

**U.P. RC&D Council Minutes**  
**UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – April 4, 2014**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Larson, Bob Black & Ken Marshall -Western UP RC&D; Bill Rice & Teri Grout – Central UP RC&D; Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

**Board Members Absent:** Nathan Fazer and Howard Haulotte– excused due to conflicts with work schedule and out of town travel.

**Others Present:** Dan Watt-UP RC&D Council AmeriCorps Member

**Call to Order/Introductions:** The teleconference meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Chairman Larson. Meeting was changed to teleconference due to a winter storm today. Dan Watt was introduced as the UP RC&D Council AmeriCorps member. Dan's term of service is January 14, 2014 through November 7, 2014.

**Agenda & Minutes:** A motion was made by Grout, seconded by Black to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed. Grout made a motion, seconded by Black to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2014. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Financial Report:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for March 31, 2014 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014. The combined balance in all accounts as of March 31, 2014 was \$24,013.05. ED reported that a payment request for \$17,709 has been submitted to the NFWF to reimburse for expenses for two projects and therefore our financial position would be improved by that amount as there are currently no outstanding liabilities. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances and demonstrate that it is customary for project expenses and project reimbursements to occur in different calendar years. A motion was made by Grout, seconded by Rice to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

**Business Items:**

**AmeriCorps Position Update:** Dan Watt reported on his activities since beginning service with the Council. He has created two issues of the Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) e-news. This electronic newsletter is being used as a tool to increase the communication and collaboration among the 5 UP Invasive Species Coalitions. Dan is also working with several schools and classes to plan garlic mustard education and management activities which will take place in April, May and June and has applied for a small grant to fund one of the events. He will be mapping phragmites and educating landowners about that project and helping to organize the annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference before his term ends. He expressed regret that today's meeting could not be held in Marquette due to poor weather and that he has not been able to meet many of the Council members yet. Grout suggested that he look into the possibility of applying for an UPPCO grant.

**Update on NAWCA grant:** ED reported that she received confirmation that we were successful in receiving this grant for \$1 million dollars. Much of the funding will be passed through to partners to restore or purchase coastal wetlands, but the UP RC&D will receive funds to cover grant administration. This grant comes directly from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and will allow our Council to apply for a federally approved indirect cost rate and potentially capture indirect costs for this grant and our current phragmites grant and any future grants we receive that allow indirect costs to be budgeted. We do not have a signed grant agreement at this time.

**New USFS funding for work in KISMA:** The UP RC&D was invited to submit a proposal to the Ottawa NF for funding to support invasive species management activities in the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA). ED worked with Ottawa NF botanist to submit a proposal for just over \$75,000 for two years of work. Ottawa NF did not receive as much funding as they had hoped, and offered UP RC&D \$22,810 for 1 year. We

must deliver 25 acres of invasive species management and provide \$4562 in-kind match, but the budget is flexible. We do not have a signed grant agreement at this time.

**Bylaws Revisions:** ED reviewed current draft of bylaws with council members and some minor changes were made. The updated draft bylaws will be submitted to all council members for review, and will also be sent to the entire UP RC&D Council membership list 2-3 weeks prior to the June 6, 2014 meeting stating that it is the intent of the UP RC&D Council to approve this version of the updated bylaws at that meeting.

**PROJECTS:**

**Sustainable Invasive Plant Collaboration in Michigan's UP/Pulling Together Grant:** This \$51,466 grant supports all 5 CWMAs in the UP. Grant funds were used to hire a weed crew for KISMA, and a Coordinator for WePIC during 2013 and those individuals will be contracted again in 2014. Our AmeriCorps member just finished the second E-newsletter for the Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) and that was sent to all UP CWMAs and UP board members earlier this week. This grant will fund the annual Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species conference later this fall. Funding continues until the end of 2014.

**UP Phragmites Project:** Contractors mapped almost 1300 acres of non-native phragmites in Delta County and about 600 acres in Menominee County and sprayed just under 487 acres with herbicide during 2013. The UP RC&D awarded the bid for mowing/shredding about 176 acres of the larger stands that were sprayed with herbicide this season to Clean Kill Pest Control, but they have not been able to mow any dead biomass due to poor snow conditions for doing this type of work. They still hope conditions become favorable for doing at least a portion of the mowing. ED is looking closely at the project budget now to determine how to best spend the remaining funds to accomplish project deliverables which would include re-treating all the acres that were treated in 2013 at a minimum. This project continues until December 31, 2014.

**Correspondence:** The Council has received several letters from private companies that would like to sell us the posters regarding OSHA rules, etc that are required for posting in all work places. Teri Grout offered to make copies of the required posters that she has posted and send them to us.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Black, seconded by Rice to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am. Motion passed.

**Future Meeting Dates:** June 6 (TBD if teleconference or face-to-face), August 1 (UP Council Office), October 3 (teleconference), and December 5 (UP Council Office).