

WUPPDR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

Monday, August 15, 2022
4:15 PM (ET)
Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

NAME	Present, voting	Present, non-voting	Absent
Robert Nousiainen, Chair, Ontonagon County	X		
Joe Bonovetz, 1 st V.C., Gogebic County	X		
Patti Peretto, 2 nd Vice Chair, Iron County	X		
Bill Rolof, Treasurer, Baraga County	X		
James Vivian, Jr., Secretary, Keweenaw County			X
Del Rajala, Alternate, Keweenaw County			X
Tom Tikkanen, Member, Houghton County	X		
Marlene Broemer, Alternate, Ontonagon County		X	
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager, WUPPDR		X	
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR		X	
Lisa McKenzie, Assistant Planner, WUPPDR			

Call to Order: Robert Nousiainen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM (ET)

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was spoken.

Member Roll Call: The following commissioners responded to roll call done by Hyttinen.
Bill Rolof, Tom Tikkanen, Joe Bonovetz, Patti Peretto, Robert Nousiainen.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Rolof, supported by Peretto to approve the agenda with the additional agenda item as item 11., Partnership Agreement. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - (June 28, 2022, Executive Committee): Moved by Peretto, supported by Bonovetz to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the bills paid as presented from April 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022, totaling \$185,473.45. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Bonovetz, Peretto, Rolof, Tikkanen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: None

Ottawa National Forest:

- a. Master Challenge Agreement – Wuorenmaa informed the committee of an agreement being developed with Ottawa National Forest giving WUPPDR the ability to assist with community engagement, especially with the tribes, as well as recreation site accessibility assessments for physical mobility characteristics.
- b. ELPC proposal for new wilderness areas - Wuorenmaa explained this item had been on the June Executive Committee meeting agenda and the committee at that time had decided to refer it to the Full Commission; it is on this agenda for information only. Further discussion to occur at Full Commission meeting.

MI-HOPE program application – Wuorenmaa explained this is a MSHDA program for homeowner rehabilitation to include energy efficient improvements. There was not adequate time before the application deadline to determine which other applicants planned to apply to serve the region and to coordinate applications with them. WUPPDR applied for the whole Western U.P. region and would work collaboratively with any other entities applying if required. Hyttinen explained a bit more including how this program is a whole home repair approach for low-income homeowners that fall below 300% of the federal poverty level.

Personnel Policy matters:

- a. **Amendment to increase base Annual Leave** – Wuorenmaa explained this is a minor change to the personnel policy. Wuorenmaa would like to hire people to start with three weeks of vacation and increase to the next step (21 days) after two years rather than three. Discussion followed. Consensus was to forward to the Full Commission meeting.
- b. **Juneteenth National Independence Day** – Consideration of whether to add Juneteenth to WUPPDR's paid holidays was on the June Executive Committee agenda, but due to low attendance it was decided the matter be deferred to the August meeting. Wuorenmaa stated he is not requesting the additional holiday but the matter needed to be discussed. Consensus was to forward to the Full Commission meeting.

Partnership Agreement: U.P. Michigan Works! had proposed a five-year extension to the current three-year agreement, with a 5% cost increase taking effect the first year and the cost held for the remainder of the period. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Tikkanen to approve the Partnership Agreement. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Bonovetz, Peretto, Rolof, Tikkanen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Michigan Works! 32-hour week: Wuorenmaa mentioned he was informed that Michigan Works! had gone to a 32-hour work week for a three-month trial period for nonexempt hourly employees.

Annual Meeting / Chiantello update: Hyttinen informed the committee that the annual meeting is set at Alice's Italian Restaurant in Iron River. One nomination was received for the Chiantello award, which is Albert Koskela. This will be awarded posthumously. Tikkanen will contact the family to attend and notify Hyttinen.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Moved by Rolof, supported by Tikkanen that the meeting adjourn at 4:58 PM (ET). Motion carried.


