

Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, 14252 US 41, Copper Harbor
6:30-8:30 p.m. EDT (5:30-7:30 CDT)

Council Members Present:

David Anderson
Marcy Cella
Floyd Dropps
Fred "Mick" Jarvi
Lorana Jinkerson
David Johnson
Martin Johnson
George Lindquist
Rory Mattson
G. Dale McNamee
Chauncey Moran
Robert "Skip" Schulz
Warren Suchovsky
Philip Wirtanen

Council Members Absent:

Robert Black
Donald Britton
Shawn Hagan
James Schmierer
Dennis Stachewicz, Jr

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Staff Liaisons:

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula (UP) Regional Director, Marquette
Craig Albright, Wildlife Division, Escanaba
Debbie Munson Badini, Communications Representative, Marquette
Debbie Begalle, Forest Management Division (FMD), Marquette
Brian Brady, Air Quality Division, Gwinn
Clif Clark, Remediation Division, Gwinn
Randy Conroy, Water Bureau, Gwinn
Joe Maki, Office of Geological Survey, Gwinn
Tim Melko, Administration, Marquette
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division, Marquette
Lt. Tim Robson, Law Enforcement Division (LED), Marquette
Rob Schmeling, Environmental Resources Management Division, Gwinn
Lee Verberkmoes, Recreation Division, Houghton County
Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

The Western Upper Peninsula (WUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. (EDT) by Facilitator **Warren Suchovsky**. Keweenaw County Commissioner **Don Keith** welcomed everyone to the northern most county in the State of Michigan. Mr. Keith said in his perception, the future economy of the Keweenaw will be tourism and renewable forest products. Over the past several years, Keweenaw County has received grants to purchase some pristine shoreline and footage on the Gratiot River in Allouez Township. Mr. Keith served on the Keweenaw Point Advisory Committee and he supports advisory councils.

He said townships, municipalities and counties need to partner and work very closely with the DNRE.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Marcy Cella made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was supported by several Council members. **Skip Schulz** said he has a report for the recreation opportunity panel discussion. **Floyd Dropps** said he is discouraged that the walleye subcommittee is not on the agenda as he requested. Floyd said they have a committee report and a motion that has been tabled. Floyd would like to make a motion to add this topic to the next meeting agenda, and to be allowed to provide the walleye subcommittee report and their motion be allowed off the table. After reading Kelley Smith's report and since there's a walleye subcommittee, and this topic has taken a lot of the Council's time, **Warren Suchovsky** said he decided not to add it to this agenda. Warren told Floyd he could ask for a motion to amend the agenda or give his report at closing member's comments. No motion was made. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Marcy Cella made a motion to approve the July 19, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. Motion was supported by several Council members. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Cheryl Pytlarz, Duck Lake Riparian Association, Watersmeet said their association was created from years of milfoil eradication in Duck Lake. They are very concerned about public boat ramps and run-offs. The Duck Lake boat ramp is scheduled to be improved which has a very steep grade. They hope the DNRE will consider a more controlled run-off with the scheduled boat ramp improvement. Discussion followed on blacktop versus graveled access sites.

Council members Rory Mattson and Dale McNamee arrived at 6:58 p.m.

Mark Klemp said his birthday is in October, he renews his vehicle registration through the mail but there was no option on the form to add the \$10 for the recreation passport. In the future, Mr. Klemp hopes the recreation passport will be mandatory. **Mr. Klemp** said baiting is drawing deer to areas they normally don't habituate. He said this is having a huge impact on vegetation in those areas and he would like the DNRE to take this into consideration when issuing those permits. He said it's been impossible to keep ATV's from crossing his property. He has posted his property but it doesn't stop the ATV's. He feels ATV's should only be allowed on designated trails and not allowed on beaches.

Stacy Welling said due to the legislation, the Department was not allowed to sell recreation passports prior to October 1.

Larry Evars, Lake Linden Hubbell Sportsmen's Club said they are looking for guidance from the DNRE on how to proceed to remove the weeds on Rice Lake by mechanical harvest. **Randy Conroy** said the Department has an Aquatic Nuisance division in Lansing that can provide information and issue those permits. Randy also noted the problem could stem from sanitary discharges into the lake. He said the Department has a baseline monitoring program, where a lake association can be trained to take samples and send the samples to the DNRE labs for testing.

Keith Machiela, Lake Linden Hubbell Sportsmen's Club said the Lake Linden Hubbell Sportsmen's Club and the UP Whitetails of Keweenaw County would prefer to reverse the antler point restrictions on the combination deer license back to the regular tag being unrestricted and the restricted tag for a deer with four or more points on one side. **Mr. Machiela** also supports keeping the late archery season. He added in Keweenaw County there is no antlerless area so no one is allowed to kill more than two deer.

Evan McDonald, Keweenaw Land Trust said the Houghton Planning Commission is developing a recreation trail partnership in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. They are forming a group of motorized and non-motorized users to talk about issues and discuss possibilities of developing a permanent multi-use trail. This would be similar to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail where it would be a recreation authority.

Reports:

Facilitator **Warren Suchovsky** asked the status of the reappointment of Natural Resources Commissioners J.R. Richardson and John Madigan. **Commissioner Richardson** said the Senate denied the reappointment again. Warren said Council members as individuals could contact their Senator and encourage the reappointment of the UP Commissioners.

Warren said some Council members have suggested invasive species as a future agenda topic.

Stacy Welling, UP Regional Director reminded the Council members of the e-mail she sent on August 27 regarding Council membership. As the second year of operation is concluding, half of the membership ends. In that e-mail Stacy stated she needed something in writing by October 1 if members are interested in reapplying for membership. Also new members can apply as well. The new Council members will start in January. **Warren Suchovsky** added that they try to have representation across the WUP counties and to have a balance between the various stakeholders.

Special Presentation: Natural Resources as Recreational Opportunities in Local

Communities: Community leaders and organization representatives Don Keith, Don Kauppi, Aaron Rogers and Sam Raymond joined Lee Verberkmoes, DNRE Recreation Division Unit Manager for McLain and Twin Lakes State Parks, and Debbie Begalle, DNRE Forest Management Division Western Upper Peninsula Supervisor, for this panel discussion.

Lee Verberkmoes provided an overview of the DNRE recreation division and funding sources, and a breakdown of the Baraga District facilities. Lee also provided the attendance, revenue and economic impact for McLain State Park, Houghton County and Fort Wilkins State Parks, Keweenaw County.

Debbie Begalle said in 2004 they formed a committee in the Keweenaw to consider activities, looking at minimum impact zones basically along the lakeshore where there might be threatened and endangered species, motorized and non motorized use, access sites, camping, timber management, and day use. The committee provided their recommendations and the Department has drafted an implementation plan looking at those recommendations.

Debbie recapped key interest areas, areas suggested for primitive camping, a trail system for motorized and non-motorized use, and an access plan with a parking lot away from the beach. She said location of this area is a challenge as the closest DNRE facility is the state park and the road to the area is not very good. The other challenges are access, easements, and funding. There are grants for development but no money for maintenance. Debbie added they

look forward to working as a partner with groups and as funding becomes available to work on developing the parking lot and trails.

Sam Raymond said in 2004 he served on the CAC for Keweenaw Point as a non-motorized representative. They put together a plan for hiking, mountain biking and water access for the Keweenaw Water Trail. The Keweenaw Water Trail Association is non-profit group that helped establish the water trail and developed a map to aid paddlers around the Keweenaw Peninsula. He said tourism is significant to the local economy and they are seeing a bigger presence in year-round non-motorized recreation. **Mr. Raymond** added the Keweenaw water trail goes hand and hand with the DNRE and things to be accomplished to keep moving forward to implement some of the recommendations made in 2004.

Don Kauppi is a trail consultant for the Keweenaw Tourism Convention Bureau, which includes, Houghton and Keweenaw counties. **Mr. Kauppi** said their trail system is the largest in the State with approximately 240 miles of trail with an average snowfall of 240 inches. The snowmobile trail is 35% on state land and 65% on private land. The ATV trail presented to the state is approximately 80% on the existing snowmobile trail system. The advisory committee recommended a 600' set back for motorized vehicles and campers from the shoreline so no one could capture the shoreline for their own use. **Mr. Kauppi** said both motorized and non-motorized need a permanent trail. Their hope is a permanent trail would allow their sheriff to qualify for funding to patrol the trails. This was a turning point for a lot of the private landowners to know there would be patrols. **Mr. Kauppi** added the trail is crucial for the local economy.

Aaron Rogers, President of the Copper Harbor Trails Club said they are in charge of the development and building of the non-motorized portion of the Keweenaw Point Trail. They are a non-profit group, conducted fund raising, and own an excavator and equipment. They've just received epic ride status, which is a designation by the International Mountain Bike Association, which ranks them as one of the top 48 riding designations in the world. They have about 25 miles of trail systems and work with five different land owners including the State of Michigan, Keweenaw County, Grant Township, Michigan Nature Association and one local private land owner. The addition of the Keweenaw Point trail on the tip of the peninsula will be a 40 mile primitive trail. This summer, they mapped a route that will be submitted to the DNRE for review along with cost estimates. They have started fund raising in hopes to match grants and get equipment ready. They feel the best way is to partner with the DNRE to make this a reality and their club can manage and maintain the trail. **Mr. Rogers** said it will open opportunities that don't exist in the Keweenaw and it will increase tourism potential.

Don Keith, Keweenaw County Commissioner said his concern is jobs and economic growth. Keweenaw County has the least amount of public land of the 25 UP counties. Keweenaw County has what the rest of the world south of us wants; we have the shoreline, topography and terrain. **Mr. Keith** also believes the DNRE needs to partner with government entities and other organizations to acquire legal access to trail systems.

Skip Schulz said Mi-Trale is not just an ORV group; they have horseback riders, bicyclists and snowmobiles. Skip provided a recap of the past year of Mi-Trale contributions to recreational opportunities and tourism.

- Provided a senior citizen ride.
- Working on implementing an ORV statewide signing program
- Working on a pilot program erecting trail crossing/ORV trail crossing warning signs at locations where ORV trails cross State and County roads.

- Aided in finding re-routes and erected signs when work is being done on closed bridges.
- For the past five years, worked with the Ottawa National Forests on developing connector trails.
- Worked on opening county roads as connectors.
- Worked with the Headwaters Bicycle Club on developing a bicycle trail on a motorized trail.
- Working on developing an equestrian trail and a dog sledding trail in the Ottawa National Forest.
- A sponsor of the Winter Nationals Snowmobile Hill Climb in South Range.
- Continue to bring motorized and non-motorized individuals together by hosting public meetings. The next meeting is Saturday, October 16, with Susan Spear, Ottawa National Forest and Rob Katona, DNRE as guest speakers.

New Business

Proposed Changes in the Meeting Format - Dale McNamee said this is a CAC and he personally represents 30,000 sportsmen. There are issues those sportsmen need this Council to support, for example the crossbow resolution. Dale said there's hardly any time for Council business.

Dale McNamee provided the following proposed changes in the meeting format:

- 1) Remove time allocation for the DNRE staff reports and utilize the 30 minute allotment for public comments at the conclusion of the WUP-CAC business. Rational: Staff reports are sent to all Council members by electronic mail prior to meetings. Copies of these reports can be made available for the public at meetings. The DNRE staff should be present for consultation purposes only.
- 2) WUP-CAC business should follow the approval of previous meeting minutes. Old business followed by new business. Rational: The purpose of the WUP-CAC is to act as a conduit to present pertinent information regarding resource use and management from a public perspective to the DNRE. At present time this has been given a very low priority. (Example 25 minutes out of a 2 ½ hour meeting allotted for the CAC business.)
- 3) Reports, special presentations, setting the next meeting, Council member closing comments and public comments to follow.

Discussion followed. With the following noted:

- The Council should have discussed the deer committees at this meeting to provide input to the DNRE.
- The Council needs to take care of business.
- Keep the DNRE staff reports.
- Keep the public comments.
- The Council is getting things done.
- The Council does need a certain amount of time spent on reports, educational things, and public comments. But how much time is needed and who are we educating.
- Establishing the next meeting agenda at the end of the meeting.
- Public comment on agenda items only and having public comment on other items at the end on the meeting.
- The Council needs to cognizant of time.

Dale said his proposal is not to discontinue the public comments or staff reports but to conduct Council business first.

Warren Suchovsky said as facilitator he puts the agenda together based on input from the Council members. He said it's extremely difficult if members don't specifically tell him their

agenda item. Warren said he will not tolerate members at the meeting with a last minute agenda item that the public is not aware of or the DNRE staff has hadn't time to prepare for.

Warren asked the Council if they wanted to make a decision tonight on the proposed meeting changes or take action at the next meeting. **Dale McNamee** said these changes could take effect next year with the new Council members. No action was taken.

Commissioner Richardson said think about where you were two years ago as a Council. This is a growing process and sometimes adjustments are needed.

By-law Amendment

Warren Suchovsky read the bylaw amendment to **Article V- Meetings - Section 5: Emergency Resolutions:** adding item B.

B. Late resolutions: non-emergency resolutions, those not sent out (or emailed) seven (7) days prior to the meeting shall require the approval of three-fourths (3/4) of those present at a meeting during which a quorum is in attendance to bring the late resolution to the floor. Late resolutions so ordered by the WUP-CAC shall require a simple majority vote of those present and voting for adoption.

Skip Schulz made a motion to adopt the amendment to the by-laws. **Marty Johnson** supported the motion. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

Dave Anderson – Aye; **Marcy Cella** - Aye; **Floyd Dropps** - Aye; **Mick Jarvi** - Aye; **Lorana Jinkerson** – Aye; **Dave Johnson** – Aye; **Marty Johnson** – Aye; **George Lindquist** – Aye; **Rory Mattson** – Aye; **Dale McNamee** – Aye; **Chauncey Moran** – Aye; **Skip Schulz** – Aye; **Warren Suchovsky**- Aye; **Phil Wirtanen** – Aye. Ayes: 14. Nays: None. Absent: **Bob Black, Don Britton, Shawn Hagan, Jim Schmierer** and **Dennis Stachewicz**. Motion carried

Next meeting: **Marcy Cella** made a motion to have the next meeting in Alberta on Monday, November 8. Motion was supported and carried.

Council Members Closing Comments:

Rory Mattson said Stacy and Craig provided a handout explaining the various deer management committees. Rory would like to have the regional deer advisory team as an agenda item in November. Rory requested clarification of a specific DNRE personnel issue.

Mindy Koch said the DNRE is not going to discuss with this Council or any council labor relations on a specific personnel issue. We can discuss policy and other broader issues.

Floyd Dropps said the walleye subcommittee is not in agreement with the proposal provided to the committee in July. He said the DNRE assumed they agreed to the proposal. **Jessica Mistak** said Kelley Smith, Chief of Fisheries Division spent a lot of time working with the walleye subcommittee to develop a plan that would become part of their walleye management plan. Jessica said it was their impression that the subcommittee agreed to the plan presented with a few changes which Kelley made. Floyd disagreed.

Rory Mattson announced UPSA is holding a UP candidate forum at Bay de Noc Community College on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. Rory said the UP representatives running for office will be there and will be asked questions on natural resources and environment.

Skip Schulz thanked Debbie Begalle, Rich Pirhonen, Rob Katona, Stacy Welling, and Steve DeBrabander for all of their help and support with Mi-Trale. He also thanked the non-motorized representatives for tonight's presentation.

Chauncey Moran said he appreciates the discussion on what people are doing as it gives inspiration. Chauncey would like the best management practices manual explained to the Council at a future meeting.

Floyd Dropps said he is very passionate about fishing and he thanked everyone for their patience and understanding.

Dave Johnson said regarding the deer management committees, in 1999, Wildlife Unlimited formed a workgroup that basically went over the head of a regional wildlife supervisor. That's how they got the quality deer management unit. Dave said it's possible as citizens to hopefully help change the process. He added the WUP should have an equal chance for wildlife and fish.

Dave Anderson said he and Phil Wirtanen, Lake Gogebic Improvement Association, and Walleyes for Tomorrow had positive meetings with George Madison, DNRE fisheries staff and Commissioner Richardson. That partnership came from this committee which provided them with the opportunity to meet to share ideas on how to improve the fisheries in Lake Gogebic. Dave said the WUP deer herd is in dire conditions. He hopes the RDAT recognizes we are losing the deer hunter in the WUP.

Mick Jarvi thinks they need to revisit the antler restrictions. He said most people don't shoot a second buck.

George Lindquist said UP Whitetails of Marquette County is answering the phones for Ask the DNRE on Thursday, September 30. George said on the MUCC web site it lists who to contact for the wolf de-listing. George said he is disappointed it's not on the DNRE website. **Debbie Munson Badini** said according to Brian Roell there is no public comment period right now. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is gathering scientific information. The earliest public comment period would be March 2011. George added a year ago the Council passed a resolution allowing hunters 50 years and older to use crossbows with a three year study period. George said what the Council supported is gone and he feels this will have a huge impact on deer.

Lorana Jinkerson said Skip is not the only one who doesn't get money. The North Country trail goes from North Dakota to New York and manages 4,600 miles of trail with little or no money.

Marty Johnson got his first bull elk in the Wolverine area. Marty congratulated the Keweenaw groups by partnering with the DNRE and promoting tourism.

Marcy Cella said she thinks the CAC has changed some people. Last year she bought her first hunting license and shot her first deer with a crossbow. This year she bought her first fishing license. She hasn't gone fishing but felt it was a good investment.

Warren Suchovsky said the best management practices manual was recently revised. He said auditing is extremely critical and the Department needs to get back to field audits. He appreciates the Council member's passion.

Marcy Cella made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Skip Schulz** supported the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:31

<p style="text-align:center">Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNRE Division Reports 6:00-6:30 p.m. (EDT) 5:00-5:30 p.m. (CDT)</p>
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DNRE written staff reports were provided to the Council members on September 20, 2010. The following staff reports are current updates since the written reports.

Stacy Welling, UP Regional Director, introduced Natural Resources Commissioner J.R. Richardson, Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch, Bob Wagner, Lake Huron Regional Director and Becky Patrick, Lake Michigan Regional Director. Bob and Becky will be creating CAC's in the Lower Peninsula. Stacy said Rich Hill could not attend the meeting tonight because he was at a funeral but Lee Verberkmoes is here on his behalf. Stacy noted two handouts, one on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the explanation of the various deer management committees.

Joe Maki, Office of Geological Survey (OGS) apologized for not having a written report. He said basically OGS manages the regulations for mining and exploration in the UP. **George Lindquist** said he has been following the Kennecott project and he is disappointed in the public hearing process for the power to the mine site. George said 13 miles of power was brought to a shed. **Joe Maki** explained the DNRE doesn't regulate power. But once the power leaves the road to the mine site, Kennecott will need to amend their permit. **Stacy Welling** suggested having mining on the next meeting agenda. Warren agreed.

Debbie Munson Badini, UP Communications Representative said the recreation passport launches on Friday, October 1. Please visit the DNRE web site for more information.

Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division said much of their time has been spent on fisheries survey and finishing field work while they have good weather. Jessica's written report includes updates from fisheries staff and research staff.

Craig Albright, Wildlife Division said hunting seasons are open. The youth firearm hunt and the youth waterfowl weekends provided opportunities for young hunters to get hunting experience with their mentors. Although, ruffed grouse numbers have dropped in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, numbers are still very near peak. Bear season is going very well. A 660 pound bear was hit by a corn harvester and killed in Menominee County on September 10. Archery season opens October 1 and duck season opens October 2.

Rob Schmeling, Environmental Resource Management Division, said the Department issued the construction permit for the Wood Island landfill. They hope to have the liner laid and completed by the end of October.

Debbie Begalle, Forest Management Division, said a lot of ORV trail work is being done. They had to close a couple of bridges but in cooperation with Mi-Trale they were able to get re-routes signed so the trails remained open. Debbie said for clarification, most of the ORV trail work is done through grants; either through the recreation improvement grant fund, or the natural resources trust fund grant, this is why they are able to do this type of work.

Lee Verberkmoes, Recreation Division, Unit Manager for McLain and Twin Lakes State Parks said the parks in the WUP had a good summer. It looks like the average use was up about five percent over last year and last year was up over the year before that - they hope the trend continues. **Mick Jarvi** asked the status of the work on LaLaBelle. Lee said the work hasn't started yet as the bids were substantially higher than the engineer estimates. They are in the process of trying to change this project to phase type work. They are hoping to have the money for the first phase on-line October 5 and hopefully the work will start this fall.

Randy Conroy, Wastewater Inspector, Water Bureau said the City of Ishpeming is routing storm water away from the Cliffs Mine shaft which had a mercury source. They are trying to alleviate that discharge that ultimately ends up in Deer Lake. The City of Wakefield sewer system allows storm water infiltration that costs a lot of money to remove. The storm water doesn't need to be treated and doesn't belong in the sanitary wastewater systems.

Randy said the Triple A road is a county road; the county will be issuing a special use permit to Kennecott. The Woodland Road permit has been withdrawn but may be resubmitted.

The following staff introduced themselves but didn't have updates to their written reports:

Lt. Tim Robson, Law Enforcement Division.

Tim Melko, Administration Division.

Brian Brady, Air Quality Division.

Clif Clark, Remediation Division.

Stacy Welling said the Keweenaw ATV Club submitted a very large proposal to the Department. Stacy said what the Club is doing has never been done in the State and they should be commended for their work. There has never been a proposal that included this much partnership and this many private land owners who have cooperated with this group. Stacy said because it is very unique some things are still being worked through.

Mindy Koch, DNRE Resource Management Deputy, said the Department has been going through a transition by merging the DNR, DEQ and parts of History, Arts and Libraries to make one department. As of October 3, the Department will have a complete organizational structure in place. Most of the organizational structure has been in place for a while, the last changes include Administration Division and a new division; Marketing, Education and Technology. Even though the organizational structure is in place the Department will continue to look at ways to improve and streamline business.

Commissioner J.R. Richardson said the Council is a model for the other CAC's being developed. He said the Council is being heard and he appreciates all of their hard work and volunteering their time to the Council.