

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

Tuesday, March 15, 2021
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 | | | |
| Albert Koskela, Member, Houghton County | X | | |
| Mike Stafford, Alternate, Iron County | | X | |
| Marlene Broemer, Alternate, Ontonagon County | | X | |
| MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager, WUPPDR | | X | |
| Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR | | X | |

Call to Order: Robert Nousiainen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM (ET)

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

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Peretto, supported by Bonovetz to approve the agenda as presented but including a correction to item 11. Change of lease occupancy. Motion carried.

Roll Call: The following commissioners responded to roll call done by Hyttinen.

Del Rajala, Mohawk, MI, Keweenaw County; Patti Peretto, Iron County Courthouse, Iron County; Mike Stafford, Iron River, MI, Iron County; James Vivian, Jr., Mohawk, MI, Keweenaw County; Joe Bonovetz, Bessemer, MI, Gogebic County; Robert Nousiainen, Bruce Crossing, MI, Ontonagon County; Albert Koskela, Traprock Valley, MI, Houghton County; Marlene Broemer, Ontonagon, MI, Ontonagon County.

Approval of Minutes - (January 26, 2021 Executive Committee): Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Koskela to approve the January 26, 2021 Executive Committee minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Koskela to approve the bills as presented from January 1 – February 28, 2021, totaling \$112,808.06. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Koskela, Vivian, Peretto, Bonovetz, Nousiainen. Nays: None. Motion carried. (Bill Rolof entered at 4:27 PM)

Public Appearances: None

Acceptance of Iron County as member as of January 2021: Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to accept Iron County as a member as of January 2021. Motion carried.

Quarterly budget amendment: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Peretto to accept the quarterly budget amendment and place on file. Motion carried.

ELPC request for support for new Ottawa NF wilderness designations: No action taken

Release of RFP for Copper Country Trail Byway website redesign (informal): Wuorenmaa informed the committee WUPPDR received separate grant funds from MDOT to redesign the website. RFP will be going out soon.

Change of lease occupancy: Wuorenmaa stated our lease will be lowered by \$400.00 per month due to vacating the corner office since COVID-19. Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to approve the new lease agreement.

Change of September meeting date: Wuorenmaa notified the committee the MAR annual convention is scheduled for the day after the current September WUPPDR date and requests the meeting to be rescheduled to September 20, 2021, same time. Moved by Koskela, supported by Bonovetz to revise the annual meeting date to September 20, 2021. The annual meeting will be held at the Northern Waters Casino Resort in Watersmeet. Motion carried. Executive meeting at 4:00 CT, 5:00 CT for the Full Commission meeting.

Other Business: Discussion of in-person meetings was held. The next Executive Committee meeting (April 19) will be held in person at the WUPPDR office. Houghton County courthouse reopens March 17.

Counties will be receiving substantial funding from the American Rescue Plan.

Adjourn: Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz that the meeting adjourn at 4:49 PM (ET). Motion carried.



Robert Nousiainen, Chair (In lieu of Secretary)