

WUPPDR FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

Monday, March 20, 2023

5:00 PM (EDT)

Parkview Lodge and Grill, Twin Lakes (Toivola), 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		
Glenn Anderson, Houghton County			X
Mary Babcock, City of Hancock (Alt.)			X
Ron Blau, City of Hancock	X		
Roy Britz, Houghton County (E.C. Alt.)			X
Donald Chastan, Village of Ontonagon (Alt.)	X		
Pam Coey, Village of Ontonagon			X
Jan Cole, City of Houghton	X		
Robert DeMarois, Keweenaw County (E.C. Alt.)			X
Gale Eilola, Baraga County (E.C. Alt.)	X		
Tim Gasperich, Calumet Township (Alt.)			X
Zach Hautala, Iron County			X
Gretchen Janssen, Houghton County			X
Joel Keranen, Houghton County	X		
Robert LaFave, Village of L'Anse			X
Paul Lehto, Calumet Charter Township	X		
Jim Lorensen, Gogebic County (E.C. Alt.)			X
Bruce Petersen, Portage Charter Township	X		
Paul Putnam, MSU Extension (<i>ex officio</i>)			X
Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA (<i>ex officio</i>)		X	
Mike Stafford, Iron County (E.C. Alt.)	X		
Ron Store, Ontonagon County (E.C. Alt.)	X		
Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County	X		
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Mgr., WUPPDR			
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Exec. Director, WUPPDR			
Lisa McKenzie, Asst. Regional Planner, WUPPDR			

Call to Order: Joe Bonovetz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM (EDT)

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.

Ron Blau, Don Chastan, Jan Cole, Gale Eilola, Joel Keranen, Paul Lehto, Bill Menge, Robert Nousiainen, Patti Peretto, Bruce Petersen, Jeff Ratcliffe, Mike Stafford, Tom Tikkanen, James Vivian, Jr., Joe Bonovetz.

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

Approval of Minutes - (January 16, 2023, Full Commission): Moved by Blau, supported by Chastan to approve the minutes as presented and place on file. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Stafford, supported by Menge to approve the bills paid as presented from January 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023, totaling \$74,585.63. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Blau, Chastan, Cole, Eilola, Keranen, Lehto, Menge, Nousiainen, Peretto, Petersen, Stafford, Tikkanen, Vivian, Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: None

ELPC wilderness proposal: Consider taking official position (action requested): Bonovetz informed the commission that the Executive Committee had recommended passage of the resolution opposing new and expanded wilderness. Moved by Peretto, supported by Eilola to adopt this resolution in opposition of the addition to the Ottawa National Forest wilderness areas and to authorize proper signatures and send to the local representatives in the Senate and House, the Governor's office, and anyone else Wuorenmaa feels should receive a copy of the resolution. Motion carried.

Update on "Dark Stores" tax valuation issue: Bonovetz stated the "Dark Stores" issue is affecting Houghton County currently with the Walmart situation. Moved by Stafford, supported by Cole to adopt this resolution and authorize the proper signatures. Motion carried.

Information about EDA Policy Academy program: Wuorenmaa explained that this program is to better align region level or EDA district-level economic development with state level economic development. (Ron Store arrived) MEDC successfully applied to work with the U.P. regions on the program. Jeff Ratcliffe would also be participating. Wuorenmaa would be traveling to DC to attend meetings.

Other Director's updates: Wuorenmaa provided project updates.

Housing update (Lisa): McKenzie provided an update about the MSHDA MI-HOPE program that WUPPDR had received a grant for and about some recent legislation that had been approved for housing.


Proposed new apportionment of WUPPDR commissioners (action requested): Bonovetz stated the Executive Committee discussed this and felt the apportionment should not be changed at all. No action taken and this item was dropped from the Executive Committee agenda.

Signature cards: Bonovetz informed the Commission that the Executive Committee made a recommendation to put William Menge and Tom Tikkanen on the Superior National Bank signature cards. Moved by Blau, supported by Chastan to update signors on all bank accounts at Superior National Bank. The signors are now: Jerald Wuorenmaa, MaryEllen Hyttinen, Steve Rouser, Tom Tikkanen, and William Menge. Motion carried.

Other Business – Annual Meeting location: Hyttinen reminded the commission that the Annual Meeting will take place in Ontonagon County. Nousiainen will check with the AmericInn in Silver City on availability and space.

Wuorenmaa mentioned county meetings for the MMCE (Materials Management County Engagement) grants are being held.

Adjourn: Moved by Nousiainen, supported by Stafford that the meeting adjourn at 5:50 PM (EDT). Motion carried.



William Menge, Secretary

