

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Meeting – June 17, 2016

Board Members Present: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Jen Ricker (teleconference)-Iron CD, Rudy Johnson(teleconference)-Chippewa County Bd of Commissioners, Renee Leow – Marquette County Conservation District, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Others Present: Bernie Lang-Menominee County Board of Commissioners (teleconference), John Malnar-Delta County Board of Commissioners, and Joe Bonovetz-Gogebic County Board of Commissioners

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Chairman Bill Rice.

Approval of Agenda: Malnar made a motion to accept the agenda, Leow supported the motion which passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Malnar to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2016, supported by Leow. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for May 31, 2016 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through May 31, 2016. The combined balance in all accounts as of May 31, 2016 was \$79,229.32. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2014 through May 31, 2016 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances. ED reported that the Council received an advance payment of \$52,570.50 which is 25% of the new Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program grant award that was received and that is why the bank balances are much higher than they were at the last meeting. ED reported that an automatic extension was filed for the 990 and it is due on August 15, 2016. A motion was made by Leow, supported by Malnar to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

County Dues Update: ED reported that 8 counties paid dues so far in 2016 (no dues from Schoolcraft, Luce, Ontonagon, Dickinson, Mackinac, Baraga and Keweenaw). Delta County also paid \$350 to cover their 2015 dues. ED will send a reminder to those counties that have not paid. County dues is one of the only sources of unrestricted funds available to the UPRC&D.

Lease Renewal for Office: Malnar made a motion to approve renewing the lease for the office space with the UP Children’s Museum for 12 months. Motion was supported by Leow. Motion passed.

Staff Update: UP RC& D currently has 5 employees (ED, 1 FT Regional Project Manager, 1 HT Regional Project Manager, 1 FT seasonal Invasive Species Technician, and 1 FT Invasive Species Program Manager (1 year grant-funded appointment)). All employees are grant-funded. Several employees are in the field most days, but when all are in the office, there is not sufficient space and we frequently utilize the conference room during those times. In addition to these employees, we have a full-time AmeriCorps member serving at our site.

2016 AmeriCorps Member Update: Casey Ford submitted a written report which the ED presented. She has been busy with database entry, UPIC eNews (electronic newsletter for UP CISMAs), attending township, county and CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) meetings, conducting phragmites surveys, studying for and passing the Michigan pesticide applicator exam, invasive species control activities, and stream monitoring. She also spent a week teaching over 200 Marquette 7th graders about invasive species and pond ecology at the Bothwell Science Camp at Bay Cliff. She has also been participating in required trainings and service projects at Huron Pines.

Update on Grant Awards & Grant-funded Projects: ED provided a summary of all current grant-funded project activities including the new Michigan Invasive Species Grant Project which will help fund our current UP Phragmites Coalition through 2017. Prior to receipt of this grant, the phragmites project funding was scheduled to end in December 2016. The UP RC&D is currently managing projects valued at \$2,273,204. Many of these grants support CDs through sub-awards and the CDs are key partners in implementing the projects in their counties.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Leow made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 am, supported by Bonovetz. Motion passed.

Future 2016 Meeting Dates: September 9 (teleconference), December 2 (UP RC&D office), all at 10 am Eastern time.

I certify that these meeting minutes have been approved by a majority of the UP RC&D Council Board members:

Renee Leow, UP RC&D Council Secretary/Treasurer

Date