

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Meeting – June 2, 2017

Board Members Present: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, John Malnar-Delta County Citizen, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Board Members Participating by Teleconference: Leow–Marquette County Citizen

Others Present or participating by teleconference: Jim Finley-Gogebic County Board of Commissioners and Conservation District; Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator; Teri Grout-Alger Conservation District and UPRCD staff; Rachel Guth and Bernie Huetter-Marquette County Conservation District; and Theresa Nelson-Delta 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 with no changes, 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 3, 2017, supported by Leow. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for May 26, 2017 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through May 26, 2017. The combined balance in all accounts as of May 26, 2017 was \$84,065.63. A motion was made by Malnar, supported by Leow to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed. ED reported that we received an automatic extension for filing our 2016 990 to August 15, 2017. However, Gloria LaPointe from Cowell and LaPointe is currently preparing the 990 and assisted with some Quickbooks accounting questions she had.

Business Items:

Council Member Resignation: Kristina Denison submitted a formal letter of resignation effective May 29, 2017. She has moved to Minnesota to accept a new job and no longer feels she has the time or capacity to fulfill her board member duties. Jim German, the Chippewa County Administrator, expressed interest in being appointed to fill the remainder of her position which ends at the Annual Meeting where elections will take place in December 2017. Chairman Rice appointed Jim German to fulfill the remainder of this board member term.

Approve Renewal of Office Lease: The rental agreement for our office space with the UP Children's Museum expires on June 30, 2017. The Children's Museum has informed all their tenants that they will be increasing their rent by 2% effective with any renewals. Our new monthly rent will be \$228.48 (an increase of \$4.48/month). A motion was made by Malnar, seconded by Leow to approve renewal of the lease for 1 year. Motion passed.

Update on Council Employees: In addition to the Executive Director, the Council currently employs 1 full-time (Jason Schnorr) and 1 half-time (Teri Grout) Regional Project Coordinators. We also employ 1 full-time Lead Invasive Species Technician (Christy Burkhart), and one 30 hr/wk seasonal field technician (Hunter Bultema). All those employee positions are currently funded by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding from the EPA through our phragmites grant.

County Dues Update: County dues request letters and invoices were mailed January 10, 2017. So far we have received dues payments from 12 counties including Delta, Keweenaw, Menominee, Chippewa, Mackinac, Marquette, Houghton, Alger, Gogebic, Baraga, Iron and Schoolcraft. The ED does not anticipate payments from any additional counties.

Potential Grant Applications: The Alger CD applied for an EPA invasive species grant in January which if awarded would continue to fund our UP Phragmites Coalition for two more years. This grant would fund the same project team and also has sub-awards for Three Shores Cisma and WRISC to conduct some of the project deliverables. We are currently working on two pre-proposals to submit to the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program which are due June 13, 2017. These pre-proposals will be submitted by CUPCWMA and WRISC and if funded, will help fulfill the deliverable in our current EPA grant to find local entities which will continue phragmites stewardship activities after our current grant funding ends.

Update on Current Projects: ED provided a summary of all current grant-funded project activities.

Public Comment: Jim Finley reported that last fall the Gogebic CD received 2 RAC grants for invasive species work in that county. One project is allowing them to continue their garlic mustard control program and so far they have conducted control activities at 40 different sites (about half with manual control and the other half with herbicide management). They have treated about 25 acres. The second project will help them raise public awareness about invasive species and conduct some eradication using volunteers near the new Iron Belle trail.

John Malnar suggested some new groups which we might try to engage with to help educate them about phragmites such as UP Whitetails (which serves the entire UP), and Wildlife Unlimited (which serves Delta County). He also mentioned that the Logging Congress is being held in Escanaba in September and it might be an opportunity to get our message out to loggers.

Correspondence: Resignation letter from Kristina Denison was emailed to all members.

Adjournment: Malnar made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 am, supported by Leow. Motion passed.

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