

**U.P. RC&D Council Minutes**  
**UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – March 13, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Ally Dale-Marquette CD, Jen Ricker-Iron CD, Nathan Fazer-EUP Planning, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

**Board Members Absent:** Howard Haulotte-Delta CD

**Others Present:** Teri Grout-Alger CD, Quinn Collins - UP RC&D AmeriCorps Member, Ann Hruska-Dickinson CD, Diane and Rory Mattson-Delta CD, Mike Hickey-Schoolcraft CD, Bob Black-Iron County, and Erik Powers-WUPPDR.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Vice-Chairperson Fazer.

**Approval of Agenda:** Rice made a motion to accept the agenda with two additions – 1) Elect new chairperson due to resignation of Teri Grout, and 2) Approve USFS Cooperative Agreement. Dale seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Dale to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2014 and the special meeting of February 6, 2015 was seconded by Ricker. Motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for February 28, 2015 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through February 28, 2015. The combined balance in all accounts as of February 28, 2015 was \$24,392.82. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2012 through March 5, 2015 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances. ED noted that when all grant expenses have been reimbursed the balance will be improved by \$13,739. A motion was made by Dale, seconded by Ricker to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

**Business Items:**

**Board Member Resignation/Elect New Chairperson:** UP RC&D Council chairwoman, Teri Grout, submitted a letter of resignation effective March 4, 2015. Ricker made a motion to accept the letter of resignation, and the motion was seconded by Rice. Motion passed. Dale made a motion to nominate current vice-chairman Nathan Fazer as chairman, and the motion was seconded by Ricker. Motion passed. Dale made a motion to nominate Ricker as vice-chairperson, and the motion was seconded by Rice. Motion passed.

**Approve USFS Cooperative Agreement:** ED has been working with Ian Shackleford, botanist with the Ottawa National Forest, on a budget and cooperative agreement for invasive species work in the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area. The agreement was sent to board members for review in advance of the meeting. The total funding for the agreement is \$23,000 with a \$5,750 in-kind match commitment. Ricker made a motion to approve the agreement and allow the UP RC&D chairman to sign it. Motion was seconded by Dale. Motion passed.

**AmeriCorps Member Introduction & Update:** UP RC&D Council AmeriCorps member, Quinn Collins, could not be at the meeting today as he is working with members of another AmeriCorps team from the Marquette/Alger Regional Education Service Agency. ED is very impressed with his skills and his work ethic.

**County Dues Update:** ED is developing a document summarizing project accomplishments for the past year which will be mailed to counties along with the letter requesting dues. The dues request letter and invoice, along with the Project Update will be mailed around April 1 to counties. Teri Grout and Mike Hickey volunteered to attend a Schoolcraft Co. Board meeting on behalf of UP RC&D to help demonstrate the need for dues and the benefits to Schoolcraft County from grant funds which are passed through or spent in that county. Bob Black and Jen Ricker, will do the same in Iron County, Howard Haulotte will do the same in Delta County, and Nathan Fazer will try to promote UP RC&D in the Eastern UP counties.

**Update on Grant Awards & Grant-funded Projects:**

ED summarized the grant-funding that the UP RC&D has secured for conservation work in the UP over the past 4 years – the grant funds total just under \$2.9 million. She provided brief updates on projects. See summary below for current grant projects.

*NFWF Pulling Together-Upper Peninsula Invasives Council: Building Sustainability*

*Received \$75,000 Match Commitment \$80,000*

*Partners – All 5 UP CISMAs*

*Project Dates: July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2016*

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

*Received \$964,922 Match Commitment-None*

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

*Project Dates: February 23, 2015 to March 31, 2017*

*MISGP – Upper Peninsula Phragmites Coalition*

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

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

*Awarded \$173,200, but declined funding because of duplication with GLRI grant award*

*USFS Ottawa NF Agreement for Invasive Species Work in KISMA*

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

*Anticipate Agreement by end of March 2015 – 5 yr agreement, anticipate spending in 2015 & 2016*

*Partners – Ottawa NF and all KISMA partners*

*NAWCA Michigan Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III*

*Received \$1 Million Match Commitment \$2.2 Million*

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

*Remaining Funds \$807,000*

*NFWF Invasive Phragmites Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*

*Received \$458,160 Match Commitment \$271,038*

*Partners: Same as EPA GLRI grant Project Dates: February 11, 2011 to December 31, 2015*

*Remaining Funds \$100,000*

**Anticipated Hiring Needs & Hiring Process:** UP RC&D Council has funds to hire 5 positions at this time. ED is proposing to hire Teri Grout for a 20 hr/wk position to work as one of the Regional Project Mgrs for the EPA phragmites project. Teri is familiar with the project and was instrumental in putting together the grant proposal. Dale made a motion to hire Grout for this position, and the motion was seconded by Ricker. Motion passed. Dale offered to join the personnel committee and assist ED and new employee Grout with reviewing job descriptions, applications, conducting interviews, and making hiring recommendations for the other positions.

**Correspondence:** The only correspondence was the letter of resignation from Grout which was forwarded to the board at the time it was submitted to ED.

**Adjournment:** Dale made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Fazer. Motion passed.

**Future Meeting Dates:** June 5 (UP RC&D Office), September 11 (teleconference), and December 4 (UP RC&D office). All meetings at 10 am Eastern time.