

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

Parkview Lodge and Grill, Twin Lakes, MI

Monday, December 20, 2021
4:15 PM (ET)

NAME	Voting	Non-Voting	Absent
Robert Nousiainen, Chair, Ontonagon County	X		
Marlene Broemer, <i>Alternate</i> , Ontonagon County			X
Joe Bonovetz, 1 st V.C., Gogebic County	X		
James Lorensen, <i>Alternate</i> , Gogebic County (alt.)			X
Patti Peretto, 2 nd Vice Chair, Iron County			X
Mike Stafford, <i>Alternate</i> , Iron County			X
Bill Rolof, Treasurer, Baraga County	X		
Lyle Olson, <i>Alternate</i> , Baraga County			X
James Vivian, Jr., Secretary, Keweenaw County			X
Del Rajala, <i>Alternate</i> , Keweenaw County			X
Albert Koskela, Member, Houghton County	X		
Tom Tikkanen, <i>Alternate</i> , Houghton County			X
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager, WUPPDR		X	
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR		X	

Call to Order: Robert Nousiainen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM.

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

Roll call: The following commissioners responded to roll call by Hyttinen: Joe Bonovetz, Bill Rolof, Albert Koskela, Robert Nousiainen.

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

Approval of minutes (September 20, 2021, Executive Committee): Moved by Koskela, supported by Bonovetz to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of bills paid: Moved by Rolof, supported by Koskela to approve the bills as presented from September 1, 2021 to November 9, 2021, totaling \$202,909.49. It was stated that the bills include the credit cards. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Bonovetz, Rolof, Koskela, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public appearances: None

EDA CARES contractual EDO funds: Wuorenmaa explained he is uncertain of how to allocate Gogebic and Ontonagon counties' funds from the EDA CARES Act grant for economic development organizations to provide technical assistance to businesses. By the formula being used, Gogebic would receive around \$11,000 available and Ontonagon around \$4,000. There is a possibility of the funds to go to the Ironwood and Ontonagon County economic development corporations, respectively. Funds could also be used for

capacity building where EDOs do not exist. Further discussion is needed. Wuorenmaa recommended part of these funds, or funds from a different line item in the grant, be paid toward the U.P.-wide Zoom Prospector platform held by Lake Superior Community Partnership. The region's contribution would be \$2,746.67, one-third of the U.P. total. Bonovetz moved to make that payment, supported by Rolof. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonovetz, Rolof, Koskela, Nousiainen. Motion carried.

Bonovetz asked for an update on Munetrix. Wuorenmaa said he had not gotten much feedback from local governments, but another presentation would probably be set up regarding how to use it.

Budget – quarterly update and new format: Wuorenmaa provided and explained a reformatted version of the WUPPDR budget made by WUPPDR's accountant at Michigan Works! There were no objections to switching to the new format. Informational only; a formal budget amendment was not considered.

2022 CEDS adoption: Wuorenmaa explained the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update process and comments received during public review. Some were received from a commissioner and others regarding tribal interests; most of these were incorporated into the version presented and a list of changes was provided. Moved by Rolof, supported by Koskela to adopt the 2022-2026 CEDS. Motion carried. Wuorenmaa mentioned he would like to get someone from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and perhaps Lac Vieux Desert on the CEDS Committee in the future; Rolof offered to identify someone from KBIC for it.

County member dues changes with 2020 Census: Wuorenmaa explained the WUPPDR county member dues formula, which recalculates the county contributions after each Decennial Census starting from a flat six-county total. He presented the amounts recalculated by the formula and proposed that the counties slated to decrease instead be kept the same. Bonovetz noted this could be a problem for Gogebic County. Koskela moved to adopt the new amounts according to the formula, including any decreases prescribed by the formula, supported by Bonovetz. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonovetz, Rolof, Koskela, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

2022 Schedule of Meetings: A proposed 2022 meeting schedule was presented. Two meeting dates would be different from the usual third Monday: January, moved to the fourth Monday to avoid a holiday, and September, moved to the fourth Tuesday to allow extra time for year-end budgeting prior to the meeting. The Annual Meeting would be in Iron County on September 27. Moved by Bonovetz to approve the meeting schedule as presented, supported by Rolof. Motion carried.

Other Business: Wuorenmaa explained a decision made by the Surface Transportation Board regarding the proposed CN/Watco acquisition, which was consistent with comments he had submitted on WUPPDR's behalf. He noted this would improve rail prospects to potentially accommodate the White Pine Mine. Discussion ensued about future prospects for mining. Wuorenmaa requested he be informed if commissioners hear about any community meetings to be held by Highland Copper.

Adjourn: Moved by Koskela, supported by Rolof that the meeting adjourn at 4:47 PM. Motion carried.