

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – March 2, 2018

Board Members Present: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Renee Leow-Marquette County Citizen, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Board Members Participating by Teleconference: John Malnar-Delta County Citizen, Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator, and Jen Ricker-Iron/Baraga CD Administrator

Others Present or participating by teleconference: Theresa Nelson-Delta County Board of Commissioners, Linda Lindberg and Mike Zukowski-Iron/Baraga CD, and Jim Finley-Gogebic CD

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

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Malnar, seconded by German to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for February 28, 2018 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through February 28, 2018 and also for January 1, 2015 to February 28, 2018 to provide a broader view of the income and expenses for multi-year grants. The combined balance in all accounts as of February 28, 2018 was \$220,357.78. ED reported that about \$177,000 in funds had been received for the MISGP grant project which will be spent down during 2018 to cover those project expenses. A motion was made by Malnar, seconded by Leow to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

County Dues Update: Dues request letters were sent to counties on January 22, 2018 and to date we have received dues payments from 8 counties including Delta, Menominee, Marquette, Mackinac, Baraga, Chippewa, Houghton, and Alger Counties. Last year we received dues payments from all of these plus from Schoolcraft, Gogebic, Keweenaw, and Iron Counties.

EPA Grant Close-Out: The ED reported that all EPA phragmites grant project expenses must be made and deliverables accomplished by the project end-date of March 30, 2018. We have 90 days following that date to submit all required financial and programmatic reports. The EPA granted UPRCD a budget modification and that will increase the indirect funds which we are allowed to draw down to a total of \$43,128. It is anticipated that some indirect funds will be used to pay some direct expenses (personnel) during the month of March since we have already spent our budgeted amount on some budget categories. ED reported that she anticipates final reports will be completed by the end of March since all project deliverables have now been completed.

Update on Current Projects: ED provided a summary of all current grant-funded project activities. After the EPA GLRI Phragmites project ends on March 30, 2018 all phragmites management activities after that time will be funded by the MISGP grant through December 31, 2018. The KISMA project should be closed out during 2018, and she will request a 1-year extension for the NAWCA project which would make the new end-date June 26, 2019. Just yesterday we received notice that the end-date of the USFS Phragmites Project funding has been extended to December 31, 2020. This was necessary because the Hiawatha NF will not have their NEPA process complete in time to do phragmites treatments during the 2019 field season. It was noted that most of our grants have been from federal agencies and are funded with GLRI funds. Members discussed the need to strategically think about future needs and opportunities that the UP RC&D might take on at a face-to-face meeting sometime in 2018.

Public Comment: Jim Finley reported that the Gogebic CD is completing work on 2 RAC grants they received (continue garlic mustard work, and workshops to increase public awareness on invasive species and help identify high

priority areas with high value invasive species targets. They hope to treat 2-3 properties per year.) They also received \$7,000 from a Joint Chief's award to the Ottawa National Forest as part of their relationship with the PWR partnership which will fund work to do reconnaissance and invasive species control in Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties working closely with their FAP forester.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

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