

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

Wednesday, December 21, 2020
4:15 PM (EDT)
Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

Members Present:

Albert Koskela, Chairperson (Houghton County)
Robert Nousiainen, 1st Vice Chairperson (Ontonagon County)
Joe Bonovetz, 2nd Vice Chairperson (Gogebic County)
Bill Rolof, Secretary (Baraga County)
Sandra Gayk, Treasurer (Keweenaw County)

WUPPDR Staff Present:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager

Call to Order: Albert Koskela, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM (EDT)

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

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - (November 18, 2020 Executive Committee): Moved by Gayk, supported by Nousiainen to approve the proposed November 18, 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to approve the bills from November 1 – November 30, 2020, totaling \$39,200.32. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Gayk, Rolof, Bonovetz, Nousiainen, Koskela. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: None.

Budget Amendment: Wuorenmaa stated the biggest amendment is WUPPDR received an amendment to the hazard mitigation grant that increased our federal grant amount by approx. \$23,000. RPI grant balances should finally be spent this year. WUPPDR received funding for the Copper Country Trail Byway to redesign the website, a new EDA Planning grant which WUPPDR receives every three years will be starting next month. MDOT Asset Management has been slow moving due to COVID issues. Technical Assistance is a bit thin. Moved by Gayk, supported by Nousiainen to approve the budget amendment and forward to the Full Commission for final approval. Motion carried.

EDA Grant Updates: Wuorenmaa stated the new EDA planning grant is starting in January 2021 and presented EDA grant updates. Wuorenmaa said WUPPDR was the first region in Michigan that went thru a new performance review process and he is pleased with the way it went.

Staffing Update: Wuorenmaa updated the committee on current staffing. One staff member departed employment due to personal reasons and a new employee has been hired as an Economic Development Planner. Also, the Intern that has been working for us through MI Works will now be working for WUPPDR.

2021 Preparation: Officer Elections & Schedule of Meetings: Hyttinen updated the officers regarding the 2021 rotation of committee officers which will take place on January 26, 2021. Inquiries were made regarding Iron County returning to the WUPPDR board.

Discussion was had regarding returning to in-person meetings.

Rolof and Nousiainen will compare the proposed meeting schedule with the health department to eliminate same day meetings and adjust as needed.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Moved by Gayk, supported by Rolof that the meeting adjourn at 4:46 PM (ET). Motion carried.

Bill Rolof, Secretary