

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

Monday, September 18, 2023
4:00 PM (ET)
The Konteka Black Bear Resort, White Pine, MI

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

Call to Order: Joe Bonovetz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:08 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. William Menge, Robert Nousiainen, and Joe Bonovetz.

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

Approval of Minutes - (June 19, 2023): Moved by Nousiainen, supported by Menge to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid (June 1 – August 31, 2023): Moved by Menge, supported by Nousiainen to recommend to the Full Board to approve the bills paid as presented from June 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, totaling \$283,194.68.

Public Appearances: None

Discussion about designation of alternate commissioners: Wuorenmaa explained a situation about a commissioner that wasn't designated as a WUPPDR commissioner by the municipality but who attended and voted at the last meeting. Wuorenmaa inquired about how we should receive notification of the official authorized WUPPDR designations. It was decided that municipalities & counties need to send a letter stating appointments to the WUPPDR commission. Motioned by Nousiainen, Supported by Menge to suggest to the Full Board that appointments be made by the chief elected officials. Motion carried. This will be included in the next By-laws revision.

Final FY2023 Budget Amendment: Moved by Nousiainen, supported by Menge to approve the budget amendment as presented and forward to the Full Board for full approval. Motion carried.

FY2024 General Appropriations Act - budget adoption: Moved by Tikkanen, supported by Menge to recommend to the Full Board for approval. Motion carried.

Western U.P. Rail Commission (Chair Bonovetz): Chairperson Bonovetz informed the committee Ontonagon and Gogebic counties are looking at setting up a Michigan rail commission. They would like to put together a rail commission that starts at the Michigan Wisconsin border to White Pine. Houghton is also encouraged to participate. The goal is to get to Escanaba. More information will be discussed at the full committee meeting.

Consideration of member contributions: Wuorenmaa will be proposing to increase the member contributions since they have not been increased since 1978. This action would take effect next FY in October 2024.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Moved by Menge, supported by Tikkanen that the meeting adjourn at 4:36 PM (ET). Motion carried.



William Menge, Secretary