

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – October 16, 2015

Board Members Present: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Ally Dale-Marquette CD, Jen Ricker-Iron CD, Howard Haulotte-Delta CD, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Chairman Bill Rice.

Approval of Agenda: Dale made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition under business of “Michigan Invasive Species Grant”. Ricker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Haulotte to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 2015, seconded by Ricker. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for September 30, 2015 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1 through September 30, 2015. The combined balance in all accounts as of September 30, 2015 was \$44,133.80. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2012 through October 12, 2015 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances. A motion was made by Dale, seconded by Haulotte to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

County Dues Update: Letters and invoices requesting dues from the counties were mailed on April 1, 2015 along with a Project Update document for 2014. Dues have been received from 10 counties (Mackinac, Marquette, Chippewa, Keweenaw, Houghton, Baraga, Menominee, Iron, Gogebic, and Alger). Haulotte will follow up on the Delta County dues, and Mike Hickey from Schoolcraft County will check to see why their dues have not been paid (he attended a meeting of the county board where approval for dues payment was made).

Staffing Update: Two seasonal phragmites project field technicians finished working on August 21, and another grant-funded part-time employee finished on September 30. ED recommends hiring our current AmeriCorps member as a temporary, full-time employee beginning on November 9 (after his AmeriCorps term has ended) through December 31, 2015. A motion was made by Haulotte, seconded by Ricker to offer this temporary position to Quinn Collins. Motion passed.

New Board Member Recruitment: Currently there are 3 unfilled board positions. ED will reach out to the Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac CD to see if any of their staff or board members might be willing to serve on the board. Members present at this meeting will also try to identify potential board members and pass suggestions to the ED.

Annual Meeting Plan: The Annual Meeting at which elections will be held is scheduled for Friday, December 4 at the UP RC&D Council conference room.

2016 AmeriCorps Member Update: Quinn’s service term ends on November 6, 2015. The application period for 2016 AmeriCorps members is now open at Huron Pines and as of today, we have 9 applicants for our position. Interviews for 6 candidates will take place in Gaylord on November 20, and our new member will begin service on January 11, 2016.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant: Based on the pre-proposal that the ED submitted, we have been invited to submit a full proposal which is due on October 30th. Reviewer comments on the pre-proposal were very positive. \$210,282 in grant funds are being sought, and \$219,718 in match is being offered which will all be provided by federal funds from our current EPA grant. New funding would be used for project staff salaries in 2017, additional treatment, and sub-awards to partner conservation districts and would extend the current project to October 2017. Indirect funds are also budgeted. The board approved submittal of the full proposal.

Update on Grant Awards & Grant-funded Projects: ED provided a summary of some of the most important grant-funded project activities.

Correspondence: None.

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

Future Meeting Dates: December 4 (UP RC&D office) at 10 am Eastern time.