

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Annual Meeting – December 6, 2019
Peter White Public Library

Board Members and Staff Participating in Meeting: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator, Teri Grout-Alger CD and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Board Members Participating by Teleconference: Howard Haulotte-Delta County Citizen and Renee Leow-Marquette County Citizen

Others Participating in Person or by Teleconference: Erin Carter-MSU Extension, Scott Erbsich-Marquette County Administrator, Bernie Lang-Menominee County Board of Commissioners, Gretchen Janssen-Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Chairperson Rice.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by German, supported by Grout to approve the agenda with no changes. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Grout, supported by German to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of September 6, 2019 with one change – Chairman Rice participated by phone, not in person. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2019 and the Profit and Loss statements for the period January 1, 2014 through November 30, 2019 and for the January through November 30, 2019 period. The combined balance in all accounts as of November 30, 2019 was \$92,086.88. ED pointed out that an advance payment for our new MISG Phragmites grant was received and the remaining portion of that advance is \$15,628.56. Those funds will be spent down and documented before we can request another advance. She also noted that she will be making a payment reimbursement request for the USFS grant which will increase the balance by \$5537. She reviewed the multi-year P&L which provides a more accurate picture of income and expenditures for many of the grant-funded projects which are multi-year in nature. A motion was made by Grout, supported by German to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

Board Member Elections: The terms of two current board members, Renee Leow and Jen Ricker, are expiring at this time. Ricker is willing to stand for election to another 3-year term and Leow is willing to stand for re-election for another 1-year term. Erin Carter is willing to stand for election for a 3-year term as well. Grout made a motion to nominate that slate of candidates, and the motion was supported by German. Motion passed unanimously. Board members and the expiration dates of their terms are:

Expiring at the Annual Meeting in December 2020: Bill Rice, Jim German, and Renee Leow

Expiring at the Annual Meeting in December 2021: John Malnar, Howard Haulotte and Teri Grout

Expiring at the Annual Meeting in December 2022: Jen Ricker and Erin Carter

Set 2020 Meeting Dates: Meeting dates for 2020 were set for March 6 (teleconference), June 5 (UPRCO office), September 11 (teleconference), and December 4 (Annual meeting and elections, UPRCO office).

Project Updates: ED provided an update on all current projects and fund balances as of November 30, 2019. See below.

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS AND PROJECT FUNDS

USFS Ottawa NF Agreement for Invasive Species Work in KISMA

Agreement Amount \$23,000 Match Commitment \$5,750 non-federal match

Project Dates: March 2015 – 5-year agreement, anticipate spending down all remaining funds in 2019

Partners – Ottawa NF and all KISMA partners

Project completed, final payment received, and match commitment met

NAWCA Michigan Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III

Received \$1 Million

Match Commitment \$2.2 Million

Project Dates: June 26, 2014 to December 26, 2019 (Requested Extension to March 26, 2020)

Multiple Partners

Remaining funds \$143,231

Goal – conserve and restore migratory bird habitat; requested extension has been verbally approved

MISGP – Upper Peninsula Phragmites Coalition

Requested \$210,282 Match Commitment \$246,708 (all match from current EPA/GLRI grant)

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

Project Dates: March 11, 2016 to December 31, 2018

Project completed, final payment received

USFS Hiawatha NF Agreement for Phragmites Management

Agreement Amount \$59,700

Match Commitment \$15,000

Project Dates: April 4, 2017 to December 31, 2020

Partners – Hiawatha NF and UP Phragmites Coalition Partners

Remaining funds \$41,094

Goal – manage phragmites on/near Hiawatha NF land; not much accomplished to date because waiting for NEPA completion and approval which came in mid-Sept. 2019. Planning for treatments in 2020.

MISGP – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration and Landowner Stewardship

Agreement Amount \$191,600

Match Commitment \$21,800

Project Dates: March 2019 to March 31, 2021

Partners – Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, and Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation Districts and their associated CISMAs

Remaining funds \$140,928

Goal – continue EDRR for phragmites and implement landowner cost-share program to sustain accomplishments to date. Educate landowners about secondary invasive species which are present following phragmites treatment. Sub-awards of \$37,000 to ACD, MCCD, DCD and \$5012 to CLMCD.

NFWF SOGL – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin

Agreement Amount \$150,000

Match Commitment \$150,000 (match from MISGP Phragmites Grant)

Project Dates: August 2019 to December 31, 2021

Partners - Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, & Chippewa Luce Mackinac CDs, GLIFWC, WIDNR, Marinette Co.

Remaining funds \$149,900

Goal – continue phragmites management in the UP through 2021 and expand EDRR and cost-share model in 3 WRISC counties of WI. Protect success in Menominee County from re-infestation from Marinette County, WI. Additional \$18,000 in sub-awards to ACD and MCCD, and \$37,000 to DCD (more because of WI work).

Discuss Future Direction for UPRCD & Process for Replacing Ex. Dir. In 2020: ED presented a brief synopsis of the UPRCD which detailed the separation from NRCS/federal Coordinator model to non-profit, completely grant-funded model. She also presented a break-down of previous year deficits and build-up of savings from indirect funds since 2015. A summary of the current grant funds available for a new ED for 2020 was also given. She feels that the new ED will need to have grant-writing skills and support themselves and potentially additional employees through future grants. She reminded the Council members that the location of the UPRCD office does not need to stay in Marquette and the focus does not need to remain on invasive species.

Erin Carter suggested a potential collaboration between MSUE and UPRCD. She mentioned that MSU is working to form collaborative employment positions with other entities, and this could be a possibility. The board decided that Darcy, Teri Grout, Bill Rice and Erin Carter will meet to discuss this potential collaboration and then report back to the board.

Discuss Office Lease: The current office lease expires on December 31, 2019. A motion was made by Grout, supported by Leow to renew the lease for another 6 months. Motion passed.

Public Comment/Partner Updates: None

Future Meeting Dates: March 6 (teleconference), June 5 (UPRCD office), September 11 (teleconference), and December 4 (UPRCD office)

Adjournment: Motion was made by Grout, supported by German to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm. Motion passed.