

**Michigan Wildlife Council
Minutes
April 27, 2020**

An abbreviated meeting of the Michigan Wildlife Council (MWC) was held Monday, April 27, 2020, by Skype, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the financial and administrative restrictions.

Present for the Michigan Wildlife Council

Matt Pedigo
Kristin Phillips
Jeff Poet
Carol Rose
Henry Stancato
Beth Gruden
Nick Buggia
Ed Roy

Call to Order

Chairman **Pedigo** called the meeting of the Michigan Wildlife Council (MWC) to order at 10:03 a.m., and instructions were given for the video call.

Approval of Agenda

Pedigo reviewed the agenda and asked for discussion. **Rose** noted that an item needed to be added to discuss and vote on the January 27, 2020, Minutes. **Rose** made a motion that the agenda be approved with the entry for minutes added. **Gruden** supported the motion, and the agenda was approved by unanimous vote (8-0).

Operational Plan

Chairman **Pedigo** called for discussion on the Operational Plan. **Poet** made a motion to accept the Operational Plan, and **Rose** seconded. There was no discussion. The Operational Plan was approved unanimously (8-0).

Semi Annual Report

The Chairman called for discussion of the Semiannual Report. There was no discussion. **Rose** made a motion to accept the report, subject to putting items 2 and 3 in bold on the first page. **Phillips** seconded the motion. The Semiannual Report was accepted by the Council (8-0).

Approval of January 27, 2020, Minutes

Pedigo called for discussion on the January 27, 2020, Minutes from the MWC meeting. There was no discussion. **Rose** made a motion that the Minutes be approved as submitted. **Gruden** seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved (7-0). **Roy** abstained from voting because he was not at the meeting in January.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Phillips** presented the financial report for October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 (attached).

There was discussion and the following points were made:

- The DNR is anticipating the fiscal freeze to go through September 30, 2020.
 - The MWC marketing campaign can probably be picked up at that time.
 - The freeze may be lifted on certain items in the next few weeks.
- The restrictions on the MWC funds are the same as on all restricted funds at the DNR.
- No money can be spent on marketing or administrative costs for the MWC during the spending freeze.
 - Payment has been made for the MWC website, and GÜD Marketing will keep it up.
 - GÜD has a couple of planned posts that will continue to run. (The work has been completed on them).
 - Michigan United Conservation Clubs have reached out and offered to print the planned content from GÜD in their Michigan Out-of-Doors and Tracks magazines at no charge to the MWC.
 - GÜD has already begun the development of these content pieces and was willing to complete them at no additional charge (beyond April 9).
- The carry-forward money needs to be spent this fiscal year (by September 30, 2020).
- The spending occurs when an invoice is received.
- The MWC is in a good place as the Council has a dedicated fund source.
- **Phillips** indicated there is also an anticipated shortfall in funds next year, but the DNR will have more time to absorb than this year.
- The MWC needs to have a full meeting in May.
- There should be a cover letter on the Operational Plan to explain that this was the plan, but due to the COVID-19 financial restrictions events may change.

Roy left the call, and **Gruden** stepped out briefly. (A quorum was maintained.)

Buggia made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and **Poet** seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the report was approved (6-0).

Public Comment

Chairman **Pedigo** called for public comment; there was none.

New Business

A subcommittee of **Phillips**, **Pedigo**, **Gruden**, and **Buggia** was created to look at working for an exemption for the MWC funds to be presented to Governor Whitmer, a plan for going forward, and how to continue Council activities in the future.

There was discussion on the meetings held with Senator Bumstead and Merle Shepherd. Attending from the MWC were **Buggia**, **Stancato**, **Roy**, and GÜD Marketing. Senator Bumstead would like to see the Council interact more with the Legislature. **Pedigo** thought the meeting overall was very good. **Buggia** reflected that providing a quarterly report to the Legislature

would be beneficial and possibly meeting with the chairs of the Legislature once a year. **Rose, Poet, and Buggia** will form a Legislative Outreach Subcommittee to focus on ways to share information with Legislators and the Natural Resources Commission. **Buggia** will lead the Legislative Outreach Subcommittee

Council Elections

Pedigo's and **Poet's** terms will expire at the end of 2021. **Pedigo** called for nominations for a new chair for the Council. **Poet** nominated **Buggia** to be chairman. **Rose** seconded it. **Buggia** accepted the nomination. A roll call vote was taken, and it was unanimously decided that **Buggia** would be the new chair of the MWC (7-0).

Pedigo asked for nominations for a new vice-chair. **Buggia** nominated **Gruden**, and **Rose** seconded the proposal. **Gruden** accepted the nomination. A roll call vote was taken for **Gruden** to be the new vice-chair for the MWC and was approved (7-0).

The Chairman requested nominations for an MWC Treasurer. **Rose** nominated **Phillips** for Treasurer, and **Gruden** supported. **Phillips** accepted the nomination. A roll call vote was taken, and **Phillips** was approved by all as the Treasurer (7-0).

Rose commended **Pedigo** for the excellent job that he'd done for the last four years in leading the MWC. The sentiment was echoed by the entire Council.

Pedigo called for further discussion. There was none.

Next Meeting Date

The next MWC meeting will be held Monday, May 18, 2020, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. by Skype. (If there is no action or discussion on the budget by that time, the meeting could be rescheduled.)

Adjournment

Rose made the motion to adjourn, seconded by **Buggia**, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.