

U.P. RC&D Council Minutes
UP RC&D Council Meeting, Marquette, MI – August 1, 2014

Board Members Present: Bob Black-Iron County, Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Howard Haulotte-Delta CD, Teri Grout-Alger CD, and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council Executive Director

Board Members Absent: Bob Larson-Baraga CD, Ken Marshall-KBIC, and Nathan Fazer-EUPRPDC– all excused due to conflicts with work schedule.

Others Present: Jen Ricker-Iron CD, Diane & Rory Mattson-Delta CD, Roger Quist & Bruce Birr-Schoolcraft CD, Jane Markkanen and Erik Powers-WUPPDR, Barb Kramer-Dickinson County, and Ann Hruska-Dickinson CD

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice-Chairman Haulotte. Member and visitor introductions were made.

Agenda & Minutes: A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Grout to approve the agenda with the addition of “AmeriCorps Host Site for 2015” under Business Items. Motion passed. Grout made a motion, seconded by Rice to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2014. Motion passed.

Financial Report: The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet for July 31, 2014 and the Profit and Loss statement for the period January 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014. The combined balance in all accounts as of July 31, 2014 was \$20,459.24. The Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1, 2012 through July 31, 2014 was also presented to provide a broader view of Council finances. ED noted that two payment requests made to the NFWF to reimburse the UP RC&D for project expenses totaling \$19,803.08 have not been received and the Council’s financial position will be improved when that payment is received. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Grout to close the Central Region (\$437.58) and Western Region (\$500.64) checking accounts, and combine those funds with the UP RC&D Council accounts. Motion passed. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Grout to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

Business Items:

Status of 2014 990: ED reported that the Council has filed the 990EZ in recent years, but was required to file the 990 this year as total income exceeded \$200,000. ED had already sent the Council members a copy of the draft 990 which was prepared by Cowell & LaPointe, and she noted the following errors in the draft that have since been corrected by Gloria LaPointe:

Page 6 – the answers to questions 12, 13 & 14 should all be YES because the Council does have Conflict of Interest, Whistleblower, and Document Retention & Destruction policies.

Page 8 – The answer to the question, “Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization?” should be YES. Teri Grout, has received compensation from the Alger Conservation District to conduct invasive plant work in Alger and Schoolcraft Counties. Part of the funds that paid her salary for this work originated with the UP RC&D and were paid to Alger CD under a contract. Therefore, Gloria LaPointe will complete and attach schedule J to the 990.

A motion was made by Rice, seconded by Grout, to approve the 2014 990 with the above changes and that Chairman Larson should sign the 990. Motion passed.

County Dues Request: The seven Counties that have paid \$350 each for 2014 dues are Chippewa, Dickinson, Marquette, Alger, Menominee, Keweenaw and Houghton. Ken Marshall reported that Baraga County has approved the payment, but it has not been received yet. ED spoke to Jim Hill, county commissioner from Mackinac County about the benefits the UP RC&D has made to his county (particularly the grant funds that have been provided to the CLMCD for both garlic mustard and phragmites management over the past few years), and he will take that information to the county board.

Conflict of Interest Forms: Board members have not completed Conflict of Interest forms for 2014 and ED will send these forms to all board members to complete and return.

AmeriCorps Position Update and Host Site for 2015?: The UP RC&D has the opportunity to apply to host an AmeriCorps member during 2015. The required stipend is \$7000, and will be paid from grant funds for invasive plant projects if we are successful in obtaining additional grants. If no grant funds become available, then the stipend will need to be covered by unrestricted council funds. A motion was made by Grout, seconded by Rice that the UP RC&D apply to host an AmeriCorps member again in 2015. Motion passed. Current AmeriCorps member, Dan Watt, was unable to be on the call, but provided a written summary of his accomplishments and activities since the last UP Council meeting:

- Working on phragmites project, visiting previously treated infestations to measure kill rate, and make recommendations for re-treatment
- working as a member of the KISMA weed crew managing garlic mustard, honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and other invasives in the Copper Country and Ottawa National Forest
- worked with Alger CD and Superior Watershed Partnership staff to survey stretches of the Lk MI shoreline in Schoolcraft County for phragmites and other rare plants and also other invasive plants
- helped host a service learning workshop at Camp Nesbit in the Ottawa NF where kids built bluebird houses and taught them about environmental stewardship
- worked with botanist Janet Marr to survey high traffic areas at Craig Lake SP for non-native species
- promoted the UP RC&D at a public outreach event in Alpena, MI as part of the AmeriCorps program
- finished the 4th issue of the UPIC eNews

Annual Meeting Planning: Planning for the Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 3, 2014, will be done by the Annual Planning Committee (Grout, Fazer and Marshall). Marshall could not be on the call today due to work conflicts, but he offered to take the lead on this committee. The location and format will be determined by the committee.

New GLRI/EPA Funding Opportunity: A new opportunity for project proposals is available right now from the EPA, and they anticipate about \$7 million being available for invasive species projects. This will likely fund only 8-11 projects, and last year more than 40 proposals were submitted. Darcy held a teleconference of all current phragmites project partners, and they are all interested in continuing the partnership. The deadline for submitting proposals is August 25, 2014, therefore she does not have time to be the lead person in putting together this proposal due to current project obligations. Teri Grout (one of the current project partners) offered to take the lead, and Darcy will provide statistics regarding the accomplishments of the current project, budget information, and other limited assistance as she is able.

PROJECTS: ED provided project updates on the UP Phragmites Project, the Pulling Together Project and the NAWCA project that she is coordinating. She will be meeting with partners from Ducks Unlimited and the MDNR at one of the NAWCA sites on August 12, to help showcase this project to Congressman Dan Benishek.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: Motion by Black, seconded by Grout to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 pm. Motion passed.

Future Meeting Dates: October 3 (teleconference), and December 5 (Marquette).