

**U.P. RC&D Council Minutes**  
**UP RC&D Council Annual Meeting – December 12, 2014**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Larson-Baraga Conservation District, Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Howard Haulotte-Delta CD, Teri Grout-Alger CD, Nathan Fazer-EUPRPDC, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

**Board Members Absent:** Bob Black-Iron County. Ken Marshall resigned from the UP RC&D Council board by submitting a written letter of resignation on November 7, 2014. His last day as a board member was December 1, 2014. Ken has left the area to take a new job in Idaho.

**Others Present:** Dan Watt-UP RC&D Council assistant, Jen Ricker-Iron CD (by phone), Ally Dale, Renee Leow, and Leah Kainulainen-Marquette CD, and Jim Hill-Mackinac County Commission.

**Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:33 am by Chairman Larson. Member and visitor introductions were made.

**Approval of the Agenda:** A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Grout to approve the agenda with the addition of "Office Lease Renewal" under Business Items. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:** Grout made a motion, seconded by Haulotte to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 3, 2014. Motion passed.

**Financial Report:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for November 30, 2014 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014. The combined balance in all accounts as of November 30, 2014 was \$12,333.15. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2014 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances. ED noted that she made a payment request to the NFWF to reimburse the UP RC&D for project expenses totaling \$38,936.55 and the Council's financial position will be improved when that payment is received. A motion was made by Grout, seconded by Fazer to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

**Business Items:**

**Board Member Elections:** The new bylaws specify that there be 7, 9 or 11 board members and that the 3 year terms be staggered in such a manner that approximately one-third of the terms expire each year. Since this is the first election under the new bylaws, elections were for 1, 2 and 3 year terms in order to put that structure in place.

Chairman Larson opened nominations for board positions and Renee Leow nominated the following slate of candidates for board positions, and these nominations were seconded by Teri Grout:

3 year terms - Teri Grout and Bill Rice

2 year terms – Jen Ricker

1 year terms – Nathan Fazer, Howard Haulotte, and Ally Dale

Chairman Larson asked two more times if there were any additional nominations and there were none. Larson asked for a vote of all those in favor of electing the above slate of candidates, and there was unanimous support. Motion passed. Since bylaws state that there be at least 7 members, but there were no additional members present who were willing to run for office, it was noted that the chairperson will have

to appoint a seventh member when a willing candidate becomes available.

Chairman Larson opened nominations for officer positions which it was noted are two year terms per the new bylaws.

Howard Haulotte nominated Teri Grout for chairperson, and Renee Leow seconded the nomination. Larson asked for additional nominations for chairperson two more times and there were none. Haulotte made a motion to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Grout. The motion was seconded by Rice. Motion passed.

Teri Grout nominated Nathan Fazer for vice-chairperson, and Renee Leow seconded the nomination. Larson asked for additional nominations for vice-chairperson two more times and there were none. Haulotte made a motion to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Fazer, seconded by Grout. Motion passed.

Howard Haulotte nominated Ally Dale for secretary/treasurer, and Teri Grout seconded the nomination. Larson asked for additional nominations for secretary/treasurer two more times and there were none. Haulotte made a motion to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Dale. The motion was seconded by Grout. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Fazer, seconded by Grout that the Chairperson and secretary/treasurer will have check signing authority, in addition to the Executive Director. Motion passed.

**Set 2015 Meeting Dates:** Tentative meeting dates for 2015 are March 13, June 5, September 11, and December 4. These dates will be posted on the Council website.

**FY2015 Draft Budget:** Ex. Director presented the 2015 unrestricted finances draft budget (did not include any grant project income and expenses). Fazer noted that he might be willing to help develop a new website which might save website server fees, but it was decided not to adjust that item in the budget. Grout made a motion to approve the FY2015 unrestricted budget which was seconded by Fazer. Motion passed.

**AmeriCorps Member Update:** The UP RC&D applied to be a host site for a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member for 2015 and was successful in securing that. We are responsible for paying a \$7000 stipend which can be covered with grant funds if the member is accomplishing grant deliverables. ED reported that she and the former AmeriCorps member, Dan Watt, evaluated 43 applications for the AmeriCorps position at the UP RC&D and chose Quinn Collins as the new member. Quinn served as an AmeriCorps member this past field season in Nevada working on invasive plants and was a certified pesticide applicator in Nevada. He starts his new position here at our office on January 12, 2015.

**New RC&D Dues Structure Discussion:** Fazer and Grout presented 3 potential dues structures to the members present (see attached). Haulotte made a motion which was seconded by Fazer to accept Model #2 with the 3 additional individual dues categories incorporated into it. Grout made a motion to amend Haulotte's motion to accept Model #2 with one change – to change the dues for EDA/Regional Planning Organizations to \$50. Her motion was seconded by Leow. Grout's motion passed.

**Office Lease Renewal:** The current lease for our office space expires at the end of December 2014. Haulotte made a motion, seconded by Grout to renew the lease for 6 more months. Motion passed.

**UPDATE ON GRANT APPLICATIONS: Current grant applications are listed below**

NFWF Pulling Together-Upper Peninsula Invasives Council: Building Sustainability

Requested \$75,000 Match Commitment \$80,000

Partners – All 5 UP CISMAs Announcement Date: 12/15/14

EPA GLRI Inv. Species Grants-Phragmites Prevention & Control Coalition of Michigan's UP

Requested \$973,922 Match Commitment-None

Partners – CLMCD, Alger CD, Menominee CD, Dickinson CD, Schoolcraft CD, Delta CD, MNFI

Announcement Date: October 2014 (not announced yet)

MISGP – Upper Peninsula Phragmites Coalition

Requested \$173,200 Match Commitment \$116,700

Partners – CLMCD, Alger CD, Menominee CD, Dickinson CD, MNFI

Announcement Date: February 15, 2015

**PROJECT UPDATES:** ED provided a handout on current and recently completed projects which provided a summary of activities and accomplishments. She also provided information about the amount of grant funds which have been passed through to sub-awardees (mainly UP conservation districts) and contractors which were doing work in various UP Counties as part of grant-funded projects. Handouts are attached.

**Correspondence:** Copies of correspondence from Steury Renewable Energy were distributed to those in attendance.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Haulotte, seconded by Grout to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 pm. Motion passed.

**Future 2015 Meeting Dates:** **March 13 (teleconference)**  
**June 5 (UP RC&D Office)**  
**September 11 (teleconference)**  
**December 4 (UP RC&D Office)**

**Draft - UPRC&D Membership Dues Policy**

**Question 1 : Who other than Counties and CDs were formerly charged dues?**

**Question 2: What's your perception as to how much those other entities have available to spend?**

**Question 3: What's estimated cost of administering each member?**

**Question 4: What perks/perceived perks do members get?**

**Question 5: What outreach can be done quickly and cheaply to attract potential members?**

**Question 5.a: ...or should we just set the levels and members sign up or not?**

**Model 1-Reasoning: County and CD are at current/former levels. Others are reasonable entry levels.**

Member Type	Annual Dues	Vote?	Representation
County	\$350	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Conservation District	\$25	y	1 member, 1 alternate
State Agency or Dept	\$50	y	1 member
Federal Agency or Dept	\$50	y	1 member
Tribal Govt	\$50	y	1 member
Private Business	\$50	y	1 member
NFP Organization	\$25	y	1 member
University	\$50	y	1 member
EDA/Regional Planning org	\$50	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Individual	\$25	y	1 member

**Model 2-Reasoning: County dues increased in 2014, but CD and other dues haven't increased in years.**

**Other dues seem to be reasonable entry levels and would better cover the cost of administration.**

Member Type	Annual Dues	Vote?	Representation
County	\$350	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Conservation District	\$50	y	1 member, 1 alternate
State Agency or Dept	\$50	y	1 member
Federal Agency or Dept	\$50	y	1 member
Tribal Govt	\$50	y	1 member
Private Business	\$50	y	1 member
NFP Organization	\$50	y	1 member
University	\$50	y	1 member
EDA/Regional Planning org	\$100	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Individual	\$25	y	1 member

**Model 3-Reasoning: Let's make entry level participation really cheap.**

Use more aggressive marketing (to the extent we can) to try to motivate member signups.

**If it works, look at raising dues once they're hooked.**

Member Type	Annual Dues	Vote?	Representation
County	\$350	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Conservation District	\$25	y	1 member, 1 alternate
State Agency or Dept	\$25	y	1 member
Federal Agency or Dept	\$25	y	1 member
Tribal Govt	\$25	y	1 member
Private Business	\$25	y	1 member
NFP Organization	\$25	y	1 member
University	\$25	y	1 member
EDA/Regional Planning org	\$25	y	1 member, 1 alternate
Individual	\$10	y	1 member

**Individual/Landowner- add some individual dues categories which allow greater support**

**These categories could be added to any of the models and be tiered:**

Supporting	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Lifetime	\$500

## Summary of UP RC&D Council Grant-funded Projects 2012 through 2016

**Total grant funds awarded: \$1,812,626**

**Total match funds committed: \$2,815,578**

Following is a list of UP RC&D Council current and recently-completed federal grants:

**Project Title:** Michigan Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III

**Project ID:** F14AP00476

**Project Dates:** June 26, 2014 to June 26, 2016

**Funding Source:** FWS-Division of Bird Habitat & Conservation

**Original Source of Funds:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Wetlands Conservation Act

**Funding Award:** \$1,000,000

**Matching Funds:** \$2,192,769

**Project Description:** UP RC&D Council will work with partners to protect 2,272 acres and enhance 1,455 acres, including 2,143 acres of wetland habitat for breeding and migratory birds and other wildlife species. The project will also secure about 13 miles of riparian waterways and protect eight miles of migration and breeding habitats along beaches, lakeshores, islands and Great Lakes shoreline. Partners include Ducks Unlimited, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Nature Association, Raber Area Sportsmen's Club, the Sault Area Sportsmen's Club, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, The Nature Conservancy and private landowners. This project targets habitat gaps on an otherwise well-protected landscape and addresses specific habitat management limitations to maintain long-term management at the two most productive examples of intensively managed wetland complexes in the UP. The Michigan DNR and Ducks Unlimited will work together to improve water level management at the Munuscong State Wildlife Management Area in Chippewa County, and the Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Area in Houghton County, enhancing over 1,400 acres of habitat for migrating waterfowl, outdoor recreationists and hunters.

**Project Title:** Invasive Phragmites Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

**Project ID:** 0501.12.031527

**Project Dates:** February 15, 2011 to December 31, 2014 (extended end date to December 31, 2015)

**Funding Source:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes

**Original Source of Funds:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FC.R171), CFDA #15.662

**Funding Award:** \$458,160

**Matching Funds:** \$271,038 (\$268,838 non-federal, \$2,200 federal)

**Project Description:** Work with partners to control invasive phragmites to restore and enhance 400 acres of coastal shoreline and wetlands in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The UP RC&D Council is currently managing this project that encompasses the 15-county area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (one-third the area of the state of Michigan). We are working with many partners to map all the non-native phragmites infestations, prioritize the outlying infestations and infestations in close proximity to rare species and communities, and treat a minimum of 400 acres of non-native phragmites for two consecutive years. Treatment of priority infestations will be conducted in September 2013 and September 2014. The Project Coordinator is working with a steering team composed of personnel from The Nature Conservancy of Michigan, MDNR, MI Natural Features Inventory, MDEQ/Office of the Great Lakes, Huron Pines, Wisconsin DNR, Hiawatha National Forest, and several UP conservation districts. Their expertise and experience being involved with all other large-scale phragmites control projects in the Upper Great Lakes region has been invaluable. They are providing a linkage between our project and other basin-wide strategies to control invasive species. We are also working with MDOT, all five of the Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the UP, several tribes, other state and federal agencies, and local units of government.

**Project Title:** Eradication of Garlic Mustard in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

**Project ID:** 2011-0057-018

**Project Dates:** January 1, 2011 to October 1, 2013

**Funding Source:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes

**Original Source of Funds:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FR.2466), CFDA #15.662

**Funding Award:** \$150,000

**Matching Funds:** \$150,305 non-federal match

**Project Description:** Worked with partners to remove invasive garlic mustard from 478 acres as part of a long-term strategy to eliminate it from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The UP RC&D Council recently completed this project that encompassed the 15-county area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The project coordinator was guided by a steering team of experts from local conservation districts, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations who provided expertise to the project and local knowledge of the garlic mustard problem. We have mapped all of the garlic mustard which has been reported, and successfully treated over 478 acres by coordinating the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who hand-pulled more than 37,000 pounds of garlic mustard in 2012 and again in 2013. Working with these partners we developed strategies for continuing the efforts after the grant funding ended by recruiting dedicated landowners and more than 200 volunteers who have taken responsibility for these infestations and are committed to continuing efforts until the seedbank is exhausted. We conducted 22 educational workshops to inform the public about this invasive plant problem.

**Project Title:** Sustainable Invasive Plant Collaboration in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

**Project ID:** 1701.12.032804

**Project Dates:** May 18, 2011 to December 31, 2014

**Funding Source:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Pulling Together Grant

**Original Source of Funds:** U.S. Forest Service (FA.A058) CFDA # 10.683

**Funding Award:** \$54,466

**Matching Funds:** \$51,466 non-federal match

**Project Description:** Expand collaboration around invasive species education and management among five Cooperative Species Management Areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Northeast Wisconsin. Project will increase the capacity of two Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the western Upper Peninsula. The UP RC&D Council is managing a collaborative effort between all five Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This funding provides resources to continue to sponsor a regional invasive plant conference for two more years. This conference has been taking place for three years and provides educational and networking opportunities for partners from the upper great lakes region. The funding is also being utilized to provide a shared website and quarterly newsletter for all five CWMA's, a weed crew for the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) and a Coordinator for the Western Peninsula Invasives Coalition (WePIC). The project is on track to be completed on time and all financial and programmatic reports have been completed on time.

**Project Title:** Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team for the UP (RRIP-IT-UP)

**Project ID:** 2010-0074-012

**Project Dates:** February 15, 2011 to December 31, 2014

**Funding Source:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes

**Original Source of Funds:** EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service

**Funding Award:** \$150,000

**Matching Funds:** \$150,000 non-federal

**Project Description:** The Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council worked with partners to establish an area-wide network for the purpose of identification, monitoring and managing invasive plants. RRIP-IT-UP (Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team in the Upper Peninsula) brought together more than 110 partners that were collectively able to educate the public about the invasive plant problems in our region and begin to treat the priority invasions in each county. Through this partnership more than 1600 acres of invasive plant infestations were treated, and more than 2200 volunteers were recruited and trained. A Rapid Response Invasive Plant Team was established in each county in the Upper Peninsula providing early detection and rapid response capabilities. Thousands of residents have been exposed to the invasive plant problem, and opportunities to improve it through public outreach events and activities. This project demonstrated that collaboration is truly the key to success when dealing with invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries. A 3-month extension was requested early in the two-year project time period and that deadline was met. All programmatic and financial reports were filed in a timely manner.

## Grant funds passed through to partners during the period 6/17/12 to 12/12/14

<u>Subcontractor Name</u>	<u>Type of Work Performed</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Alger Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	29,752
Baraga Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	1,000
Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac CD	Outreach, invasive mapping, manual and chemical control	56,747
Delta Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	10,000
Dickinson Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	14,569
Gogebic Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	2,200
Houghton/Keweenaw CD	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	2,000
Iron Conservation District	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	17,000
Marquette County CD	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	12,500
Menominee Conservation Dist.	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	1,000
Michigan Natural Features Inventory	Provide Invasive Plant Expertise about T&E species	23,400
Wintergreen Farm	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	1,500
Map Generations/Jill VanderMeer	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	7,260
Janet Marr	Outreach, invasive plant mapping & manual control	4,680
Clean Kill Pest Control, Inc.	Herbicide treatments of invasive plants	<u>150,631</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$334,239</b>

The Clean Kill funds have been almost totally invested in spraying and mowing non-native phragmites in Delta and Menominee Counties. Dividing those payments proportionately between the counties based on number of acres treated, the investments break down this way:

Delta County Phrag Treatments = \$67,784 and Menominee County Phrag Treatments = \$82,847

Also, grant funds purchased many supplies for these projects which were provided to the project partners, such as \$600 display boards and \$300-400 GPS units purchased for 4 CDs for garlic mustard work, \$430 brush hog to CLMCD for cutting phrag, \$1500 worth of garlic mustard brochures and doorhangers shared by garlic mustard partners, and 18 garlic mustard bootbrush stations installed by partners across the UP and northern Wisconsin (\$450 each).