

# Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2011

5:30-6:00pm EST DNR Division Reports \* 6:00-8:00pm EST Official Council Meeting  
Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, Michigan

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### Council Members Present

David Anderson	George Lindquist
David Anthony	Jim Lorensen
Don Britton	Rory Mattson
Jerry Divine	G. Dale McNamee
Floyd Dropps	Chauncy Moran
Larry Heathman	Jim Schmierer
Mick Jarvi	Robert "Skip" Schulz
Michelle Jarvie	Warren Suchovsky
Dave Johnson	Phil Wirtanen
Marty Johnson	

### Council Members Absent

Robert Black

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

Stacy Welling, Upper Peninsula Regional Director, Marquette  
Debbie Munson Badini, UP Communications Representative, Marquette  
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division, Escanaba  
George Madison, Fisheries Division, Baraga  
Don Mankee, Forest Management Division, Baraga  
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Marquette  
Tom Paquin, Recreation Division, Marquette  
Gary Willis, Forest Management Division, Baraga  
Sergeant Marc Pomroy, Law Enforcement Division, Crystal Falls  
Jason Wicklund, Conservation Officer, Iron County  
Grant Emery, Conservation Officer, Gogebic County  
Kristi Dahlstrom, Executive Division, Marquette

### Special Guests

Rodney Stokes, Department of Natural Resources Director, Lansing  
Mary Dettloff, Department of Natural Resources Public Information Officer, Lansing  
Natural Resources Commissioner J.R. Richardson, Ontonagon  
Natural Resources Commissioner John Matonich, Davison  
Pat Lederle, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Ann LeClaire-Mitchell, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Steve Chadwick, Wildlife Division, Lansing  
Greg Andrews, Governor Rick Snyder's Office, Lansing

### **DNR Division Reports**

**Stacy Welling** provided an introduction to those who haven't attended previously. Council is seated in the front and they provide information regarding emergent issues and trends to DNR staff. DNR Staff from different divisions are present to answer questions. Ms. Welling thanked Jim Lorensen, President of Gogebic Community College, for providing the meeting space and accommodations. She introduced DNR Director Rodney Stokes, DNR Public Information Officer Mary Dettloff, Natural Resource Commissioners J.R. Richardson and John Matonich. Greg Andrews from Governor Rick Snyder's Office is also present. **Mr. Andrews** introduced himself and stated that he enjoyed being in the field today. He stated that he enjoys fishing. He said that these groups are outstanding because they get a lot accomplished. **Ms. Welling** stated that there are several agenda topics with presenters, including three members of the Wildlife Division from Lansing. This is the first meeting in the new format. For members of the public, handouts are on the table in the back of the room near the entrance. If anyone would like to speak to the Council, sign a comment card and turn it in to the Facilitator. Staff will now provide any additional information since the written reports were submitted.

DNR written staff reports were provided to Council members on May 16, 2011. The following are current updates to those reports.

- **Stacy Welling, Executive:** Ms. Welling stated there were no new additions to report. For the three items under Follow-Up on the meeting agenda, handouts have been provided.
- **Sgt. Marc Pomroy, Law Enforcement:** Sgt. Pomroy is filling in for Lt. Tim Robson, nothing to add to the report presented.
- **Don Mankee, Forest Management Unit:** Mr. Mankee is filling in for Dennis Nezich and is available for questions after the meeting.
- **Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division:** Mr. Minzey stated that with the Wildlife Division's realignment, they are going back to the regional concept. He was appointed as regional wildlife supervisor. Craig Albright is out ill today. He added a private lands expenditures handout to the meeting handouts.
- **Gary Willis, Service Forestry:** No additions to report.
- **Debbie Munson Badini, Communications:** Ms. Munson Badini stated there are several open opportunities for public comments. The Wolf Delisting comment period is open until July 5 and a public informational meeting will be held on June 16; there is no official release yet, but it will be publicized. The DNR is still accepting public comments on the closure of state forest campgrounds at [dnr-fmd-rectrails@michigan.gov](mailto:dnr-fmd-rectrails@michigan.gov). The final decision will take place on June 9.
- **Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division:** Ms. Mistak stated they are busy with fish surveys and stocking. A few meetings will be held with public comment, and planning for the future of the Bays de Noc will be taking place. She will keep everyone informed.
- **Tom Paquin, Parks & Recreation:** Mr. Paquin stated there were no additions. Bill Doan is present today from Porcupine Mountain to answer any questions.

*Comments for DNR Staff:*

- **George Lindquist** stated that he couldn't make the Wolf Delisting meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Debbie Munson Badini stated that the meeting did occur in Ashland, WI on May 18. Several comments were given by the feds, state government and interested individuals. July 5<sup>th</sup> is the last day for comments at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
- **Mick Jarvi** stated that the deer advisory teams were established and planned to meet twice a year. Should there be more than two meetings to implement a plan? It seems like very little has been accomplished. **Terry Minzey** replied that at the first meeting very little action took place and subcommittees were established. The fact that we are having two RDAT meetings doesn't mean that the subcommittees can't meet more.
- **Skip Schulz** asked if there has been any progress on the sound law enforcement. **Sgt. Marc Pomroy** replied that there are no new developments, but when something occurs, they will get the information out. **Mr. Schulz** said to Stacy Welling and Director Stokes that he had a great day with Don Mankee and he wants the Director to know that the forestry people and Mr. Mankee are the greatest people in the world, as they took their time to show them the potential. Mr. Schulz was thanked.
- **Jim Lorensen** directed his comment to the Law Enforcement and Fisheries Division staff. Ohman's Creek has a boat landing that has not been maintained. Area fisherman had to go to Saxon Harbor to put their boats out. With the discrepancies between Michigan and Wisconsin law, are there any discussions on that? **Tom Paquin** replied that they are waiting for the Corp of Engineers to address the issue, and to see if we can do dredge according to the permit. They are not far behind last year with dredging but are having issues with the equipment. **Public comment:** Do we have any issues with getting a permit? It shouldn't stand in the way with what we want to do. **Grant Emery**, Conservation Officer, replied that when coming into Saxon Harbor, remember that where one possesses fish determines which state law must be followed as it pertains to size; laws are different between Wisconsin and Michigan. **Mr. Lorensen** stated that it's very important that something is done with the Ohman's Creek boat landing. It could be very critical depending on what happens in June. He thanked the staff for the updates.

**Call To Order**

The Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council (WUPCAC) meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm EST (4:55pm CST) by Facilitator **Warren Suchovsky**.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Warren Suchovsky** stated at the last meeting, the Council chose to reorganize the meeting agenda. There will be two sections in the meeting in which the Council will entertain public comment. The first opportunity will be to accept comments pertaining to agenda items only and the second opportunity will be for other topics at the end of the meeting. The council feels that this will allow adequate time to discuss agenda issues. **Mr. Suchovsky** said items that have come to his attention since the last meeting have been placed under New Business. **Mr. Rory Mattson** stated that he previously added the DNR Wildlife Division Accountability of Revenues and Expenditures to the agenda; however, guests he had invited could not be present so he would like to table his discussion to the July meeting. **Stacy Welling** indicated that she has information to present on that item and will do so this evening at the appropriate time on the

agenda. **Michelle Jarvi** questioned whether a vote was needed by the Council regarding support or non-support of the wolf delisting. **Ms. Welling** indicated that the WUPCAC is on record from a previous meeting in support of the delisting, and re-read the July 19, 2010 resolution to the Council: *The WUP-CAC recommends to the Director that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment continue in the effort to delist the wolf in Michigan from federal authority, based on the 1992 revision of the federal wolf recovery plan and the 1997 State wolf recovery and management plan, on behalf of the citizens of the UP and assume authority using sound scientific management as planned.*

**Mick Jarvi** motioned to adopt the agenda as submitted; **David Anderson** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Robert Black. Motion carried.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (January 24 & March 21)**

**Marty Johnson** motioned to approve the January 24, 2011 WUPCAC Meeting minutes and the March 21, 2011 Joint WUPCAC and EUPCAC Meeting minutes as submitted; **Skip Schulz** seconded the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Robert Black. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comments on Agenda Items Only**

**Bill Ziegler** stated that the Old Business item of *Brief Status Update on the Northern Lake Michigan Walleye Plan* should be tabled until it can be written adequately. He stated that he is the original co-author of the plan and doesn't recognize the current version of the plan. **Mr. Ziegler** feels that the plan is misleading, has incorrect information, is based on faulty premises, and doesn't follow standard walleye principles. The stocking rates utilized are much lower than Wisconsin and Minnesota stocking rates. **Stacy Welling** stated that the plan is currently out for public review.

#### **Old Business/Reports of Council Committees**

1. *Brief Status Update on the Northern Lake Michigan Walleye Plan*: **Jessica Mistak** stated that the Council received the newest draft copy of the plan last week. There was a version given to the Council in January and several comments were received. The revision distributed last week makes every attempt to address those concerns and comments. A few highlights of this revised plan include a 6-year life span and an initial increase for stocking frequency changed to 3 consecutive years. The plan was also sent to the Tribes for review as they have right to comment. On June 20, 2011, a public press release will be sent out indicating a public comment period and announcement of two public meetings, one held in Iron Mountain and one held in Escanaba. In the interim, a stocking document that we are going to use was sent out. **Floyd Dropps** stated that the Council received the first copy of the plan a week ago.

**Dale McNamee** questioned the new format for the agenda indicating he didn't think a time limit was established for agenda items. **Mr. Suchovsky** stated that the time limit gives people a rough idea of how much time to spend on the topic. **Stacy Welling** added that time limits were given as a guideline only, so that adequate time could be allotted for all agenda items to be discussed.

**Ms. Mistak** stated she didn't anticipate to fully address the plan this evening; rather, she wanted to provide the Council an update. **Mr. Dropps** displayed a powerpoint presentation titled Walleye Stocking Presentation. Slide titles included: WW3 erupts... ..Walleye Study Limits Inland Stocking, Walleye Fingerling Plants Dickinson County, Graph, Walleye Fingerling Plants Delta, Iron & Dickinson Counties, Steps to Restore Harmony, Walleye Abundance, Michigan Fish Stocking Guidelines, Walleye Angler Catch Rates, New Proposed Walleye Management Plan (Mr. Dropps stated this is from the January plan; the wording was now taken out of the plan), Use of Resources, Years of Walleye Harvested in Bays de Noc, Cedar River, Menominee River (Fisheries Division Chart), Walleye Stocking Big Bay de Noc, Rough \$ Approximation for Stocking. Mr. Dropps stated that his presentation indicates the following points: 1) that the walleye fingerlings being stocked in Big Bay deNoc are not cost-effective and are costing about \$50.00 for each fish harvested; 2) that stocking inland lakes with a proven history of providing a good fishery at a cost of less than 10% per fish comparatively would be a better use of resources; 3) that the DNR's goal of 1-2 walleyes per acre will not provide a decent fishery for the inland lakes; and 4) that stocking the fingerlings at a higher rate on most of these waters is required to provide adequate fishing. **Skip Schulz** stated that the cost that goes into the stocking, does that come from the licenses? **Stacy Welling** pointed out that there is a walleye subcommittee and offers have been made several times to meet. At some point, if there is a recommendation that the subcommittee wants to bring forward, that would be the process to follow. **Mr. Dropps** stated he would have liked more time to digest the information before it was put on the agenda. **Ms. Welling** stated that it was added to the agenda because we promised as soon as the plan was out that we'd bring it forward. We do have the subcommittees and they should meet to discuss the issue.

**Ms. Mistak** stated that she appreciates Mr. Dropps' comments and concerns and welcomes them. She has also offered to meet with the Subcommittee. A few quick points, management decisions made in the past 10 years resulted in limited stocking in Iron and Dickinson Counties. They are now trying to jumpstart the walleye populations by restocking many of these lakes and resurveying them to make better management decisions. The walleye per acres concept is a huge point of contention. Based on the recommendation of the Council, U.P. walleye density, chart 4 in plan, was developed. These are guidelines. **Michelle Jarvie** stated that a great job was done in developing the table incorporating everyone's response. She encourages the walleye subcommittee to accept the DNR's offer to meet to discuss it. **Rory Mattson** stated that over two years the Council has been playing with this issue. Stocking is the issue. He would like to make a motion for a 3-year consecutive stocking 50 to 100 per acre and see what happens after that. **Ms. Jarvie** asked if the walleye subcommittee reviewed the draft plan. No response. **Dale McNamee** seconded the motion. **Dave Anthony** stated the people in his community have the same concern.

**Ms. Mistak** stated that there is enough fish to stock both inland and the great lakes. This year, 700,000 fish at average production will be available. Regarding the motion, she stated that the Fisheries Division wouldn't consider it; they have to consider the

biology of the lakes, etc. **Phil Wirtanen** said that this is the first consideration we've looked at for two years. The science of what constitutes proper density per acre...he doesn't have any sense of what the proper science is. The Council doesn't have this information in order to tell the DNR how to do their jobs. Let the subcommittee discuss it, get them the details, and come back to the Council with their recommendation. **Dave Johnson** said he hasn't reviewed it because he was out of town. He needs time to look at it and look at the history. He said we have met, have talked in the past, and we are still at the same place we were two years ago and it's frustrating. **Chauncy Moran** stated that having been involved in stocking fish for over 20 years, he would like to give some background. He shared a stocking story for Iron River in Marquette County. He said he would not want to make any decision or motion based on many factors. **Mr. Dropps** stated that when the issue was brought it up in 2009, we just wanted to say plant some fish in our waters, but the walleye plan was rewritten.

**Ms. Mistak** stated she wanted to give everyone a heads up on the plan revision, apologized for it being on the agenda, and knows that more discussion is needed. However, it is really close. The plan is not to circumvent; it is designed to get more walleye out there. We are getting there, but she wants to leave the Council with knowing that we are working hard on it. **Stacy Welling** mentioned that the Council has spent almost an hour on this topic and recommended that another item be taken off the agenda to conserve time. **Marty Johnson** made a motion to table this item until further discussion by the walleye subcommittee; **Dave Johnson** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Robert Black. Motion carried. **Warren Suchovsky** stated that this was on the agenda as a "brief status". It is now tabled and will go back to the walleye subcommittee to discuss with the appropriate staff.

2. *Recognition of Former DNR Director Humphries:* **Chauncy Moran** stated that many of the people on the Council and in the public recognized that former Director Rebecca Humphries was very instrumental in developing focus groups and he wanted to draw up a resolution to thank the former Director for her foresight as she has had many accomplishments and she's brought forward thinking to this Council in collaborating with the DNR. **Mr. Moran** stated that Mr. Wirtanen has written a very eloquent resolution to enter in to the record. **Mr. Wirtanen** read the resolution to the Council (see attached). **Mr. Moran** said that although the resolution was developed through the WUPCAC, he asked if the EUPCAC should be approached for support as well. **Mick Jarvi** motioned to approve the resolution as read. **George Lindquist** seconded the motion. Ayes: 18. Nays: 1. Absent: Robert Black. Motion carried.

**Mr. Suchovsky** asked to meet with Terry Minzey & Jessica Mistak after the meeting to discuss a mention in the report on the chemistry of the waters that has a connection to him as a logger.

### **New Business**

1. *Strategic Focusing of CAC Discussion:* **Jim Lorenson** stated that as a relatively new member of the WUPCAC, he can see there are a lot of issues of interest to each Council

member. Some issues can be very frustrating and may take a long time to get to a resolution. He would like the Council to consider identifying the issues that need discussion and then picking 3-4 to address in the upcoming year. If the root cause can be identified for each issue, the Council may find that several issues can be addressed at one time due to their commonality. Issues could be prioritized and one can be discussed at each CAC meeting. Pre-work can be done by short-lived subcommittees ahead of time which might help focus these meetings. **Dave Johnson** stated that the Council has done that in the past, and we should continue to do that. **Michelle Jarvie** agreed. She stated the Council needs to make better use of the subcommittees as a general rule. Apologies for mistakes have been made and offers are made to meet to make things better. **Marty Johnson** concurred with Mr. Lorensen, however, he feels it's hard to carry through. **Mr. Lorensen** stated the Council could be more effective if goals are set at the beginning of the year on certain issues. He hasn't been through a whole year, but there are lots of issues to address and he is concerned with not spending enough time on one issue, so none are getting accomplished. He understands that other issues will come about, but goals can be set and the Council can decide which ones to complete and work towards that. **Skip Schulz** said he has no problem with that concept. He commended Floyd Dropps on the walleye work. He said he hates to be biased, but two years ago the Council talked about RV issues and the issue still isn't resolved. He said he compliments Stacy when she does good. He agrees that the Council should cover more issues other than walleye.

**Stacy Welling** stated that she has had the pleasure of working with the Council for two years now. She receives the phone calls after the meetings and many of those conversations don't come out at the Council meetings. We are committed, we are here, and we want to work with the Council. She agrees that priorities need to be determined. She stated the DNR is not perfect, and if members want to come and do a gotcha, they'll get one every time. There has been a lot of a good that has come from this group. Do we still have work to do? Yes, we do. It can be frustrating; however, we appreciate everything the Council does. If there is a recommendation that is thoughtful and has come through a subcommittee, then it should be brought forward. She stated that Bob Black, Council member, resigned tonight. **Skip Schulz** said he has complimented the DNR and if the compliments are accepted, then criticism should be accepted as well. **Rory Mattson** stated that priorities do need to be determined. This group, which is why he has been critical, is supposed to be a two-way street. Recommendations should be coming from the people and the Council then brings them back to the meeting. The Council should be strategic planning. **Warren Suchovsky** stated that what he thought he heard Mr. Lorensen say is that there could be several issues as everyone has issues, but the Council needs to identify what is the root cause is of each of those issues. In most cases, it's how members communicate about the issue. **Mr. Lorensen** stated that no matter what topic it is, it probably boils down to one main issue. It's helpful for him to solicit input from the community on agenda items when there is a focus. Setting the agenda for the year would help to facilitate better communication and work towards goals. **Dale McNamee** said he doesn't think that anyone comes to the meetings to be critical of the DNR, but there are certain things that

can be resolved if we listen to each other. He also said he supports Mr. Schulz's comments. No motions were made.

2. Election of Facilitator & Co-Facilitator: **Warren Suchovsky** said that the Council needs to decide whether to vote by secret ballot or another procedure. There are no terms to address. Secret ballot was agreed upon. **Mr. Suchovsky** opened the floor for facilitator nominations: **Dave Anderson** nominated Phil Wirtanen for his excellent communication skills; Mr. Wirtanen accepted the nomination. **Skip Schulz** nominated Dale McNamee; Mr. McNamee declined. **Dave Anderson** nominated Dave Anthony; Mr. Anthony declined stating he may not be good because he has a very fast gavel and can be blunt. **Skip Schulz** nominated George Lindquist; Mr. Lindquist declined. **Mr. Lindquist** nominated Warren Suchovsky; Mr. Suchovsky accepted. **Mick Jarvi** nominated Phil Wirtanen; Mr. Wirtanen was previously nominated. A motion was made by **Jerry Divine** to close the floor for nominations; **Jim Schmierer** supported the motion. Ayes: All. Neys: None. Absent: Robert Black. Motion carried.

**Stacy Welling** passed out ballots and instructed the Council to choose one of the nominated individuals (Phil Wirtanen and Warren Suchovsky); the one with the most votes will become Facilitator of the Council, and the second highest will be Co-Facilitator. The tally was performed by Director Stokes. **Ms. Welling** stated that the results were 14 to 5 for Phil Wirtanen as Facilitator; Mr. Wirtanen is the new Facilitator of the WUPCAC. **Ms. Welling** said on behalf of the DNR, she really appreciates all the work that Warren Suchovsky has done for the WUPCAC. A round of applause was given for Mr. Suchovsky. **Mr. Wirtanen** stated that he will spend some time with Mr. Suchovsky to get a feel of what has been done in the past. He said that everyone has his email to contact him. He will also work with Ms. Welling to fashion an agenda as a meaningful exercise.

3. Lake Gogebic:
  - a. GO-YEP (Lake Gogebic Yellow Perch Partnership): **Phil Wirtanen** stated that GO-YEP is reviewing the strange regulation regarding yellow perch which includes a daily bag limit of 50. George Madison has developed finite numbers regarding the average take, but the possibility of having this amount of fish legally taken was a sore point. The science and the fish biological position was one position, but the social position was another. There are several tournaments on Lake Gogebic. GO-YEP was developed by and has strong local support from interested parties and stakeholders. A meeting was held in April and there are a wide range of interests. In order to protect spawners, GO-YEP determined that a total limit of 25 is acceptable, with the consideration that the State of Michigan is the same. The group would like to recommend a daily bag limit of 25 and a slot limit of 5 in excess of 12 inches. Mr. Madison said that the proposal will be presented to appropriate parties in Lansing and it could be implemented soon. This was a very collaborative effort.
  - b. Walleyes for Tomorrow Chapter for Lake Gogebic: **Dave Anderson** stated that he is presenting as a representative from the Walleyes for Tomorrow Chapter. Mr.

- Anderson provided a powerpoint presentation; slide titles included: Project History, 2007 MDNR Report Lake Gogebic-Walleye, Walleye Length-Frequency Graph, Walleye Growth Chart, What Do These Fancy Graphs Mean?, Perch Habitat Project (with various photo slides), Summary. **Mr. Anderson** stated that the goal is to enhance the food supply for walleye, thereby increasing the walleye population. He opened the floor for questions. A member of the public commented that he has had the pleasure of working with group, and they made a lot of effort in making sure stakeholders were included and that is what a partnership is all about. **Dave Anthony** asked what the group's next focus or priority item would be. **Mr. Anderson** replied walleye regulations in Lake Gogebic (slot or limit on adult females). Phil Wirtanen said these are just two things going on with Lake Gogebic right now. Also working on spiny waterflea invasive species. He stated that he would like discussion on the lake planting process with the Michigan DNR. A member of the Law Enforcement Division said that there is so much pressure put on the perch in the spring. Has the group talked about closing the perch season to protect those? **Mr. Wirtanen** replied yes. He stated the Chamber of Commerce was not supportive of the regulatory changes the group was looking at. This is a very good example of a collaborative project. **Rory Mattson** stated there have been a lot of issues that we haven't seen eye to eye on. However, after spending time together and leaving conflicts out of the room, we can see what can we do together and find some wins. **Warren Suchovsky** stated that Mr. Wirtanen took him on a tour of Lake Gogebic recently and the emergent vegetation was limiting.
4. *DNR Wildlife Division Accountability of Revenues & Expenditures*: **Rory Mattson** stated that he is tabling his discussion until the next meeting (as was mentioned at the beginning of the meeting). **Stacy Welling** stated at the last meeting it was said that \$3 million was expended on the Citizen's Advisory Council. She said an itemized list is included in the meeting packets. At the last NRC Commission Meeting, an annual report was given that included all expenditures; Ms. Welling distributed copies for the Council. The report is also available online. She stated that she would be happy to answer any questions after reviewing it. Mr. Mattson was asked if there was an outstanding budget issue he wished to discuss, which he had brought up at the March joint CAC meeting; **Mr. Mattson** replied no, he will save the discussion for the next meeting. Ms. Welling said the annual report gives a nice overview of information and reminded the group that the Division is audited annually.
5. *Additional Items Added to the Agenda by the Council*: There were no additional items added to the agenda for discussion.

#### **Follow-Up Items Since Last Meeting**

1. *Chocolate Bear Baits*: **Skip Schulz** stated that a citizen from his area asked him to bring up this topic. He doesn't hunt, so he's not sure about the issue. **Terry Minzey** said there is no further action being taken regarding chocolate bear baits as there is not enough of an issue present. The issue derived from one incident of a bear dying because of an ingredient in chocolate bear bait.

2. *Horses in the State Forest*: **Skip Schulz** stated that this also was a topic that a citizen from his area wanted discussed. **Don Mankee** indicated there is a handout in the meeting packet, dated April 2011, that was provided to the EUPCAC in regards to this topic. He noted a correction on page 2, second bold heading, listing any restrictions on access by pack and saddle animals, the third bullet item stating, "Not later than January 1, 2010, the Lost Nation State Game Area and the Blueberry Ridge Pathway". The date should read January 1, 2012.
  
3. *Michigan Non Industrial Private Lands Program*: **Rory Mattson** said that Dave Anderson brought this up and he was happy to comment on it. **Mr. Anderson** said he feels they are losing ground. The Eastern CAC turned it town. There are 19 million acres in the state and non industrial landowners own 70%. This is a huge issue to address. **Terry Minzey** stated that a presentation on the Wildlife Division realignment project will be provided later in the meeting which will help explain the changes being made. He said they recently hired 8 non-industrial biologists as well as other staff.

**Rory Mattson** stated that what was said was that the statewide budget was \$3,656,800, not the U.P. CAC's.

#### **DNR Reports on Requested Information**

1. *Progress Report Regarding Change in Number of Participants Needed to Trigger an Event Permit*: **Don Mankee** reported that there is the availability for staff to waive the amount if the criteria is met. This process is in the Administrative Rules Process which is included in the meeting handouts. The Council's comments will be included in the process. **Mr. Mankee** stated that currently the Department is at Step 5. It was noted that it's a very long, cumbersome process.
  
2. *Current Status Report Regarding the Number of FTE Field Positions in UP*: **Stacy Welling** stated that she has a packet with 20 pages and has boiled it down to a one page handout that is included in the meeting handouts. **Ms. Welling** noted that not all positions in the different divisions are funded at this time.

#### **Special Presentations**

*Update on the Wildlife Division's Guiding Principles and Strategies*: Pat Lederle stated he has been traveling around the state to present the Wildlife Division's strategic plan, titled Guiding Principles and Strategies (GPS), and discuss how they are implementing the plan. He introduced research supervisor Steve Chadwick and also Ann LeClaire-Mitchell, both from Lansing. The strategic plan is long in the making. An annual report is called for in the strategic plan, which is what Ms. Welling handed out earlier in the meeting. The Division wanted to develop a plan to increase accountability to stakeholders, amongst other things. Mr. Lederle provided a powerpoint presentation; slide titles included: Why a Strategic Plan? (Changes Occurring Everywhere and Direct Change), Implementation, Desired Outcomes, Implementation Progress, Alignment Plan, Desired Outcomes of Structure Changes, Aligning Resources-Operations, Aligning Resources-Budget (2012) & Aligning Resources-Infrastructure, Measuring Our Success, How Can You Help? Copies of the GPS were distributed to the Council.

**Dave Johnson** asked to see the map on the Alignment Plan slide which showed four regions (UP, Northern Lower, Southwest, Southeast). **Mr. Johnson** also asked how many administrative positions are being added. **Mr. Lederle** stated they will be adding four administrative technicians, one for each region, and explained why (to remove the administrative burden for staff to do more work on the ground). **Mr. Johnson** asked how many more FTE's will be working in the field. **Mr. Lederle** replied that they will have the same number, but will be effectively increasing the capacity of those on the ground. **Mr. Johnson** stated that he will give the Wildlife Division a year to see the results. **Dale McNamee** said he agreed with Mr. Johnson; a lot of time is spent communicating, administrating, and facilitating. Will the resources be better off or not will determine success. **Mr. Lederle** stated he appreciated the comments. Focusing on outcomes is what we need to do.

**Mr. Skip Schulz** referenced Page 19 of the GPS and asked if this will turn into another BSA on the state level to control public access. He said it is very difficult time to get five miles of trail due to a turtle right now. **Ms. LeClaire-Mitchell** stated that it is not the intent of the strategy at all. A lot of land management needs to happen, however, we just don't have the capacity. **Ms. LeClaire-Mitchell** clarified a response to Mr. Johnson's inquiry regarding additional positions: in the U.P. they've added four biologists positions (13's), two of them are supervisors. This concept of biologists having supervisory authority is different; they need to have authority to give direction to the employees. **Mr. Rory Mattson** said that when he hears 13, he thinks "boots off the ground". He said there has to be a lot more work on the ground. He will be watching; he'll give one year and will work with the Division. **Mr. Lederle** stated he appreciated the comments tonight. **Mr. Warren Suchovsky** commented that the entire ecosystem needs to be looked at to come up with some balances, look at the larger picture. **Mr. Floyd Dropps** said he has seen lots of plans where he works and plans are good, but they are only as good as the people working those plans. Take this into consideration. **Mr. Jerry Divine** stated he has seen many structures come and go. Having the authority to make decisions at the lower level is very important. Give those employees an opportunity to provide input and listen to them. Keep administrative red tape to a minimum in order to help make the employees' jobs easier and remove barriers. Make any goals and objectives with deadlines go both ways (up & down).

### **Next Meeting**

**Mr. Suchovsky** stated the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2011, 6:00pm EST in Ontonagon County with a special presentation on the Copperwood Project by Dave Anderson. He asked if there are any other agenda items to be added to the agenda. **Skip Schulz** said he would like to hear an update on the event permit. **Jim Lorensen** said he would like to know what process is used for setting special regulations and how they are determined (example: the change of perch regulations on Lake Gogebic, how is it solicited so that change is appropriate, how is it found that it's the right thing to do, what is the process, who's involved). **Dave Johnson** said he would like to see the total costs of the WUPCAC that includes the post-meeting, time spent here, staff travel, etc. **Floyd Dropps** said he would like to set priorities as Mr. Lorensen talked about previously. **Mr. Lorensen** stated that it may be beneficial for Mr. Suchovsky to provide the list of priorities that was developed previously before the next meeting.

## **Public Comment**

1. **Mr. Jeff Pytlarz - Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW):** **Jeff Pytlarz** introduced Barb Pachewski, a contracted biologist for ISCCW. **Ms. Pachewski** stated that their group is commonly referred to as “Lakeguards”. ISCCW is a non-profit with funding received from membership dues, Tribal contributions, various grants that they’ve pursued, federal funding, and a Wisconsin DNR AIS grant. The three main focuses of the group include education, monitoring, and treatment. They staff boat landings for boat inspections, provide portable boat washing stations, and provide stickers for invasive species. Currently, 15 to 18 bodies of water are being monitored. They’ve found 17 new infestations since monitoring these bodies of water. Treatment costs fall upon lake associations and lake owners and include biological & chemical treatment. 80-90% of the township is federally owned. Several partnerships have been established. The cost of a portable washer station is about \$5,000-\$6,000. The difference between this type of washer and a power washer was explained.

**Phil Wirtanen** stated the group is well established and they’ve put a nice program in place. **Dave Anderson** stated that this program is “boots on the ground” and should be rewarded for what they are doing; citizens doing what needs to be done. Not enough attention is given to the infestation, rates of infestation, and it needs to be taken care of. More “boots on the ground” like this is needed, otherwise we’re going to lose and we won’t be able to increase the number of licenses. **Mr. Anderson** asked Ms. Pachewski if there was any funding effort through boating licenses or fishing licenses to help the cause. **Ms. Pachewski** replied that it is not in her realm. **Floyd Dropps** said that Iron County is attempting treatment at public boat landings for this same reason. At least one has been closed temporarily. Closures will become more common and we will lose public access to these lakes. **Warren Suchovsky** asked why the divisions and agencies of state government charge each other for certain services. He doesn’t need an answer; it’s something he wonders about. **Ms. Pachewski** stated ISCCW will be offering monitoring training and will get that information out. Ms. Pachewski was thanked for all her and her group’s work. **Mr. Pytlarz** stated that he spoke two meetings ago and had suggested a sticker that could pay for something like this; however, it needs to be a state-wide effort.

2. **Additional Sign-Ups at the Meeting**
  - a. Jim Vigness with an Asian Carp question. Mr. Vigness left the meeting; however, **Ms. Welling** indicated that his question was answered by Fisheries staff before the meeting began.
  - b. **Pat Kitzman** regarding CFA Land. Mr. Kitzman stated that he sensed a little frustration from members. He understands as he feels the same type of frustration when he makes his point. The DNR wants more farmland open for hunting. Farmers pay \$5-7 per acre for their property and are frustrated by violations. He’s provided maps, letters, and documentation that they are denying public access for hunting. He mentioned he received a ticket for not wearing a helmet on his 4-wheeler that he rides to his chicken coop and feels it was in retaliation since there were only 2 ever recorded; he got the ticket

dismissed. He said here isn't enough manpower for enforcement of the CFA land. **Gary Willis**, CF Forester for the Western UP, stated that he takes his job very seriously. He informed Mr. Kitzman that many violations have been processed. He stated he now has an opinion from the Attorney General's Office that deer blinds are illegal structures and obstructions to public hunting, and he has enough direction and precedent to begin requiring removal of deer blinds and requiring withdrawal from the program if no public access. He stated he also addresses no trespassing signs in Houghton County and is very serious about it. Something is being done. Mr. Kitzman began to respond; however, **Mr. Suchovsky** asked him to continue the discussion with Mr. Willis after the meeting in an effort to continue with the agenda.

### **Council Member Closing Comments**

**Marty Johnson** stated he would like to develop a Wildlife Subcommittee to hold wildlife discussions and has developed an agenda with 6 items. If anyone would be interested in attending, he'd like to meet one hour before the next CAC meeting. **Dave Johnson** stated he, and maybe others, would like to attend, but it would be another hour earlier to take off from work. **Ms. Welling** stated that a conference call can be set up if it's more convenient. **Mr. M. Johnson** asked Mr. D. Johnson to email him agenda items for future meetings.

**Mr. Dropps** would like to thank everyone for coming tonight, to thank Mr. Suchovsky for chairing for last two years, and to thank Phil Wirtanen for accepting the new facilitator role.

**Rory Mattson** asked what the Field Operations and Facilities Management Division was on the DNR U.P. employee numbers report. Ms. Welling stated that front line staff selling licenses and assisting in multiple areas is what it means. He addressed Mr. Pat Kitzman from the audience and stated he knows his discussion was cut short, however, on those subjects he came to talk to the Council about, the Council cannot do anything; talk to the DNR Director, the NRC commissioners, etc.

**Mick Jarvi** stated that with regards to the exception to the youth hunt, it is a very bad idea to let youth under 12 hunt without taking hunters safety. The safety program has cut down the injuries. There has got to be other ways to involve youth.

**Jerry Divine** stated that although he is new to the group, there are plenty of opportunities to efficienize the priorities.

**Dave Anderson** gave thanks to Director Stokes for coming up to the U.P. and for and being at the Council meeting. It shows that his "boots are on the ground".

**Dave Anthony** stated good job.

**Warren Suchovsky** said thank you to Director Stokes, he is always welcome. He stated he put together a workforce to look at changes for a qualified forest program. This may be a way to solve some of the administrative issues that the department is having. Regarding the change in order of business, did this conform to what everyone wanted? If not, provide feedback to Phil

Wirtanen. He stated it's been a real pleasure and a lot of fun to be involved; he looks forward to the future.

**George Lindquist** thanked to Mr. Suchovsky. There is lots of interest in this group and he is looking forward to Mr. Wirtanen's lead. He appreciates all the staff here tonight and the annual report looks great.

**Phil Wirtanen** thanked those in attendance and said he generally endorses Jim Lorensen's approach to have a more specific line of attack in the agenda. Bigger, longer term issues that the Council can aggressively pursue answers to. The Council is an advisory group, identifying the citizen's issues and helping the DNR's responsiveness to public need.

**Chauncy Moran** concurred with Mr. Wirtanen's comments.

**Jim Schmierer** thanked Mr. Suchovsky for all his hard work and stated he looks forward to Mr. Wirtanen's work.

**Skip Schulz** thanked the Director and Commissioners for being present and stated that he knows the Council is an advisory group and members are also volunteers. Members put in a lot of time and money into our stockholders groups. If we can't get answers, why do we do it? He said he thinks very highly of Don Mankee and others too.

**Jim Lorensen** stated that on behalf of Gogebic Community College, he is glad to host the WUPCAC today, and thanked the Director and Commissioners. **Mr. Suchovsky** thanked Mr. Lorensen for hosting the group.

**Director Stokes:** "Thank you to Mr. Lorensen for hosting us. Mr. Suchovsky, thank you for your time spent in the chair. I say to all of you, I understand that you all volunteer. We don't need to have a meeting in order to have meeting....enough of those." To staff, "You listen, and you have an obligation to take the information back to your management team, even if you don't agree." To the Council and public, "We need to provide you answers. Thank you!"

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm EST (8:10pm CST).