

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – September 6, 2019

Board Members and Staff Participating in Meeting: Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Howard Haulotte-Delta County Citizen, John Malnar-Delta County Citizen, Jim German-Chippewa County Administrator, Jen Ricker-Iron Baraga County CD, Teri Grout-Alger CD and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Others Present or participating by teleconference: Theresa Nelson-Delta County Board of Commissioners, Bernie Lang-Menominee County Board of Commissioners, Gretchen Janssen-Houghton County Board of Commissioners, and Bill Menge-Baraga County Board of Commissioners

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

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Grout, supported by Malnar to approve the agenda with one addition – Use of Office Space by Alger CD staff. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by German, supported by Grout to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of May 31, 2019. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet as of August 30, 2019 and the Profit and Loss statements for the period January 1, 2014 through August 30, 2019 and for the January through August 30, 2019 period. The combined balance in all accounts as of August 30, 2019 was \$131,670.08. ED pointed out that an advance payment for our new MISG Phragmites grant was received and the remaining portion of that advance is \$48,890.81. 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 German, 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 13 of the 15 counties. The counties which have not paid dues are Ontonagon and Luce.

Use of Office Space by ACD Staff: UPRC&D received a request from the Alger Conservation District that their staff member, Christy Foye, be allowed to work out of the UPRCD office on days of inclement weather when she is unable to drive to the Munising office. Christy was previously an employee of UPRCD for 3 years and her position only ended because the grant that was funding it ended. Darcy reported that she had no concerns about Christy using the office, even in the event that she was not in the office on the days that Christy was using it. A motion was made by German, supported by Malnar to allow Christy to utilize office space as necessary. Motion passed and Teri Grout abstained from voting.

New Grant Award – SOGL: Grant funds are \$150,000 with a match commitment of \$150,000. The majority of the matching funds are coming from the state grant we now have for phragmites management in the UP. This grant will allow us to continue our landowner cost share program and Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) for newly discovered phragmites infestations in 2021 (our current funding only covers work through 2020). The new funds will also allow us to expand these same activities into the 3 counties of WI that are part of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) service area (federal funds can be spent in both MI and WI). This will help mitigate the threat of phragmites in those counties re-infesting counties in the UP which are adjacent to the WI counties. Marquette and Alger CDs will receive an additional \$18,000 in sub-award funding for UP work, and Dickinson CD will receive an additional \$37,532 for their work in completing project deliverables (educating landowners, survey and mapping, and treatment) in both the UP and WI. Each of those 3 CDs is already receiving sub-awards of \$37,000 from the current state grant). This new grant ends in December 2021 and final reports will be due March 30, 2022. These SOGL grants are very difficult to administer in comparison to the state and federal grants we have received in the past.

Annual Meeting Planning: The consensus was that we try to make the annual business meeting more of a celebration

than it has been in the past. ED will check into the possibility of reserving a room at Peter White Public Library. Jim German has generously offered to donate funds to cover the cost of catered sub sandwiches from Togo's.

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 \$872, 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 \$404,688

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 \$46,657

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 \$184,190

NFWF SOGL – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin

Agreement Amount \$150,000 Match Commitment \$150,000 (match from MISGP Phragmites Grant)
Project Dates: August 2019 to December 31, 2021
Partners - Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, & Chippewa Luce Mackinac CDs, GLIFWC, WIDNR, Marinette Co.
Remaining funds \$150,000

Public Comment: Board member Bill Rice reported that the Administrator for the Dickinson CD left the area and they are in the process of doing a job search for her replacement.

Future Meeting Dates: December 6 (location TBD).

Adjournment: Motion was made by Malnar, supported by Grout to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. Motion passed.