

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

Konteka Black Bear Resort, White Pine, MI
Monday, September 18, 2023
5:00 PM (ET)

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		
Don 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		
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Mgr., WUPPDR			
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Exec. Director, WUPPDR			
Lisa McKenzie, Asst. Regional Planner, WUPPDR			
Rachael Pressley, Regional Planner, WUPPDR			
Evan Lanese, GIS/Technician, WUPPDR			
Guests: Jason Socia, and KayIn Store, Public			
Judi Schwalbach, Representative for Senator McBroom			
Jeff Bal – GEI Consultants			
Judy Aho, Emily Himes, Steve Lehto – U.P. Michigan Works!			
Alan Tulppo, Ashley Nevins, Jim Ojala – GOISD			
Mark Voigt – McMillan Township			
Carl Nykanen – Ontonagon County			

Call to order: Joe Bonovetz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:05 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.
Roy Britz, Gale Eilola, Zach Hautala, Robert LaFave, Paul Lehto, Bill Menge, Robert Nousiainen, Patti Peretto, Ron Store, Tom Tikkanen, Joe Bonovetz.

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

Approval of minutes (September 18, 2023): Moved by Peretto, supported by Eilola to approve the minutes as presented and place on file. Motion carried.

Approval of bills paid: Moved by LaFave, supported by Tikkanen to approve the bills paid as presented from June 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, totaling \$283,194.68. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Roy Britz, Gale Eilola, Zach Hautala, Robert LaFave, Paul Lehto, Bill Menge, Robert Nousiainen, Patti Peretto, Ron Store, Tom Tikkanen, Joe Bonovetz **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public appearances: None

Director's updates: Wuorenmaa provided information regarding project travel. More project information will follow in the presentation.

Final FY2023 budget amendment: Wuorenmaa explained the final revisions since the original budget. Moved by Britz, supported by Menge to approve the final amendment of FY2023 budget. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Roy Britz, Gale Eilola, Zach Hautala, Robert LaFave, Paul Lehto, Bill Menge, Robert Nousiainen, Patti Peretto, Ron Store, Tom Tikkanen, Joe Bonovetz **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

FY2024 General Appropriations Act – budget adoption: Wuorenmaa presented the FY2024 General Appropriations Act. Moved by LaFave, supported by Nousiainen to approve the FY2024 General Appropriations Act as presented. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Roy Britz, Gale Eilola, Zach Hautala, Robert LaFave, Paul Lehto, Bill Menge, Robert Nousiainen, Patti Peretto, Ron Store, Tom Tikkanen, Joe Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Western U.P. Rail Commission (Chair Bonovetz): Chair Bonovetz explained a proposal created by Store and Bonovetz about the potential for the rail corridor to go from Wakefield to White Pine mine. Store and Bonovetz would like to see a Western UP rail commission with the rail line starting at the Wisconsin/Michigan border going to White Pine. Research is being done to find out what the process is to get a Michigan rail commission. Trail potential is also in consideration. Senator McBroom's office has been contacted about how to establish a rail commission. Gogebic county passed a resolution and Ontonagon County is reviewing at their next board meeting. Hyttinen will forward Gogebic's resolution to the Full Commission to review and revise to their information.

Consideration of member contributions: Wuorenmaa presented information and proposed county member contributions be increased by 25% split over the flat amount each county pays and the amount that's based on population and SEV. Hyttinen to send out to the Full Commission.

Other business: Questions regarding commission alternatives and the actual appointment process for alternatives and additional members. Each chief elected official would notify WUPPDR of those elected to the WUPPDR commission. Moved by Eilola, supported by Hautala to accept this process. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Moved by Menge, supported by Rolof that the meeting adjourn at 5:41 PM (ET). Motion carried.

William Menge, Secretary