

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – March 3, 2017

Board Members Present: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Jen Ricker-Iron CD, Howard Haulotte-Delta Conservation District, Renee Leow–Marquette County Citizen, Kristina Denison-Chippewa Luce Mackinac CD, John Malnar-Delta County Citizen, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Others Present: Bernie Lang-Menominee County Board of Commissioners, Jim Finley-Gogebic County Board of Commissioners and Conservation District, Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator, Amanda Nelson-Dickinson Conservation District Administrator, Teri Grout-Alger Conservation District and UPRCD staff, and Christy Burkhart and Jason Schnorr-UPRC&D Council staff

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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 December 8, 2016, supported by Denison. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for February 28, 2017 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through February 28, 2017. The combined balance in all accounts as of February 28, 2017 was \$80,960.12. A motion was made by Malnar, supported by Haulotte to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

County Dues Update: County dues request letters and invoices were mailed January 10, 2017. So far we have received dues payments from 10 counties including Delta, Keweenaw, Menominee, Chippewa, Mackinac, Marquette, Houghton, Alger, Gogebic, and Baraga. We were informed by Bruce Birr, Schoolcraft CD Administrator, that the Schoolcraft Board approved payment of their dues, but to date we have not received that payment.

Summary of Grant Funds Passed Through to Partners: ED provided a written summary which detailed the sub-awards and/or contract awards from grants received by the UPRC&D that have been passed through to conservation district partners and other contractors for the period 6/17/12 to 2/28/17 which totaled \$744,264. The document also showed other forms of assistance such as supplies which have been purchased for CD and Cisma partners and summarized the investments that are being made in conserving migratory bird habitat through the NAWCA project.

New Grants and Grant Applications: The UPRC&D Council will be receiving \$60,000 through an agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest. The agreement is being finalized and requires \$15,000 in non-federal match which will come from our Michigan Invasive Species Phragmites Grant. The USFS funds will be used to survey and manage phragmites in the Hiawatha proclamation boundary. UPRCD is just one of the partners in this project which also includes funding to complete NEPA documentation on the Hiawatha by June 2018. It is anticipated that phrag treatments will be conducted adjacent to USFS lands below the OHWM in 2017, and that after NEPA completion these treatments will be able to be conducted above the OHWM. This is exciting since to date no treatments have been able to be conducted on USFS land in the UP.

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.

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 will allow them to continue their garlic mustard control program and the other project will help them raise public awareness about invasive species and conduct some eradication using volunteers near the new Iron Belle trail.

Kristina Denison reported that today is her last day and she will be leaving the CLMCD for a new job working with the Minnesota DNR. She is willing to stay on the UPRCD board and participate in meetings by teleconference until a replacement can be found for her board position.

Jim German reported that Kristina will be missed in Chippewa County where she has done great work and is well respected. He thanked her for her service to the county.

Teri Grout reported that the Alger CD received a new Michigan Invasive Species grant as the fiduciary agent for CUPCWMA.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Malnar made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 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