



Wolf Management Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center

1011 North Road, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Date: August 4, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Roll call

Present for the Wolf Management Advisory Council (WMAC):

- Dan Kennedy, Chair
- Miles Falck
- Bea Freeland
- Richard Pershinske
- Mike Thorman
- Amy Trotter

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff

- Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director
- Trevor VanDyke, DNR Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Victoria Lischalk, Executive Assistant to the WMAC

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Kennedy called the meeting of WMAC to order at 8:30 a.m. **Chair Kennedy** called for a roll call. All WMAC members were present. **Chair Kennedy** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda with the amendments to allow Senator McBroom, Representative Markkanen, and Representative LaFave to speak during the Director's Report and to add Brooke Parmelee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office, to give a presentation on the Opens Meeting Act. The motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to accept the day's agenda with the additions as proposed. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** voiced her concern that allowing the legislatures to

speaking during the meeting would set a tone for the WMAC that it's not welcoming or one that considers all sides. **Director Eichinger** stated it's a matter of courtesy that we honor a request from an elected official to speak before an advisory council for state government. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote to accept the agenda with the additions to the Director's Report. The motion passed with **Council Member Friedland** abstaining from the vote.

Committee of the Whole:

Director Eichinger welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance. He summarized the role and expectations of the WMAC. He then welcomed Natural Resources Commissioners (NRC) Richardson and Nyberg, who were seated in the audience. He invited the members of the public to take the opportunity to provide public comment at the NRC meeting or in writing. In addition, to the NRC meeting, the DNR helps to support the two citizens' advisory councils the Eastern Upper Peninsula and the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Councils (CAC). The CAC is an additional opportunity to contribute to the dialog with other citizens and DNR staff. He then discussed the current legal status of the gray wolf. When the rulemaking was in draft status the DNR on behalf of the administration submitted comments in support of the delisting of wolves. It is the opinion of the DNR that wolves have met and exceeded the biological recovery goals that would have necessitated protection under the Endangered Species Act. The DNR believes the delisting was appropriate. He discussed the recent action in support of the plaintiffs that are challenging the delisting. He explained the distinction between the actions of the Attorney General and how that is different and distinct from the actions of the administration and the DNR's perspective. **Director Eichinger** discussed the USDA's recent announcement regarding the study that analyzed SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID 19). The DNR does not have information on where the samples were collected. The samples were collected by USDA-APHIS. He urged hunters to continue using safe handling procedures when you're field-dressing your animals.

Director's Report:

Senator McBroom provided his statement via phone

Representative Markkanen provided his statement in person

Representative LaFave provided his statement in person

Open Meetings Act Presentation

Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office

Presentations for the Director's reports may be found on the WMAC's webpage at michigan.gov/wmac under "Presentations."

The Director's Report ended at 9:37 a.m.

New Business

Meeting Agenda and Process

Chair Kennedy called for a motion on the agenda format. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to adopt the format of the agenda motion supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to move the Public Comment after the Updates Section and before New Business. **Chair Kennedy** asked for a vote and the motion passed.

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to include science-based management and review and update policy to the agenda. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to add standing presentations science-based management and review and update policy to the agenda. **Council Member Pershinske** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** requested an amendment to the motion for the presentations to be given by verified experts. **Council Member Trotter** revised her motion to include science-based management and review and update policy to the agenda with the presentations to be given by verified practitioners and experts. **Council Member Friedlander** supported the revised motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote and the motion passed.

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion for the date, times, and locations for the next meetings. **Council Member Pershinske** made a motion for the WMAC to meet at least monthly. **Council Member Thorman** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** asked for a discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** requested clarification on the timeline for the WMAC. **Council Member Trotter** amended the motion to schedule monthly meetings for the remainder of the 2021 calendar year and reassess the 2022 calendar year. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment passed. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote on the motion to hold WMAC meetings monthly through the 2021 calendar year and reassess the need for monthly meetings for the 2022 calendar year. The motion was passed.

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion on the location meetings. **Council Member Trotter** made a motion to alternate the location of the meetings between the Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula. Motion supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion. There was a suggestion for the meetings to be held in the eastern and western ends of the Upper Peninsula. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote and the motion passed.

Chair Kennedy requested a motion that all recommendations by the WMAC be by majority vote, and we would offer the opportunity for a minority report included in the final report. **Council Member Trotter** made this motion, **Council Member Friedlander** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote and the motion was passed.

Chair Kennedy called for a motion to accept the Public Appearance Guidelines. A motion was made by **Council Member Pershinske** to accept the Public Appearance Guidelines after removing the first sentence in draft item number four and to have each person giving public comment state their name and city. The motion was supported by **Council Member Thorman**. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote and the motion passed.

A motion was made by **Council Member Trotter** to allow legislators to participate at their convenience anytime during the meeting either virtually or in-person, but that they would be limited to some timeframe. **Council Member Thorman** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** asked for a discussion. **Council Member Friedlander** stated she had concerns that the Legislators have the ability to influence public policy that the general public doesn't. **Chair Kennedy** called for a vote. The motion passed with one no vote from **Council Member Friedlander** and **Council Member Faulk** abstaining.

Chair Kennedy requested a 10-minute break at 10:32.

Public Appearances Before the WMAC:

(Victoria Lischalk read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances which began at 10:43 a.m.)

10 Minute Comments:

Nancy Warren – National Wolfwatcher Coalition
George Lindquist – representing UP Whitetails of Marquette County (10 min.)
Theresa Pitts – representing Anishinabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
Terri Bockland – the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Jordan Hoover – Hunter Nation
Kevin Swanson

5 Minute Comments:

Steve Day
Gary Gorniak
Kevin Swanson
Dan Antonetti
Dan Featherstone
Jeremy Applekamp
Mike P. Vein
Bob Williams
Kris Matthews
Molly Tamulevich
Dave Johnson

3 Minute Comment:

Alan Ettenhofer
Aaron Hendrickson
Catherine Andrews
Jim Hoy
Bryan Reynolds
Ray Hutchinson
Luke Hubbard
Martha Dugdale
Jeff Kerns
Al Warren
Dennis Stachowicz
Isaac Martin
Clint Seawright
Robert Flasch
Steven Nystrom
Joe Simmens
Keith Shafer

Chair Kennedy adjourned the portion of the public appearance at 12:47 p.m.

Adjournment

Chair Kennedy asked for a motion to adjourn. **Council Member Friedlander** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Council Member Trotter** supported the motion. **Chair Kennedy** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the WMAC and location to be determined in northern lower Michigan.