of the subcommittee; **Mr. Garavaglia** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**

#### **New Business**

1. *Bear Season Results/Wolf & Cougar Update*: **Mr. Swanson** introduced himself and indicated he helps to facilitate the bear and wolf program, sets the bear management units (BMU's), and facilitates the cougar program when the need arises. He provided a brief update/presentation on the bear management and recent harvest, noting there is a lot of passion in bear management.
  - 2016 estimated pre-harvest abundance of bears 1 year old and older in the UP region: This is a model that takes into consideration all of the age and sex data from mandatory registrations from 1992-2016. There were 9,519 bears in 2016, up 5% since 2012. Northern lower Michigan statistics were shown as well. **Mr. Swanson** added some hunters disagree with these graphs, as they are estimates; however, all sorts of data are analyzed before quotas are set for BMU's.
  - 2017 harvest: Approximately 1,814 bear harvested statewide, up from 16% from 2016 (1,563), near the 10-year average. There was a very good success rate in many BMU's.
  - 2017 harvest by BMU: The leader flip-flops between the Newberry and Baraga management units. A graph showing the number of bear harvested per square mile in each BMU was shown; there was one bear harvested for every 13 square miles in the Gwinn BMU. 2016 harvest locations were shown via a dotted map.

- The 1990-2017 long-term harvest graph helps to determine if the harvest should be pushed down. **Mr. Swanson** further explained the methodology.
- Statistics from the 2016 bear hunter survey: Most hunters (84%) relied primarily on bait only; about 13% relied primarily on dogs alone or a combination of baiting (strike) and dogs; 79% of harvested bear were taken over bait; bait-only hunters had a 31% success rate, dog hunters had a 45% success rate; the success rate of hunters that used a guide was 44%; approximately 670 hunters (13%) hired a guide; and the number of people buying a bear license has decreased by 42% since 2006 (9,457).

**Mr. Swanson** added that a bear forum (open to the public) was held on December 16 at Little Bear Arena in St. Ignace. About 17 different organizations were present to review harvest statistics and talk about future regulations. He will pass along notes from the meeting to the Council.

**Mr. Swanson** also provided an update on the Michigan wolf program.

- A historical slide showed the history of the wolf in Michigan. In 1973, there were estimated to be 6 wolves in the UP.
- There was one attempted wolf reintroduction in 1974 with 4 wolves from Minnesota released in the Huron Mountains. Within 8 months all four were killed. They did not reproduce.
- Wolves have come back on their own since that time and are now in every county in the UP (and there are two confirmed in the northern lower). There are 16,824 square miles of UP habitat. There is a very viable and robust population here, although the number of wolves will be limited due to the size of the geographic area.
- Minimum winter population estimates: The minimum estimate in the winter of 2015-2016 was 618 wolves. The wolf survey is currently in progress; **Mr. Swanson** explained how it is conducted. It is very challenging and time consuming (mostly on foot).
- A wolf population survey summary chart was shown. There are 125 packs in the UP. The hope is to one day soon, to have the privilege of managing wolves again.
- Radio collar mortality: What kills wolves over time is tracked and researched to prove they can be managed. 38% is illegal kill. **Mr. Swanson** stated he believes this number would decrease significantly if they were a sought after game species, although some disagree.
- The wolf management plan was updated in 2015.

**Mr. Swanson** provided a cougar update next.

- A cougar track was shown; there is always a leading toe with three lobes on the rear of the heel pad. Differences between a dog track and a cougar track were displayed.
- There have been 37 confirmed sightings in Michigan, with 1 in the lower peninsula (in 2017 in Lansing) and 36 in the UP. They are all transient animals coming from the Dakotas or northwest Nebraska.
- There is no evidence of a breeding population in Michigan.
- Trail cam photos were shown; **Mr. Swanson** explained how confirmations are conducted. **Mr. Gorniak** asked if sightings are confirmed by tracks; **Mr. Swanson** further explained.

**Chair Pershinske** thanked **Mr. Swanson** for his update and presentation.

2. West Nile Virus in Ruffed Grouse: **Mr. Minzey** explained the history and transmission of the west nile virus by mosquito. The virus in ruffed grouse has been confirmed in 4 UP counties: Dickinson, Delta, Iron and Marquette. It is in all 15 UP counties in other species. According to health officials, a person

cannot get sick from eating an infected bird. They can, however, get sick from being bit directly by an infected mosquito. It is a fluctuating disease due to weather and at times it may affect a local grouse population temporarily. There is currently no research project on this. Birds are tested as they are brought in. **Mr. Spencer** asked if the virus will affect other predators, such as fishers, if they eat an infected grouse. **Mr. Minzey** replied the fisher is not a definitive host. **Mr. Augustyn** asked about a cure for White Nose Syndrome in bats; **Mr. Minzey** explained the testing of possible solutions.

3. Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council's Resolution for Consideration: **Chair Pershinske** explained the Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council's wildlife subcommittee drafted a resolution regarding a recommendation to have two individuals from the UP be represented on the NRC. Mr. Lindquist, lead for that subcommittee would like to have it on the agenda for the March Joint UPCAC meeting and is asking for EUPCAC approval to do just that. **Chair Pershinske** thanked **Mr. Hass** for volunteering to prepare the resolution in official format and asked for the Council to review the resolution. **Mr. Buckingham** motioned to approve the resolution as prepared; **Mr. Augustyn** seconded the motion. **Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Ms. Beyer, Dr. Garvon, Mr. Utych. Motion carried.**
4. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Council Discussion: **Chair Pershinske** stated this is an important issue and after some information is presented by Mr. Albright, he would like the Council to think about the next steps whether it be a subcommittee or to wait for the DNR to present more definitive ideas. He noted he concurs with Director Creagh that this is the most important issue the Council will face in the 10 years of the CAC's. He opened the floor for Mr. Albright:
  - **Mr. Albright** provided a brief overview of activities pertaining to CWD. Since CWD was found in lower Michigan (the first was a free-ranging deer in 2015), 60 deer have tested positive for CWD in five counties, quite a jump in three years. He explained the discussion at the CWD symposium which was held last October. All 19 presentations are available on You Tube or by going to the website at [www.michigan.gov/cwd](http://www.michigan.gov/cwd). After the symposium, the NRC created a statewide CWD taskforce to develop recommendations as to the next step forward. These recommendations are now under review and discussion. The first recommendation pertained to communication. In order to hear public feedback, nine public meetings will be held in April. Three of those will be in the UP (Houghton, Crystal Falls and Newberry). In addition, GUD Marketing was hired to develop a communication campaign. A survey is currently being sent out. He stated the DNR is being very strategic in how information is communicated.
  - **Chair Pershinske** asked the Council if it would be appropriate to rejuvenate the CWD subcommittee, which was developed 4 years ago in April 2014, with Mr. Buckingham as chair. **Mr. Buckingham** indicated he'd be more than willing to serve again; however, it should also continue to be a topic at each Council meeting for everyone to hear.
  - **Mr. Augustyn** asked what the goal would be of the subcommittee. He has been intensely keeping up with all of the information and other than a CWD response plan, he's not sure what the goal would be.
  - **Mr. Garavaglia** stated the message needs to get out there as people do not even know what CWD stands for. A better job of getting the message out needs to occur. He really liked the placemats that were distributed last year.
  - **Mr. Gorniak** stated the topic should be a part of the meeting every time the Council meets. One thing the DNR is addressing is that the UP will be a separate "region" in any response plan since the conditions are so much different than the lower peninsula, according to Mr. Mason, chief of the Wildlife Division.

- **Chair Pershinske** asked if the Michigan Wildlife Council, who has been very effective, is involved in this effort. **Mr. Minzey** and **Mr. Albright** indicated they did not know, although GUD Marketing was also utilized by them. **Mr. Spieles** added the Wildlife Council is fulfilling the goals and mission created for them through previous legislation, which is to *“educate the public about the importance of wildlife conservation and its role in preserving Michigan’s great outdoor heritage for future generations.”* **Chair Pershinske** stated he feels the impact of CWD ties into their mission somewhat.
- **Chair Pershinske** asked for further guidance from the Council; **Mr. Buckingham** added that everyone at the table provides value to the conversation.
- **Mr. Hass** indicated he feels the Council does not know what can be important at this point. Updates are provided at each meeting with new information each time. Public education needs to occur and the Council must not try to reinvent the wheel.
- **Mr. Moll** stated the topic needs to continue to be an agenda item at each meeting. **Chair Pershinske** asked if that is the only action the Council wishes at this time; **Mr. Moll** responded saying it would be best until the Council gets further information at the public meetings in April.
- **Mr. Garavaglia** asked Mr. Spieles if CWD is covered in the DNR’s youth education segment. **Mr. Spieles** stated how the agency reacts has to be deliberate and well thought out as the DNR has learned from how other states have handled the issue. He added everyone needs to take the time to really learn about all there is to know about CWD, listen to the presentations from the symposium, and educate their friends and groups.

5. Crossbows: **Chair Pershinske** indicated Mr. Hoy had some concerns about crossbows and opened the floor for him to explain. **Mr. Hoy** described his concerns with the accuracy and power of crossbows today and how similar they are to the power of a rifle. He stated he feels it is unfair for rifle hunters who have supported the system all these years with a 15-day season to allow crossbow hunters, who in his mind are basically using the same thing as a rifle, a 45-day head start. He also wonders how much pressure bucks can take, considering it is easily a 70-day “rifle” season that includes muzzleloaders. **Chair Pershinske** asked the Council for input; should it be considered as an agenda item for the Joint UPCAC meeting, discussed in a subcommittee, or addressed in another way.
- **Mr. Augustyn** stated this topic came up on his radio show recently. He indicated he doesn’t understand how it went from allowing crossbows for the disabled to allowing them for everyone. He doesn’t believe the NRC would rule against the use of crossbows due to license sales. He believes only the physically challenged should be allowed to hunt with a crossbow.
  - **Mr. DeWitt** stated his viewpoint indicating crossbows allow for a cleaner kill.
  - **Mr. Hoy** added that he might become a crossbow hunter now, and forego rifle hunting.
  - **Mr. Darling** stated he doesn’t favor the use as well and explained further.
  - **Ms. Haughey** indicated this issue arose at the WUPCAC meeting in January in Baraga and a gentleman compared crossbows to fishing with viewfinders.

**Chair Pershinske** asked for further direction from the Council. **Mr. Buckingham** added this is a very large topic with multiple views by multiple user groups statewide, and it would require a legislative movement for any change to be made. There was no further discussion.

6. Additional Agenda Items Added by Council: There were no added items of New Business.

### **Next Meeting**

1. **Joint UPCAC Meeting:** **Chair Pershinske** noted the next meeting will be the annual Joint UPCAC Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Marquette. The agenda will be finalized in the next few weeks.
2. **Next EUPCAC Meeting:** **Chair Pershinske** indicated the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the LMAS Health Department, lower level conference room, in Newberry beginning at 6:30pm.
3. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda:** **Chair Pershinske** indicated 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. Augustyn** asked if there was a fine to bring in a carcass from out of state. **Lt. Hagy** stated it depends on the specific case and what is actually brought in. **Ms. Haughey** indicated before he passed away, Rep. Kivela was instrumental in getting the fines increased through legislation. **Mr. Augustyn** also commented the trail coordinators and groups have done a great job in increasing the number of trails, especially with the Forest Service.
2. **Mr. Spencer** indicated a furbearer forum will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Little Bear Arena in St. Ignace. Changes to the regulations include a one bobcat limit in the UP and no change in fisher or martin.
3. **Mr. DeWitt** stated he was drafting a letter of support for the local ORV club that he will present at a later time. He also asked about the disability requirements for hunting licenses. **Ms. Haughey** indicated the requirements are legislatively set and would need to be addressed through a change in legislation.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, **Chair Pershinske** thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm EST.