

**West Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council**

Country Kitchen  
850 U.S. Highway 41 West  
Ishpeming, Michigan  
Tuesday, August 12, 2008

**Minutes**

**WUP CAC Members Present:**

Donald Britton  
Marcy Cella  
Floyd Dropps  
Shawn Hagan  
Pete Jandro  
Fred Jarvi  
Lorana Jinkerson  
David Johnson  
Martin Johnson  
George Lindquist  
Rory Mattson  
G. Dale McNamee  
Chauncey Moran  
James Schmierer  
Robert "Skip" Schulz  
Dennis Stachewicz, Jr.  
Warren Suchovsky  
Philip Wirtanen

**WUP CAC Members Absent:**

Dean Hulce  
Marvin Roberson

**Department of Natural Resources Staff Present:**

Tom Courchaine, Acting Upper Peninsula (UP) Field Deputy, Marquette  
Craig Albright, Wildlife Division, Escanaba  
Debbie Begalle, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM), Marquette  
Rich Hill, Parks and Recreation, Marquette  
Darren Kramer, Fisheries, Escanaba  
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries, Marquette  
Sgt. Pete Wright, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette  
Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

The West Upper Peninsula (WUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by **Tom Courchaine**. Tom provided an overview of the meeting agenda and recapped the Charter for the UP Citizen Advisory Councils. He also reminded the council to keep the focus at a regional level within the eco-regions. Ecosystem

management integrates biological, social, and economic factors into a comprehensive approach for resource management. In the past, the DNR has utilized a biological approach but now we have more diverse interest groups (other than hunting and fishing) that never existed before. These diverse interest groups bring different issues to the Department. The CAC needs to be engaged to help establish the DNR work priorities.

**DNR staff introductions:**

**Pete Wright**, area law supervisor, Marquette County. He supervises conservation officers in Marquette and Menominee counties and at this time he also supervises conservation officers in Baraga and Ontonagon counties. Pete is attending tonight's meeting on behalf of Lieutenant Tim Robson.

**Debbie Begalle**, WUP district supervisor for FMFM, Marquette. FMFM covers diverse programs; fire, minerals, timber, forest recreation, and disperse camping. She supervises the Gwinn, Escanaba, Baraga, and Crystal Falls Management units.

**Rich Hill**, Parks and Recreation district supervisor, Marquette. He oversees all of the state parks, state harbors, and state boating access sites west of Newberry.

**Darren Kramer**, fish biologist for the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit. He works out of Escanaba office. The management unit manages inland lakes and streams by watersheds. Darren is attending tonight's meeting on behalf of Mike Herman.

**Craig Albright**, wildlife biologist, Escanaba. His work area covers Delta and Menominee counties. His supervisor is Bob Doepker, the WUP Wildlife Management Supervisor.

**Jessica Mistak**, fish biologist, Marquette. She covers the whole UP and works on hydro-dams, dam removals, and mining.

Tom added that Steve Scott is assigned to the WUP CAC as a DNR resource staff. Steve is the Lake Superior Basin Coordinator and works out of the Newberry office.

**Tom Courchaine** noted that DNR staff has been assigned to the WUP CAC as resources to the council. He stressed that the CAC is an independent group and the DNR doesn't serve on the council. The DNR staff assigned to the CAC makes decisions for their respective Divisions in their areas. If they are unable to answer questions, they will get the answers and bring the answers back to the council. If you have a specific agenda issue, we will get the correct DNR employee to attend the meeting.

The scheduled facilitator, Linda Rossberg was unable to attend tonight's meeting so Jessica Mistak will facilitate the meeting.

**Jessica Mistak** asked the members to introduce themselves, identify the group or organization they're representing, and what they will bring to the council:

**Council Members Introductions:**

**Dave Johnson** represents Wildlife Unlimited of Dickinson County. He is a CPA and a businessman. He has served as a facilitator for many groups.

**Chauncey Moran** has worked with everybody; Federal, State, and local agencies. Most recently he has worked on fishing, mining, and logging with corporate leaders in northern Marquette and Baraga Counties. Mr. Moran suggested that every one should take lots of photographs.

**Phil Wirtanen** represents the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association and he lives on the lake. The Association is looking to protect the long term viability of Lake Gogebic. He has teaching business experience in the corporate world. He believes you need to have a good product and believe in what you represent to be persuasive.

**Don Britton** lives in Chocolay Township and is also a township trustee. He is the President of the Michigan Upper Peninsula Snowmobile Association and the co-chair for the Iron Ore Heritage trail. This recreation trail will span 48 miles from Republic to Chocolay Township. The trail will be open all year for motorized and non-motorized use.

**Dennis Stachewicz** represents the Ruffed Grouse Society. He believes it's important to educate why decisions are made. Mr. Stachewicz is disappointed that we don't have any youth representation on the CAC. He supports getting youth involved in the outdoors and hopefully will be able to get youth involved in the CAC.

**Shawn Hagan** works for the Forestland Group. They manage approximately 440,000 acres in the UP and 100,000 acres in Wisconsin. He has degrees from MTU in land management and forestry. Mr. Hagan is representing Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). They conserve, protect and restore trout habitat. TU also has a strong influence in youth education. He just spent one week downstate at a youth camp sponsored by TU.

**Fred Jarvi** represents the Lake Linden Hubbell Sportsman's Club and he is also involved in lots of other groups. They have been involved in youth programs and boy scouts, and they have sponsored hunter safety programs.

**George Lindquist** represents UP Whitetails, Marquette County and Michigan United Conservation Clubs. He is also a member of Upper Peninsula Sportsman's Alliance (UPSA). Mr. Lindquist has attended many DNR meetings, hearings, and NRC meetings and has helped out with everybody.

**Floyd Dropps** represents Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County. Wildlife Unlimited has helped with trout habitat restoration, fed turkeys, and youth outdoor education. He is glad to be here and hopefully get some good things done.

**Dale McNamee** represents UPSA. He was a teacher and has been a liaison to two UP State Representatives as their natural resource advisor. He worked 11 summers as a fisheries technician for the US Forest Service. Mr. McNamee has served on numerous committees.

**Pete Jandro** represents UP Whitetails of Delta County. He has been the President for the UP Whitetails Association for 21 years. Mr. Jandro has worked with Wildlife and Law Divisions. He has worked at the paper mill for 32 years.

**Rory Mattson** represents the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, non-industrial private landowners. Mr. Mattson said he is a jack of all trades and master of none. He has experience in soil erosion, storm water, forestry and wildlife. His weakness would be fisheries. He has the pulse of the people in the central UP. He has contact with 8,000 to 10,000 people per year.

**Martin Johnson** represents the Great Lakes Bay de Noc Sportsfisherman's Club and the Great Lakes Sport & Recreation Club. He has taught hunter safety and basic survival techniques to youth. He has been active in youth education and with the junior conservationists program. Mr. Johnson has administratively worked with 37 different organizations. He worked in the corporate field as a facilitator/mediator. He also emphasizes the need for habitat improvement.

**Jim Schmierer** represents the Michigan Society of American Foresters. He is Michigan registered forester and a forester at Michigan Tech University teaching forest classes. He serves on the Nara Nature Park and Tech Trails committee. He has been involved with the development of recreation trails on campus. Also, Mr. Schmierer is a certified arborist.

**Robert "Skip" Schulz** represents and is the founder of **Michigan Trails & Recreation Alliance of Land & the Environment (Mi-Trale)**. He is involved in community education, search and rescue, and has a background in broadcasting. He is trying to bring non-motorized and motorized users to work together. Mr. Schulz operates snowmobiles year round on water, snow, and ice. Mr. Schulz said, "It's an honor to be here, I sincerely mean it."

**Warren Suchovksy** represents the Michigan Farm Bureau. He is a retired dairy farmer. He serves of the Board of Directors for the Menominee County Farm Bureau. He is also the chairman of the planning commission. He is a problem solver.

**Marcy Cella** represents the Lake Superior Huron River Restoration, Inc. They work with the DNR, the USGS, MI Corp, and the DEQ. Currently, they are doing a study on the Huron River. Their study will be a model for future river studies throughout the state. She has an "I can do attitude."

**Lorana Jinkerson** represents the North Country Trail Hikers and Friends of Blueberry Ridge. Their chapter maintains 120 miles of the North Country Trail. The Friends of

Blueberry Ridge is working to sustain the trail and keep it going. We are willing to pay our share and pay a trail fee for support. She is a retired professor of Education Technology from Northern Michigan. She uses a cooperative approach and is an active listener. She listens to others views comments and makes her own decision.

**Jessica Mistak** concluded the introductions by saying there is a lot of experience in this room. Everyone here is going to be valuable part of the committee and has something they can contribute to this group.

**Tom Courchaine** noted that two members are absent tonight, Marvin Roberson representing the Sierra Club and Dean Hulce representing the Safari Club International – Northwoods Chapter. It was a tough choice to make the selections for the council. This is a new process, you have questions - we have questions. On the DNR web site, under boards, committees, commissions, you will find the link to the Upper Peninsula Advisory Councils. These meetings are open to the public. This is your group, your meetings. We will provide a resource book with a legal section, the DNR organization, legal limitations, policies, such as volunteerism, mineral development, etc. Each division will have a section related to local projects, some recent completed projects and projects that need to be completed, such as prescribed burns, trails.

#### **Housekeeping items:**

- Do you want a chair, co-chair, secretary, subcommittees?
- Meetings, when, where, how often?
- Do you have a formal meeting agenda?
- Do you have rules, bylaws?
- How do you vote, consensus, majority?
- What process do you use for public input?
- What expectations do take back to your group?
- Group e-mail address?

Discussions continued regarding the CAC organizational structure, agendas, and bylaws/meeting rules. **Jessica Mistak** summed up the CAC discussion: the CAC wants some sort of structure; chair/co-chair but you don't feel comfortable appointing someone because you don't know each other well enough. The DNR should provide the secretary for the meetings. You want to have some kind of rules for the CAC. Warren Suchocky and Shawn Hagan volunteered to work on draft bylaws. The CAC agreed to the following items:

- The next meeting should be facilitated.
- Frequency of meetings: The council decided to meet once a month initially, September, October, November and then meet bi-monthly beginning with January 2009.
- Rotate meeting locations to better involve the public and to deal with specific issues
- The third Wednesday in the month is the best day to meet.
- It would be a good idea to set aside one meeting per year to meet with the EUP-CAC.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ford Center, Alberta.

**Tom Courchaine** said the DNR will facilitate the September meeting. Some of the agenda items for September meeting will include the following:

- Meeting forum/format
- By-laws drafted by Shawn Hagan and Warren Suchovsky
- Organization structure
- DNR resource book
- DNR division staff updates
- Priority issues/Sub-committees
- Public comment period
- Date and location for the October meeting

**Wrap-up:**

The CAC members will receive draft minutes from tonight's meeting and a meeting notice for the September's meeting. Shawn Hagan and Warren Suchovsky will draft bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.