

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

Tuesday, June 23, 2020  
5:00 PM (EDT)

Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

**Members Present:**

Albert Koskela, Chairperson (Houghton County)  
Joe Bonovetz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson (Gogebic County)  
Bill Rolof, Secretary (Baraga County)  
Sandra Gayk (Keweenaw County)  
Marlene Broemer (Ontonagon County)  
Tom Tikkanen (Houghton County)  
John Sullivan (City of Houghton)  
Cherilynn Lampinen (Houghton County)  
Jeff Ratcliff (KEDA)  
Jim Lorensen (Gogebic County)  
Robert LaFave (Baraga County)

**Members Absent:**

Mark Aho, Keweenaw County  
Michael Koskinen, Baraga County  
Josh Loukus, Houghton County  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Glenn Anderson, City of Hancock  
Mary Babcock, City of Hancock  
Bruce Petersen, Portage Township  
Tony Smydra, Village of Ontonagon  
James Vivian, Jr., Keweenaw County  
Robert Nousiainen, 1<sup>st</sup> V.C. (Ontonagon County)  
Mary Sears, Franklin Township  
Joe Erickson, Village of Ontonagon  
Ron Blau, City of Hancock

**Guests:**

Joe Verlin (Gabridge & Co.)

**WUPPDR Staff Present:**

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director  
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager

**Call to Order:** Albert Koskela, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM (EDT)

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

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

**Approval of Minutes - (December 16, 2019 Full Commission):** Moved by Tikkanen, supported by Broemer to approve the proposed Full Commission minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills Paid:** Moved by LaFave, supported by Bonovetz to approve the bills from March 1 – May 31, 2020, totaling \$112,990.81. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, LaFave, Sullivan, Bonovetz, Lampinen, Tikkanen, Broemer, Gayk, Lorensen, Koskela. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Public Appearances:** Joe Verlin

**Audit Report from Joe Verlin, Gabridge & Co.:** Joe Verlin thanked the board for allowing Gabridge & Company to complete the audit. He reported that WUPPDR received a clean opinion, which is the highest level of opinion they can provide. WUPPDR is doing everything right regarding financial reporting and recording. Verlin reviewed and explained several areas in the audit, mostly pertaining to MERS liabilities. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the Gabridge & Company WUPPDR audit report. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, LaFave, Lampinen, Tikkanen, Broemer, Gayk, Lorensen, Koskela. **Nays:** None. Motion carried. Sullivan departed before vote.


**Personnel Policy Amendment:** Recommended for approval from the Executive Committee. Moved by Tikkanen, supported by Rolof to adopt the personnel policy amendment as presented. Motion carried.

**Bylaws Amendment:** Wuorenmaa stated the Bylaws have been out of date for a while and explained the numerous proposed revisions. The Executive Committee recommended to not include certain revisions regarding apportionments and financial contributions but to make these items into separate documents. Wuorenmaa will make those changes. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Gayk to approve the amendments to the new bylaws as presented, except to remove those two sections referring to dues/costs; to provide for four full commission meetings and eight executive committee meetings per year; and to add the word "insurance" after the word "bonded." Motion carried.

**COVID-19 Response: EDA CARES Funding:** Wuorenmaa stated WUPPDR has been allocated \$400,000 over a two-year period through an application to US EDA, without a local match requirement. A more detailed plan will need to be submitted once the funding is closer to being received. Although Iron county is not a member currently, this program is intended for the six county federally designated district, which Iron county is still part of; since this is a federal grant that does not require local match, Iron county will be included in this process to some extent.

**Other Business:** Hyttinen reminded the commission about considering Chiantello award candidates.

**Adjourn:** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Tikkanen that the meeting adjourn at 6:04 PM (ET) Motion carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Rolof, Secretary