

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

September 21, 2020

5:00 PM (EDT)

Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

Members Present:

Tom Tikkanen, Alternate (Houghton County)
Joe Bonovetz, 2nd Vice Chairperson (Gogebic County)
Bill Rolof, Secretary (Baraga County)
Sandra Gayk (Keweenaw County)
Marlene Broemer (Ontonagon County)
Michael Koskinen, Baraga County
John Sullivan (City of Houghton)
Cheri Lampinen (Houghton County)
Jeff Ratcliff (KEDA)
Glenn Anderson, City of Hancock
Mary Babcock, City of Hancock
Bruce Petersen, Portage Township
Mary Sears, Franklin Township

Members Absent:

Mark Aho, Keweenaw County
Ron Blau, City of Hancock
Josh Loukus, Houghton County
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Joe Erickson, Village of Ontonagon
Robert Nousiainen, 1st V.C. (Ontonagon County)
James Vivian, Jr., Keweenaw County
Tony Smydra, Village of Ontonagon

WUPPDR Staff Present:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager

Call to Order: Tom Tikkanen, alternate for Houghton County, called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM (EDT)

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

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

Approval of Minutes - (June 23, 2020 Full Commission): Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Sullivan to approve the June 23, 2020 Full Commission minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills Paid: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Gayk to approve the Executive Committees recommendation to accept the paid bills from August 1 – August 31, 2020, totaling \$30,975.54. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** Rolof, Sullivan, Bonovetz, Lampinen, Anderson, Babcock, Peterson, Broemer, Sears, Gayk, Tikkanen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: None.

Executive Director's Report: Wuorenmaa presented a PowerPoint on WUPPDR's past year major accomplishments, including:

- Secured EDA funding of \$400,000 over a 2-year period from the EDA CARES Act to development and start implementing a Pandemic Response and Resiliency plan
- Assisted the City of Hancock and Houghton with EDA Infrastructure grant applications
- Hazard mitigation plans awaiting review
- Assisted with U.P.-level review and selection for small business and relief plans
- Three new CDBG administration projects
- Completed the Master plan for Wakefield
- EDA CARES grant started in July 2020
- Updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan

- Ongoing focus on electrical energy
- Ongoing focus on food systems
- Ongoing focus on resiliency
- Wrap-up of Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI)

New projects in FY20-21

- Reinvigorate the Copper Country Trail National Byway
- Materials management planning
- Jails – trying to find funding
- Partnerships with KBIC

Internal Matters

- Redesign of WUPPDR website and logo
- Possible new FT Economic Development Planner later in FY2021

Moved by Peterson, supported by Rolof to accept the Executive Director's report. Motion carried.

MERS:

- Funding Control Agreement – Wuorenmaa reminded everyone that this agreement requires WUPPDR to always be 100% funded. Payments will be made on a flat rate basis instead of the current percentage of payroll due to WUPPDR switching over from a Defined Benefit plan to a Defined Contribution plan for new employees. WUPPDR will also be making additional payments to keep up the 100% funding. No action required.
- Amendment to DC Adoption Agreement - Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Broemer to adopt the amended contribution plan agreement, and authorized the proper signatures. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Rolof, Sullivan, Bonovetz, Lampinen, Anderson, Babcock, Peterson, Broemer, Sears, Gayk, Tikkanen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

FY2020 Final Budget Amendment: Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Babcock to accept the FY2020 Final Budget Amendment. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Rolof, Sullivan, Bonovetz, Lampinen, Anderson, Babcock, Peterson, Broemer, Sears, Gayk, Tikkanen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

FY2021 General Appropriations Act (Original Budget): Moved by Sullivan, supported by Broemer to accept the FY2021 budget along with the recommendations for the salary adjustments. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sullivan, Broemer, Rolof, Lampinen, Bonovetz, Anderson, Babcock, Peterson, Sears, Gayk, Tikkanen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of KEDA Contract for EDO Services: Moved by Anderson, supported by Bonovetz to approve the KEDA Contract for EDO Services. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Anderson, Bonovetz, Rolof, Sullivan, Lampinen, Babcock, Peterson, Broemer, Sears, Gayk, Tikkanen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Amendment to MDOT Master Agreement: Moved by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to adopt the Amendment to MDOT Master Agreement. Motion carried.

Chiantello Award (Postponed): Broemer reported that Nousiainen has a nominee from Ontonagon. Bonovetz stated there is another nomination from Baraga and the Executive Committee has proposed the December meeting for presentation of the award.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Moved by Anderson, supported by Rolof that the meeting adjourn at 5:59 PM (ET). Motion carried.

Bill Rolof, Secretary