

UPSA Meeting February 14, 2026 at the Northern Center

Attendees:

Daniel Absolon, UP Trappers Association Region; John Dawydko, West Branch Sportsman's Club; Bill Malloch and Troy Bassett, UPW Schoolcraft County; Wayne Kanyuh, Randy Schiller and Ron Kil_____ UPW Menominee County; Denny Olson, GLTPA; Mike Taylor and Bryan Reynolds UPW Marquette County; George Lindquist Big Bay Sportsmen's Club; Gino Venditti, Wildlife Unlimited of Dickinson County Michigan; Jeremy Lasko UP Trappers Assoc, Inc.; Stu Boren, United Sportsmen's Club; Al Ettehofer UPW Association; Gary Gorniack Straits Area Sportsmen's Club.

Guests:

Jack Bergman US Rep
Parker Fairbairn State Rep and wife Victoria
Becky Humphries NRC Chair
Sarah Thompson, Keith Kintigh, Dave Lemmien MI DNR Wildlife
Darren Kramer MI DNR Fisheries
Scott Witcomb MI DNR Director of Public Lands
Richard P Smith, Author
John James and Anthony Hudson MI Gov Candidates
Genevieve Peters Scott US Senate Candidates
Beau LaFave MI Senate Candidate
Jordan Hoover and 2 friends

Meeting called to order by President Dave Johnson at 10:00 AM EST/ 9:00 AM CST.

Motion to approve agenda by Absolon, support by Dwwydtko and motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the 02/15/2025 were reviewed and motion by Ettenhofer and support by Gorniack to approve. Motion passed unanimously. Notes from the 10/18/2025 meeting was reviewed since there was not a quorum.

Absolon presented the Treasurer's reports. Motion by Olson and support by Gorniack and vote to accept was passed unanimously.

We moved up the candidate discussion since they other commitments following their remarks.

Jack Bergman spoke and introduced John James for Gov and Beau LaFave for MI Senate. These folks had other commitments and had to leave before our meeting would be completed.

Parker Fairbairn, MI State Rep. noted he backs the UP Hunter and his bill resulted in the NRC Live Steam available to the public.

Candidates Anthony Hudson and Genevieve Peters Scott presented their positions.

Feb is election month. Dave Johnson will vacate the President's office and the other office open for election is Secretary.

Al Ettenhofer agreed to step from 3rd VP up to the President since no other member would take the position. Gary Gorniak, 2VP was not able to step up to the Presidency.

Jordan Hoover from the crowd waved a \$10 bill and his personal application to join so he could be elected President and we explained that our bylaws require he be a member of a member group of which he was not.

Floyd Dropps has agreed to take on the job for another term. Motion by Absolon and support by Gorniak for Floyd Dropps to be Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

President's time:

Would like to thank Nick Guyan for the website work and Terrie Rugg for keeping our envelope labels

Presented the UP 2025-2024 Deer Harvest Comparison, noting little change in total, but a shift from antlered to antlerless deer

Presented a deer cash report per miles driven

UPSA is looking for deliverables to agree with a fishing license increase

Wildlife

George Linquist presented a motion by UP Whitetails of Marquette County that did not support the Deer Area Teams (DAT) recommendations to the NRC for deer hunting reg changes. Also on the DAT are Dave Johnson, Al Ettenhofer and Gary Gorniack. None of the UPSA members on the DAT support the recommendations.

Jordan Hoover in attendance does support the recommendations.

Motion by Ettenhofer not to support the recommendations by Ettenhofer and support by Gorniack. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Johnson and Gary Gorniack brought to the floor that a group Western Justice is working on delisting the Gray Wolf and Western Justice would like UPSA support. Motion by Gorniack support by Ettenhofer and vote unanimously passed.

Becky Humphries the department is reviewing the necessary steps to take appropriate action once the wolf is delisted.

Fish

Floyd had surgery and was not available.

MI DNR Fisheries Biologist Darren Kramer explained the licensed fee increases proposed by the DNR and additionally explained that one of the additional licenses that may be included is a Hatchery License.

Forestry

Stu Boren talked about grant and some of the work done at the DWC. Further he stated that the State should revisit the CFR law to increase both oversight and payment per acre.

Sarah Thompson noted that 100% of the DRIP funds in the LP are now available to use in the UP

Trappers

Jeremy Lasko noted the trappers are working on trying to get more folks involved in the trapping sport.

Recreation

John Dawydko noted that new shooting activities are bringing new members into their club. He also noted that predator hunts were wrapping up and most fairly successful.

In General

Ettenhofer moved that Dave Johnson be given an honorary lifetime membership for the work he had done, supported by Olson and vote was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn by Dawydko, supported by Gorniack and vote yea by all.