

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

Monday, December 18, 2023
4:15 PM (EDT)
Parkview Lodge and Grill, Twin Lakes, MI

NAME	Present, voting	Present, non-voting	Absent
Joe Bonovetz, Chair, Gogebic County	X		
Patti Peretto, 1 st V.C., Iron County			X
Mike Stafford, 1 st V.C. Alternate, Iron County	X		
James Vivian, Jr., 2 nd V.C., Keweenaw County			X
Robert DeMarois, 2 nd V.C. Alternate, 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 4:18 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: Mike Stafford, William Menge, Robert Nousiainen, and Joe Bonovetz.

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

Approval of Minutes - (October 16, 2023): Moved by Menge, supported by Stafford to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid (October 1 – November 30, 2023): Moved by Stafford, supported by Menge to approve the bills paid as presented from October 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023, totaling \$178,718.26. Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Stafford, Menge, Nousiainen, Joe Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: None

Acceptance of new member governments: Cities of Ironwood and Wakefield – Wuorenmaa informed the committee he had considered and approached these cities to join the WUPPDR commission for more representation from those areas. He spoke with the city managers who were open to the invitation, and their governing bodies agreed to become WUPPDR members. Moved by Nousiainen, supported by Menge to recommend to the Full board to accept the new member governments. Motion carried.

Materials management planning discussion: Wuorenmaa stated he and Lisa McKenzie have been to meetings of five of the county boards to explain the materials management requirements. Wuorenmaa referenced the three requirements. The big decisions are whether to create a multi-county or single county plan and who is going to do the plan.

Consensus is leaning to a multi-county plan. WUPPDR will create a resolution for the counties to use to move forward and start the process.

Policy Academy and CEDS update: Wuorenmaa will explain more at the Full Commission meeting, but he did explain this is a program that U.P. regions are going thru with the MEDC to better align our regional strategies with state and economic development planning. EDA recognized that in most states there isn't any real alignment happening.


Other Director's updates: Wuorenmaa provided information on other currently active projects.

Update on commissioner appointment process: Wuorenmaa informed the commission that WUPPDR's Bylaws state it is each member government's governing body that appoints representatives to the WUPPDR Commission, but Wuorenmaa understands this is not the norm for some counties in other appointments they make. A review of this process can be looked at later with other possible revisions of the Bylaws.

2024 Meeting Schedule: Discussion took place regarding why there are two meetings when the Full Commission meets as some feel it seems redundant. Bonovetz suggested bringing this up at the next Executive Committee meeting in February. All agreed.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Moved by Menge, supported by Stafford that the meeting adjourn at 4:53 PM (EDT). Motion carried.



William Menge, Secretary