

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – May 31, 2019

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

Board Members Participating by Teleconference: Renee Leow-Marquette County Citizen, Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator, Jen Ricker-Iron Baraga County CD, Teri Grout-Alger CD

Others Present or participating by teleconference: Theresa Nelson-Delta County Board of Commissioners, Bernie Lang-Menominee County Board of Commissioners, Bruce Birr-Schoolcraft Co. CD, Jim Finley-Gogebic Co. CD, and Craig Woerpel-WDBC News Director

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

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Haulotte, supported by Malnar to approve the agenda with no additions. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Malnar, supported by Leow to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of March 15, 2019. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for May 24, 2019 and the Profit and Loss statements for the period January 1, 2014 through May 24, 2019 and for the January through May 24, 2019 period. The combined balance in all accounts as of May 24, 2019 was \$145,859.77. ED pointed out that an advance payment for our new MISG Phragmites grant was received and the remaining portion of that advance is \$59,792.50. Those funds will be spent down and documented before we can request another advance. She reviewed the multi-year P&L which provides a more accurate picture of income and expenditures for many of the grant-funded projects which are multi-year in nature. A motion was made by Haulotte, supported by Grout to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

County Dues Update: ED sent requests for county dues to all UP counties on March 19, 2019. To date we have received payments from 12 of the 15 counties. The counties which have not paid dues are Ontonagon, Luce, and Schoolcraft. We have received dues from Schoolcraft County in the recent past (including in 2018). ED will send a reminder email to the county clerk and Bruce Birr from the Schoolcraft County CD plans to attend a county commission meeting and support the dues payment. Jim German will also bring the Luce County dues to the attention of that county commission. ED requested the board make a decision regarding the dues amount for 2020 as she has received a request from one county already to submit the amount for their budgeting purposes. The Council agreed that the dues request would remain at \$350.

Approve Office Lease Renewal: Our office lease expires on June 30, 2019. A motion was made by German, supported by Haulotte, to renew the lease for 6 more months. Motion passed. The rental amount is \$228.48/month which is very affordable for this area. Since all parking in the near vicinity is only 2 hours free (if available spaces), or at meters (\$.50/hour), the Council also covers the ED's parking permit which costs \$25/month.

Conflict of Interest Forms: The UP RC&D Council has a Conflict of Interest Policy which requires board members to state in writing any conflicts on an annual basis. ED distributed forms to board members in attendance and will mail them with return stamped envelopes to the other board members.

Summary of Funds Passed Through to Partners/Contractors: The UP RC&D Council has been working with partner organizations for several years to conduct grant-funded conservation projects. Typically, the Council ED takes the lead in grant-writing (with the assistance of the partners) and is the grant recipient should the proposal be awarded. The Council passes on much of the funding through pre-approved sub-awards (spelled out in the grant proposal) to those partners who in turn carry out many of the grant deliverables. This is a particularly effective model for UP-wide invasive species grants

where the CDs or CISMAs accomplish much of the work in the counties they serve. For the period June 2012 through December 2018 the Council sub-awarded \$457,095 to partners and paid contractors \$552,224 to conduct work (mostly invasive plant treatments). This totals \$1,009,319 invested in UP counties just through sub-awards and contract work. This does not take into account the funds that were also spent on conservation work by the ED/Project Manager and UP Council employees during that time period.

Grant Applications: ED reported that she has submitted the full-proposal for a Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant and is waiting to see if we are successful in receiving funding. This project would cover the time period of August 12, 2019 through March 22, 2022 and would extend our phragmites cost share program in the UP one additional year (2021) and would also allow us to expand our project into the 3 counties in Wisconsin that are part of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition area (Marinette, Florence, and Forest). We applied for \$150,000 and had to provide a 1:1 match. The project would be implemented through sub-awards to the Dickinson, Alger and Marquette County Conservation Districts.

UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS AND 2019 PROJECT FUNDS:

ED provided a summary of all current grant-funded project activities.

USFS Ottawa NF Agreement for Invasive Species Work in KISMA

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

Project Dates: March 2015 – 5 year agreement, anticipate spending down all remaining funds in 2019

Partners – Ottawa NF and all KISMA partners

Remaining funds approximately \$1,137, match commitment has been met

NAWCA Michigan Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III

Received \$1 Million Match Commitment \$2.2 Million

Project Dates: June 26, 2014 to December 26, 2019

Multiple Partners

Remaining funds \$406,050

MISGP – Upper Peninsula Phragmites Coalition

Requested \$210,282 Match Commitment \$246,708 (all match from current EPA/GLRI grant)

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

Project Dates: March 11, 2016 to December 31, 2018

Final Payment of \$20,493 received – project closed out

USFS Hiawatha NF Agreement for Phragmites Management

Agreement Amount \$59,700 Match Commitment \$15,000

Project Dates: April 4, 2017 to December 31, 2020

Partners – Hiawatha NF and UP Phragmites Coalition Partners

Remaining funds \$46,688

MISGP – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration and Landowner Stewardship

Agreement Amount \$191,600 Match Commitment \$21,800

Project Dates: March 2019 to March 31, 2021

Partners – Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, and Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation Districts and their associated CISMAs

Remaining funds \$187,989

Public Comment: Board member Jim German suggested that we make our annual meeting more of a celebration this year and offered to contribute \$100 towards the purchase of refreshments for that meeting. He suggested we try to hold the meeting in a different venue than our conference room.

Future Meeting Dates: September 6 (teleconference), and December 6 (UPRCO office).

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Malnar, supported by Leow to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 am. Motion passed.