

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

Monday, August 17, 2020
4:15 PM (EDT)

Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

Members Present:

Albert Koskela, Chairperson (Houghton County)
Robert Nousiainen, 1st Vice Chair (Ontonagon County)
Joe Bonovetz, 2nd Vice Chairperson (Gogebic County)
Bill Rolof, Secretary (Baraga County)
Sandra Gayk, Treasurer (Keweenaw County)

WUPPDR Staff Present:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager

Call to Order: Albert Koskela, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM (EDT)

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

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

Approval of Minutes - (May 18, 2020 Executive Committee): Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Gayk to approve the proposed May 18, 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented. **Motion carried.** Rolof arrived at 4:18.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the bills from June 1 – July 31, 2020, totaling \$76,121.29. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** Rolof, Bonovetz, Gayk, Koskela. **Nays:** None. **Motion carried.**

Public Appearances: None. Nousiainen arrived at 4:19.

Project Updates and New Hires: **EDA:** The 3-year EDA planning grant started the 5-year update to CEDS. The CARES Act funding for the pandemic response resiliency program held the first meeting on July 30; and Wuorenmaa is working on an application for the Houghton downtown public pier project.

MEDC: Wuorenmaa will begin scoring the MEDC Small Business Restart grants. Several other grants WUPPDR is administering include downtown Ironwood City Square; two in Calumet, which are the Elm Street Infrastructure project and the Façade projects; a wastewater treatment lagoon project for the Village of Baraga; and a proposal went to the City of Sault Ste. Marie for an infrastructure project.

MDOT: 1. general regional planning, 2. pavement surface ratings has been cut off for this year due to COVID but we are able to carry over to next year. WUPPDR is also helping some communities rate their own local road system.

RPI 2018: leftover funding is being used to award four housing related mini-grants.

WUPPDR is looking for a couple interns to assist with the Copper Country Trail National Byway, the EDA Cares project and completing the hazard mitigation plans.

Budget Amendment (Fund #280): EDA CARES Act funding awarded with \$400,000 over a two-year period without a match requirement. Wuorenmaa requested to hire a temporary employee to complete the EDA Cares plan. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Gayk. **Motion carried.**

MERS:

- a. Approval of Catch-Up Payments – Wuorenmaa explained additional payments are needed for WUPPDR to reach 100% funding level and that MERS is considering whether to allow it to be paid in monthly installments in the amount of \$6,347. Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to make monthly payments.
- b. Funding Control Agreement (Update) – Wuorenmaa stated the MERS attorneys are still looking at the agreement and will notify us when a decision has been made whether to reduce our required funding level below 100%.

Selection of Website Design Contractor: Wuorenmaa presented information and scoring of four proposals received for redesign of WUPPDR's website and recommended selecting Lexul for a total of \$6,516. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to award Lexul the contract. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Rolof, Bonovetz, Gayk, Koskela. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Directors & Officers Insurance (Update): Wuorenmaa requested applications for insurance from two companies.

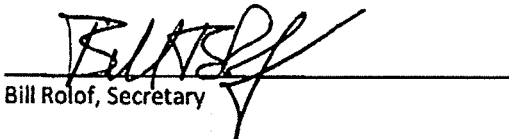
Approval of MDOT Master Agreement: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the Master Agreement # 20-21-0025 and adopt the resolution, and approve the necessary signatures. **Motion carried.**

Pandemic Messaging Resolution: Wuorenmaa proposed adopting a resolution pertaining to community messaging about the Coronavirus Pandemic, explaining that various local organizations had or were considering similar resolutions. No action taken.

Annual Meeting and Chiantello Award: Wuorenmaa requested suggestions on how the board would like to meet. All were in agreement to cancel the usual annual meeting but to still hold the business meetings on September 21 and requested Hyttinen contact Parkview to inquire about arrangements. All agreed to not have a guest speaker this year. Chiantello will be presented at a later date. Nousialnen will be out of town on September 21.

Other Business: Koskela will stop by WUPPDR to sign the Bylaws.

Adjourn: Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz that the meeting adjourn at 5:04 PM (ET). **Motion carried.**



Bill Rolof, Secretary