

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2020

6:00-8:30pm Eastern

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Chair: Tom Buckingham Vice-Chair: Gary Gorniak Secretary: Allan Augustyn

Council Members Present

Allan Augustyn
Kristy Beyer
Tom Buckingham
Ken Collier
Jeff Cox

AJ Downey
Kevin Erickson
Al Garavaglia
Gary Gorniak
Tim Hass

Bernie Hubbard
Glenn Moll
Mark Spencer
Jack Thomas
Tony Wright

Council Members Excused/Absent

Grant Dewitt
Jim Duke

Travis Kangas
Tom Paquin

Angel Portice

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Liaisons

Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Assistant, Marquette
Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry
Paul Gaberdiel, Parks & Recreation Division-Trails, Newberry
Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator, Marquette
Dave Jentoft, Wildlife Division, Sault Ste. Marie
Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division, Marquette
Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division, Newberry
Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division, Newberry
Michelle Zellar, Facilities & Operation Division, Newberry

Call to Order

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (EUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm Eastern by **Chair Buckingham**, indicating this was the first virtual meeting via Zoom for the EUPCAC. He welcomed everyone in attendance (32 total) to the meeting.

Ms. Haughey explained the procedure by which the meeting will be conducted in this new format with the aid of a powerpoint presentation and reviewed a few housekeeping suggestions. She indicated Council members and registered members of the public were emailed copies of the agenda/presentation, division reports, and any other meeting handouts prior to the meeting. She also noted the Zoom meeting is being recorded for minute preparation.

Membership Update/Current Council Member Introductions

Ms. Haughey introduced three new Council members: Mr. AJ Downey, independent from Luce County; Mr. Kevin Erickson, independent from Luce County; and Mr. Jack Thomas, representing the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club of Luce County. **Chair Buckingham** welcomed the new members.

Ms. Haughey then provided an overview of the Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Councils (East and West). She displayed a listing of current East Council members, their affiliated group or interest and UP county they represent. She also displayed a few photos of Council members at work. She

also displayed a listing of public attendees on the screen who had pre-registered and welcomed them to the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Buckingham asked the Council if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda; none were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; Mr. Garavaglia supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Buckingham asked the Council if there were any corrections to the February 19, 2020 EUPCAC meeting minutes, which were emailed to the Council previously. **Mr. Cox motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Mr. Gorniak supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: See listing on page 1. Motion carried.**

Chair Comments

Chair Buckingham cited several recent occurrences including an illegal snaring case, pandemic concerns, and the canceling of the last EUPCAC meeting due to COVID-19. He stated despite those events, he's glad that everyone is safe and healthy. He noted he has enjoyed getting back to some normalcy with the reopening of his office and having his staff back at work.

Annual Election of Officers

Chair Buckingham noted the Bylaws require the Council to have an officer election each year, which traditionally occurs earlier in the year but was delayed with cancelled meetings due to COVID-19. He turned the floor over to Ms. Haughey to conduct the election; **Ms. Haughey** opened the floor for nominations for 2020:

- ***Chairman:*** **Mr. Garavaglia** nominated Mr. Buckingham; **Mr. Buckingham** accepted the nomination. After three more opportunities, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Hubbard motioned to close the nominations for Chairman; Mr. Hass supported the motion. A vote was conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Motion carried by majority vote.**
- ***Vice Chairman:*** **Mr. Buckingham** nominated Mr. Gorniak; **Mr. Gorniak** accepted the nomination. After three more opportunities, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to close the nominations for Vice Chairman; Mr. Garavaglia supported the motion. A vote was conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Motion carried by majority vote.**
- ***Secretary:*** **Mr. Buckingham** nominated Mr. Augustyn; **Mr. Augustyn** was not present to accept the nomination (arrived later in the meeting and accepted the nomination). After three more opportunities, no additional nominations were brought forth. **Mr. Hass motioned to close the nominations for Secretary; Mr. Cox supported the motion. A vote was conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Motion carried by majority vote.**
- ***Final Results:*** **Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Gorniak, and Mr. Augustyn remain as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary, respectively, for 2020.**

DNR Reports from Division Staff

Written staff reports were provided via email to Council members on June 11, 2020. The following were verbal additions to those reports:

1. Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator: **Ms. Haughey** thanked everyone for participating in the meeting virtually, stating it's an adjustment for everyone and she appreciates the Council's willingness to adapt to these interesting times. She noted the UP deer regulations in the division report and on this evening's agenda, and reminded the group the NRC tabled their decisions until the July NRC meeting. She noted that DNR staff are still working remotely and it may be some time before offices reopen, and when that happens, it may be a layered approach. As for now, all office functions are being covered by staff as usual, and offices have phone lines transferred directly to staff to answer any questions by the public. She also pointed out staff have rotating lay-off days as well, and typically have coverage when they are not available, which is usually indicated in an automatic response email or on voicemail. She mentioned that Mr. Eric Cowing from the Parks and Recreation Division was not able to attend this evening's meeting due to today being his lay-off day. State park staff are extremely busy making preparations for reopening this week.
2. Michelle Zellar, Facilities & Operations Division: **Ms. Zellar** welcomed the new Council members. She indicated a plan for reopening and operating facilities has been sent to the Office of State Employer and is being reviewed. However, teleworking is being advised for the near future. She indicated Ms. Sue Manshum, receptionist at the Newberry Customer Service Center, is doing an excellent job of coordinating customer service while working remotely and is making sure that return calls are being made and that customers are being taken care of. She noted the Becoming an Outdoorswoman (BOW) has been conducting several live educational events on social media for interested folks. She also has been working on department-wide efforts as part of the DNR's diversity, equity and inclusion team.
3. Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Division: **Mr. Kovacs** explained his coverage area as part of the DNR's Lake Superior Management Unit. He indicated staff are working remotely as well but are anxious to begin field surveys and outside work. He noted he will be covering a few regulations later on in the agenda.
4. Tom Seablom, Forest Resources Division: **Mr. Seablom** introduced himself and noted because of the state hiring freeze, Mr. Keith Magnusson, who attended the EUPCAC meetings in the recent past, was unable to continue his acting eastern UP supervisor role (it had expired just before the hiring freeze). As a result, Mr. Seablom is now overseeing the entire UP at this time. He indicated he did not have any additions to his report. **Mr. Thomas** asked if timber sales have been put on hold during the pandemic and how they have been impacted. **Mr. Seablom** replied there were two bid openings early on in March and then they were suspended until April when a new way to conduct them was implemented. He stated contractors were able to be out working on contract prep sales during this time and field staff were back in the field since May 28 wrapping up inventory and doing timber sale prep. He noted it's not quite known how much of an impact it will have on the yearly target.
5. Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, Law Enforcement Division: **Sgt. Fitzgibbon** stated he is filling in for Acting Lt. Mshar this evening. He stated officers are very busy, conducting a lot of marine patrols, and they are thankful for the federal monies coming in to allow the officers to be out working during the pandemic. He indicated fishing has been great; he's seen more people fishing than he's ever seen. The aisles at local stores reflect the mass run on fishing gear.

6. Jon Spieles, Marketing & Outreach Division: **Mr. Spieles** indicated things have changed since he submitted his report. Interpretive staff are now back at visitor centers preparing to open around the state at 10 sites on June 25. Staffing is light due to lay-offs and a hiring freeze, however, they will be ready to provide an enjoyable experience while keeping visitors safe.
7. David Jentoft, Wildlife Division: **Mr. Jentoft** stated wildlife staff have also been working remotely and have recently been able to get out in the field for a few light projects as well as responding to nuisance animal calls, particularly for bear and beaver.
8. Paul Gaberdiel, Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: **Ms. Haughey** indicated that Mr. Gaberdiel will be signing into the meeting later on in the agenda due to scheduling conflicts. **Mr. Hass** mentioned that the division has been notifying various volunteer groups giving them authorization to go back to working on all sorts of trails. Groups have to complete a form for their organization prior to work commencing. He indicated winter damage has been extreme on the trails and volunteers are ready to get out and clean them up. **Mr. Garavaglia** asked if there was some generic language in relation to COVID-19 that Ms. Haughey could share with him to utilize at his local park; **Ms. Haughey** indicated she will send him a template.

Old Business

1. Proposed Marquette County Shooting Range Update: **Ms. Haughey** updated the group on the status of the proposed shooting range in Marquette County, which would be the first state-run range in the U.P. She stated the lease agreement between Cliffs and the DNR continues to be vetted and is nearing the final stage. She explained the funding sources are secured and once the lease is signed, the project can move forward.
2. Chronic Wasting Disease Updates: **Ms. Haughey** stated there hasn't been much movement on this issue during the pandemic. However, she indicated a press release was sent out earlier this week regarding an elk sighting in Menominee County. It appears the animal was a free ranging animal from Wisconsin, and they are working very closely with Wisconsin officials. She stated there was some initial concerns about CWD and the elk; however, through discussions between vets, biologists and law enforcement from both states, the concern is deemed to be very low. 138 elk in Wisconsin have been tested for CWD and all have come back negative.
3. Wolf Management Plan: **Ms. Haughey** indicated this topic is in response to specific questions asked at the February meeting. She displayed on the screen three questions relating to funding, delisting, and the wolf management plan, and responses to those questions from Mr. Cody Norton, large carnivore specialist for the wolf program and Sarah Thompson from the Wildlife Division. Also displayed was information on authority and sections of the current plan relating to the questions asked. She stated the wolf management plan was last revised in 2015 and it recommends an update every five years, which would be this year. Staff are awaiting results of the 2020 wolf survey as well as an update on federal rulings. She noted an impromptu meeting held by a few residents in the Newberry area earlier this year, which resulted in 70 individuals attending and discussing wolf management. **Mr. Gorniak** asked if the public will be allowed to have input on the management plan. **Ms. Haughey** stated it is part of the conversations and Council members will be updated on when that process will start and how they can be involved. **Mr. Gorniak** asked when the plan will be updated this year. **Ms. Haughey** indicated she is not sure given the current circumstances, funding and communication

challenges. **Mr. Gorniak** also asked about an upcoming wolf meeting; **Ms. Haughey** stated she is aware it is currently being discussed but not yet finalized and she will update him when she learns more. She encouraged Mr. Gorniak to contact Mr. Norton or Ms. Thompson for any additional questions and provided their contact information. Discussion ensued.

New Business

1. **Proposed Fisheries Regulations:** **Mr. Kovacs** stated typically, regulation changes are brought to the public in the spring through the division's coffee and conversation meetings. However, this year with the pandemic, in-person meetings were not possible. Some of this information was presented at sea grant workshops so a few people may have seen it there. He presented the following slides:
 - **Presentation Overview:** Regulation proposals for the east UP as well as a statewide regulation proposal for 2022 will be presented.
 - **2021 Regulation Update:** Requests for Fisheries Order (FO) 200 and FO 206 for 2020 will be held for consideration by the NRC in 2021. The Director has requested the division reduce the number of changes to regulations going to the NRC for this year's effort due to the inability to meet with the public. FO 200 is undergoing structural changes and will not be ready until the spring of 2021. **Mr. Kovacs** stated the division is basically pushing proposals back a year.
 - **How Do Regulations Change?** Fisheries orders are issued by the DNR Director after the NRC decides on them. There are 30 orders governing recreational fisheries in Michigan. The process consists of a bottom up, top down method and includes constituent requests, input and outreach every step of the way. Public outreach is an important part of the entire process, which is why one of the orders will be discussed this evening. As a reminder, the NRC has the exclusive authority to regulate sport fishing. Any divisional proposed changes are decided upon by the commission.
 - **Preparing for Change (Bottom Up):** In consideration of any regulation change/proposal, population data is always considered, along with age and growth information, and harvest data. Creel surveys provide a lot of that data.
 - **Fisheries Order Process:** Proposal (field level), angler input (public meetings, committee meetings, etc.), drafted by management unit, basin team review, regulations review committee (research, field, ASRA staff, Law), fisheries order draft (ASRA staff), Law and Office of Legal Services review, resource division chief signatures, fisheries order submitted to NRC for information only (first formal review), fisheries order submitted to NRC for action, fisheries order is signed by the NRC, changes into fishing guide, new law takes effect April 1. **Mr. Kovacs** stated although it is a lengthy process, public participation is the most important step. Trained biologists should be empowered to make management decisions with a public process that is transparent, which is why they offer the coffee and conversation meetings, post items on the website, and develop white papers to gain public feedback. It is critical to ensure support for regulation proposals moving through the process.
 - **Party Fishing Proposal:** Background-current daily possession limit (DPL) is per angler, angling is often social activity and anglers frequently share coolers or live-wells when fishing. Proposal-allow combined daily possession limit of party members, party is defined as 2 or more people fishing together from a single watercraft or on shore while maintaining unaided visual and vocal contact, individual angler can only transport their individual DPL. Expected Outcomes-would maintain desired protection of the resource, likely increase

harvest-oriented angler satisfaction. **Mr. Kovacs** stated this item was suggested in the fall of 2019 by one of the lake councils, was discussed internally for some time, and is now drafted into a proposal for public consideration. He stated he would like to get feedback from Council members this evening. He provided additional background on the proposal.

- **Feedback and Voting:** **Mr. Kovacs** stated he is looking for discussion and feedback from the Council as well as the public who are attending regarding the party fishing proposal. If there are any comments that folks would rather email, he provided his email address. He stated the proposal is at the feedback stage; all comments will be gathered and reviewed as the proposal continues to be vetted through the process.
 - **Chair Buckingham** asked the Council if they have any comments. He stated he feels it's a great idea and it's something that is by and large done by most people.
 - **Mr. Hass** stated he agreed the proposal is a great idea.
 - **Chair Buckingham** asked Mr. Kovacs if he prefers a poll of Council members whether they support the proposal or if he prefers a resolution. **Mr. Kovacs** stated a poll of general support would be sufficient.
 - **Mr. Thomas** asked if law enforcement has ever ticketed people for how the current regulation reads. **Sgt. Fitzgibbon** indicated that most officers do not agree and are not in favor with the new proposal. He stated officers feel it will create more of an abuse problem and further explained. **Mr. Thomas** said he feels the regulation may not need to be fixed if it's not broken.
 - After hearing no further comments or discussion, **Chair Buckingham asked for a vote of support or no support conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Results of 10 votes indicated 5 in support and 5 do not support.**
 - **Mr. Kovacs** thanked the Council members for their input, stating he wanted to make sure the Council learned about the proposal and had a chance to discuss it early on in the process.
 - **Chair Buckingham** stated he'd like to have this proposal added to the agenda for the Council's next in-person meeting to allow for a good face-to-face discussion as he feels there are additional comments and input the Council would like to make that can't be justified in this type of meeting format. **Mr. Downey** and other Council members agreed. Discussion continued regarding the impact on charter boat fishing.
- **EUP-2022 Proposals:** **Mr. Kovacs** reviewed three eastern UP proposals that were initially to go to the NRC this year, but they are being delayed a year: Hurricane River-Alger County (change Type 4 to Type 3), Silver Lake-Marquette County (change Type A to Type D), and Castle Rock Ponds-Mackinac County (remove trout lake designation). Any comments on these can be sent to him via email.
- **2020 Michigan Fishing Guides:** The guides are available digitally online and can be downloaded to a cell phone if preferred. The number of guides printed has been reduced due to cost, and it is felt digital versions will be utilized more frequently.
- **Questions:**
 - **Mr. Augustyn** indicated he's hearing a lot of comments about the inability to stock fish this year because of COVID-19 as well as fish loss. **Mr. Kovacs** explained staff were required to take special precautions as fish stocking requires multiple staff in close proximity. He stated field staff worked with the hatchery staff for a plan to get the fish rolled out of the hatcheries as quickly as possible; 100% of what was in the hatchery raceways were stocked. Locations that would receive the largest quantity of fish in the fewest trips were targeted for staff safety purposes. As for loss of fish, **Mr. Kovacs**

stated he hasn't heard of any loss, however, there was a reduced number of stocking locations, although the same number of fish came out of the hatcheries this spring that are typically seen in any given year. This was a directive given based on staff safety. He also noted that egg takes (walleye, steelhead, etc.) did not occur this year as the activity would've occurred at the peak of the stay-at-home order. He stated the hatchery staff did a really good job of getting the fish spread out as best, quickly and as safe as they could given the circumstances.

- Any additional questions regarding the presentation this evening can be directed to Mr. Kovacs.

2. Proposed UP Deer Regulations: **Ms. Haughey** stated she included the proposed UP deer regulations in the written division report. She indicated she discussed the regulations at various meetings including the May WUPCAC meeting, sent emails to different user groups, etc. Normally, information would be distributed to various sportsmen's banquets but all were cancelled this spring. The NRC first reviewed the proposed regulations at their May meeting and were discussed again at the June meeting where a decision was tabled. They will likely have action at the July NRC meeting. The NRC meetings are being held virtually with an opportunity for the public to participate and make comment if they wish to do so. Although it will be a different platform, the option for public to comment is no different than in the past. She mentioned there were multiple suggested amendments made by the commissioners at the June meeting and reviewed them briefly. She indicated there was a lot of discussion at the last meeting and she wanted to make sure the Council had the information going forward. If anyone is interested in making comment or attending the July NRC meeting virtually, they can let her know and she will provide the contact information.
3. License Sales Trends: **Ms. Haughey** stated this information was provided at the May WUPCAC meeting at their request and she felt it was good information to pass along to the Council this evening as well. The information was prepared by the DNR's licensing team for the NRC meeting in June. She highlighted a few notables from the 25-slide license sales report:
 - *Fishing Customers*: Year-to-date increases are shown in general fishing customers, marked increases in younger age demographics that were showing previous declines and a small decline in the older generation, more females are fishing, new fishing customers have significantly risen, non-resident fishing and short-term license customers declined with the travel restrictions and repeat fishing customers about the same.
 - *Hunting Customers*: Year-to-date increases are shown in general hunting customers, marked increases in younger age demographics, new hunting customers rose exponentially which are those who haven't bought a license in the last five years, repeat hunting customers are higher, non-resident hunting customers slightly higher and deer license customers with a significant rise which could mean that spring turkey hunters are buying their deer licenses early.
 - *Waterfowl & Spring Turkey Customers*: Both had a significant increase in license sales.
 - *Recreation Passport Sales and Revenue*: During the coronavirus pandemic, the requirement for a recreation passport at parks were waived and with the delayed opening of parks, revenue was expected to fall significantly. **Ms. Haughey** pointed out the length of time it's taken to get the park facilities open during the middle of a hiring and spending freeze and without a full crew on board, it's been a monumental task.

- *ORV License Sales & Snowmobile Permits:* A definite increase was seen in ORV license and snowmobile permits so far this year. She thanked all the partners who have made this happen.
 - *Questions:*
 - **Mr. Augustyn** asked what dates were used to measure the totals. **Ms. Zellar** stated the new license year starts April 1 and purchases could begin March 1. The statistics are for the 2020 license year-to-date. It was noted that in order to purchase a spring turkey license, which showed a very large increase, a base license needs to be purchased as well. **Ms. Haughey** thanked Ms. Zellar for the clarification.
 - **Mr. Downey** asked if there will be a patch/update to the license system for retailers that allows login for longer than an hour, as having to log in occurs quite frequently, especially during purchases causing delays. **Ms. Zellar** stated she hasn't heard of an update coming but will pass this information on to the licensing team.
4. *Lead Ammunition Effects on Wildlife:* **Ms. Haughey** indicated Mr. Wright requested to speak about this topic. She provided some links on screen as well as a screenshot of a section regarding lead ammunition listed in the hunters' digest. **Mr. Wright** indicated he distributed some reading material to Council members as well and noted he is not concerned with the human health issue of this topic, but rather the danger to raptors in the area, especially bald eagles, who ingest lead from eating big game gut piles left by hunters who utilize lead ammunition. He went on to describe the increase in unnecessary mortality in bald eagles as well as the differences in using copper versus lead ammunition, stating copper is not toxic to raptors like lead is. He stated his goal is to encourage people to utilize copper ammunition instead and to include better education in hunter safety classes to let young hunters know about the advantages. He suggested Council members do some research on the topic and perhaps come up with a resolution at the next in-person Council meeting. He stated he did ask a DNR officer at one time whether the information was included in hunter education and they stated no.

Sgt. Fitzgibbon state he may have been the one Mr. Wright spoke to and he does think there is a possibility content could be added in the next printing of the books and in the meantime, copies of information could be handed out in classes. **Mr. Augustyn** noted the hunters' digest already includes a statement in the guide (Mr. Wright agreed) and he disagrees with the use of copper ammunition for big game hunting citing its killing power and accuracy as a definite advantage. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Wright** spoke about a voucher program in Utah allowing hunters to purchase copper bullets and most were happy with the results of using them. He suggested it may be interesting for the Council to hear from a raptor rehabilitator on the effects of lead in raptors in the Upper Peninsula. **Chair Buckingham** stated this is a good discussion and asked Mr. Erickson who has years of experience with copper and lead shot for his opinion. **Mr. Erickson** stated he has found copper to be better for indoor ranges. **Mr. Downey** described his experience with metallurgy and long-range shooting, stating there may be more of a chance of wounding an animal versus killing an animal with copper shot.

Chair Buckingham asked Mr. Wright what he would like to see from the Council. **Mr. Wright** indicated he would like to see if there is support from the Council to add information about copper ammunition in hunter safety education and if so, to include it in additional discussion at the next Council in-person meeting.

Mr. Lindquist from the public/MUCC/WUPCAC asked to speak; **Chair Buckingham** agreed. Mr. Lindquist spoke about lead poisoning in UP bald eagles and personally using copper bullets with good results. He encouraged sportsmen to voluntarily adopt the use of copper bullets. **Chair Buckingham** thanked him for his comments.

Chair Buckingham asked for a vote of support or no support conducted by an online Zoom poll visible to all in attendance. Results of 14 votes indicated 8 in support, 4 do not support and 2 neutral.

Mr. Hass stated he has a concern about supporting language for the hunter education booklets that hasn't been determined; he would like to make sure it's at least non-biased. **Chair Buckingham** agreed, stating the poll indicates there is Council support to add this issue to a future agenda where concerns and thoughts can be further discussed and vetted before anything is decided upon by the Council as a whole. The Council agreed. **Mr. Wright** thanked the Council for the discussion on the topic.

5. Additional Agenda Items Added by Council: There were no additional items brought forth.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Firewood Movement Subcommittee Report: Further reports continue to be on hold until the DNR's policy is put into effect and can be evaluated after a season of use.
2. Fisheries Subcommittee Report: **Mr. Gorniak** stated the US Fish & Wildlife Service is finalizing their environmental assessments of the cormorant. They are in the final phase—the 60-day public comment period which ends July 20th. He noted he has read their proposed plan and he feels it looks good. He stated he's very optimistic that it will be finally settled between this fall and next year.
3. Policy Impact Subcommittee Report: **Mr. Hass** reported there is no report as no items have been brought forth to review.

Next Meeting

1. Next EUPCAC Meeting: **Chair Buckingham** indicated the next regular meeting of the EUPCAC will be on Thursday, August 6th (NOTE: Later rescheduled to August 20th) at 6:00pm. A determination on whether the meeting can be held in person or virtually will be made at a later date.
2. Items for Next Meeting Agenda: **Chair Buckingham** indicated if there are any items of interest to place on the next agenda to please email them to him, Ms. Haughey or Ms. Dahlstrom.

Public Comments

Chair Buckingham opened the floor for additional public comments.

1. Matt Wing-Allowable Use and Enforcement of the Duel Lake & Simmons Woods Area: **Ms. Haughey** stated Mr. Wing called to register for public comment; however, his questions were able to be answered before the meeting started and he did not sign on to the meeting. She did show a slide with his question as well as staff's response indicating law enforcement frequently patrol this area and any unlawful activity can be called in to the RAP line (1-800-292-7800).

2. *George Lindquist-Proposed UP Deer Regulations/NRC*: Mr. Lindquist mentioned he has some issues with the NRC that he'd like the EUPCAC to be aware of, which currently, there are only four NRC commissioners due to recent resignations (three openings) and it takes four to have a quorum otherwise where wouldn't be a meeting. He also feels the group does not currently represent political/independent parties equally and he is concerned with their direction in certain decision-making and the perceived minimization of valuable workgroups like the CWD Task Force for example. He encouraged those interested to become involved and send in names for the open seats.

Closing Comments from the Council

Chair Buckingham opened the floor for closing comments from the Council.

1. **Mr. Gorniak** asked for a status on the hiring of a new Wildlife Division chief and a replacement for a Wildlife Division supervisor in the UP. **Ms. Haughey** indicated Mr. Dan Kennedy is the acting chief. With the hiring freeze in effect, it may have put a pause on the interview process as she hasn't heard any new updates. As for the UP supervisor, she stated she is not sure if that position will be filled in the same capacity or not at all. Currently, the two UP managers are Mr. Bill Scullon and Mr. Craig Albright. **Mr. Jentoft** concurred with Ms. Haughey on the current status. *(NOTE: Since the June Meeting, Mr. Albright has retired and Ms. Karen Sexton is acting in that role)*. Discussion ensued on the previous management structure in the UP.
2. **Mr. Augustyn** stated he agrees with Mr. Lindquist's comments about the NRC but added that there are numerous candidates being proposed that the Governor has not acted on due to what he feels are political reasons. He also stated he is concerned with the huge changes in deer regulations being proposed by the NRC and how he didn't hear about them until just before the May NRC meeting. He didn't feel the public comment time was sufficient enough. He stated he was thankful at least that Ms. Dahlstrom and Ms. Haughey sent the notice when they did and that perhaps he should follow the NRC communication more closely. **Ms. Haughey** clarified that the deer regulations are on a 3-year cycle, so they have been discussed previously. **Mr. Augustyn** stated he was referring to hearing about the proposed changes and he heard about them first when Ms. Haughey emailed them to the Council members in mid-May just before the NRC was going to be reviewing them.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **Chair Buckingham** thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm Eastern.