

Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022

Houghton County Recreation Authority

WUPPDR, 400 Quincy St 8th Floor, Hancock, MI

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm.

II. Roll call

Introductions were conducted in lieu of roll call.

- **Members present:**

- Jerald Wuorenmaa, WUPPDR
- Brad Barnett, Visit Keweenaw
- Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA
- Mary Sears, Franklin Twp
- Tim Gasperich, Calumet Charter Twp
- Mark Halkola, Osceola Twp
- Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County
- Eric Waara, City of Houghton
- Andrew Ranville, Village of Calumet (*part*)

- **Members absent:**

- Representative of City of Hancock
- Representative of Portage Charter Twp

- **Others present:**

- Jeff Kakuk, Michigan DNR
- Glenn Anderson
- John Arnold
- Pat Coleman
- Sean Gohman
- Dick Walrath

III. Approval of agenda

Barnett moved to approve the agenda, supported by Sears. No objections; motion carried.

IV. Adoption of Bylaws

Wuorenmaa indicated that the draft Bylaws had been sent via e-mail prior to the meeting. No modifications were suggested. Sears moved to approve the Bylaws, supported by Barnett. No objections; motion carried.

V. Election of officers and Executive Committee at-large member

Wuorenmaa explained that the officer terms last for one year and that when he inquired to some members prior to the meeting, no one had been willing to serve other than as a backup option.

- Tikkanen moved to nominate Gasperich to serve as Chair, supported by Halkola. There were no other nominations. No objections; motion carried. *Gasperich assumed control of the meeting.*
- Barnett moved to nominate Wuorenmaa to serve as Secretary, supported by Tikkanen. There were no other nominations. No objections; motion carried.
- Wuorenmaa moved to nominate Barnett to serve as Treasurer, supported by Waara. There were no other nominations. No objections; motion carried.
- Wuorenmaa moved to nominate Ratcliffe to serve as Executive Committee at-large member, supported by Tikkanen. There were no other nominations. No objections; motion carried.

VI. DNR update

Kakuk updated the group on various trail-related DNR projects:

- Bill Nichols Trail temporary repairs are expected to be completed by November 15; ownership issues at the site still need to be addressed for a permanent fix.
- Lake Linden (motorized) Trail: EGLE permits had gone out for public comment, which would be accepted and considered for a few weeks prior to issuance of final permit. Bid contracts might be awarded by the end of November. A couple might be delayed by the EGLE permitting which also must be approved by Army Corps of Engineers.
- Houghton Douglass Falls: Wuorenmaa asked about the status of the Trust Fund design grant. Kakuk had no update. Point of contact would be Doug Rich of DNR Parks in Baraga.
- Lake Linden-Hancock proposed nonmotorized trail: MDOT had recently completed work on a similar agreement for a different trail; Kakuk thought this one might be next in line.
- Tikkanen asked about easements for Trail 3; Kakuk said some pieces were under review for easement purchase. Some were on TRG land; unclear as to whether any are encompassed by land acquired from TRG by The Nature Conservancy. DNR is reviewing various easements in the area.
- Anderson asked about the Freda Grade. Kakuk said it's still on pause until resolution of the Lake Linden (motorized) grade.

VII. Filing status and financial requirements

Wuorenmaa had sent the Articles of Incorporation to the Office of the Great Seal. He noted it's still unclear as to whether a budget and audit are required despite having zero dollars; if an audit is required it could potentially be folded into another unit's audit. Tikkanen suggested contacting the County Treasurer.

VIII. Member updates

- Wuorenmaa explained he, Barnett, Ratcliffe, and Jeff Kakuk had met with MDOT Office of Rail to discuss the Operating Agreement. Requests may need to be made for exemption from certain requirements for utilization of an active rail corridor, but this cannot reasonably be done until design is complete. Ratcliffe added that MDOT is reviewing easement parameters and ownership; this may impede development. Barnett added that it might be best to move north from the south end, where DNR has more control.
- Ranville introduced himself and provided an overview of his role.

IX. Other business

- Wuorenmaa said there may still be municipalities who need their Recreation Authority representatives identified in writing; Barnett noted Hancock is one of these. Wuorenmaa would inquire to all who need to provide this information.
- Consensus was to continue to meet at 1:30 on the second Monday of meeting months, but meetings would become quarterly, beginning January 9. This will be the “annual meeting.”
- Wuorenmaa would send the schedule to all. Members must attend in person for the purpose of a quorum, which is currently 6.
- Wuorenmaa and Barnett indicated there are positions available for motorized and nonmotorized interests (one each). This would increase a quorum to 7. Barnett noted that Craig Hughes had indicated interest in the past for a nonmotorized representative and Kitty Beleck and Sue Bushong for motorized. Gasperich would inquire to Hughes and Barnett to the two others.

X. Public comment (three-minute limit)

Gasperich noted that officers elected today would carry through 2023.

XI. Adjourn

Ratcliffe moved to adjourn, supported by Ranville. No objections; motion carried.