

**U.P. RC&D Council Minutes**  
**UP RC&D Council Teleconference Meeting – February 7, 2014**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Aaron Hopper – no response; Bob Black and Nathan Fazer – excused due to conflict with their work schedules

**Others Present:** Ann Hruska – Dickinson CD; Barb Kramer – Dickinson County Commission appointee; Jen Ricker – Iron County Conservation District

**Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Chairman Larson. Bill Rice was introduced as a new representative to the UP Council representing the Central Region.

**Agenda & Minutes:** The agenda was approved with the addition of one item of business – Status of Aaron Hopper on the UP Council Board. The minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2013 were approved with no changes (KM/TG) and the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2014 were approved with no changes (HH/TG).

**Public Comment:** Ann Hruska, Barb Kramer, and Jen Ricker introduced themselves and described their affiliation with the UP RC&D Council.

**Financial Report:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Year End Profit and Loss Statement and the final Balance Sheet for 2013. The Profit and Loss Statement which was a synopsis of all financial activity from January 1, 2014 to January 31, 2014, was also presented. The balance in all accounts as of JNUARY 31, 2014 was \$35,580.08. ED reported that the final payment of \$30,000 from the NFWF for the recently completed garlic mustard project was received yesterday. After paying all outstanding expenses for that project in full, our bank balance we will be almost \$15,000 greater than indicated on the January 31, 2014 balance sheet which was also presented. Grout made a motion, seconded by Haulotte to place the financial reports on file. Motion passed.

**Business Items:**

**Approve Budget for 2014:** ED presented the draft budget for 2014 which was developed in conjunction with the Finance Committee. Two small changes to the draft budget were made, and a motion was made by Grout, seconded by Marshall to approval this modified budget (attached). Motion passed.

**AmeriCorps Position Update:** The UP RC&D Council paid the required \$7000 stipend for new AmeriCorps member Dan Watt, from various invasive plant grants for projects that he will be assisting with. Dan is in Gaylord today for mandatory (grant-writing) training.

**Update on SOGL grant opportunity:** ED reported that after meeting with partners on our current Phragmites grant project from the CLMCD, Alger CD, Delta CD and Dickinson CD, the consensus of this group is that we don't have any non-federal match to pledge for a new project, and therefore could not put together a competitive proposal prior to the pre-proposal deadline of February 18, 2014. All partners continue to search for other funding opportunities.

**Status of Aaron Hopper on the UP RC&D Council Board:** Board member Aaron Hopper, who represents the Eastern Region on the UP RC&D Council has not attended a meeting since August 2012, and has not had any communication with Chairman Larson or the ED in that time period. Marshall made a motion, seconded by Haulotte to terminate Hopper's position on the UP RC&D Council board and to have chairman Larson sign and send a letter to that affect to Mr. Hopper.

**Bylaw Revisions:** The most recent version of the draft bylaw revisions which Fazer put together was discussed and suggestions for clarification and improvement made by Bill Rice and Barb Kramer were considered. ED will attempt to incorporate these items into the draft bylaws and distribute an updated version to the Council.

**PROJECTS:**

**UP-wide Garlic Mustard Project:** Project has been completed and final reports were submitted prior to December 31, 2013. Project Coordinator/ED sent final report materials to all Council members and project partners. Final payment arrived yesterday.

**Sustainable Invasive Plant Collaboration n Michigan's UP/Pulling Together Grant:** This \$51,466 grant supports all 5 CWMA's in the UP. Grant funds were used to hire a weed crew for KISMA, and a Coordinator for WePIC during 2013 and ED is developing the contract for those same individuals for 2014. Our AmeriCorps member just finished the first E-newsletter for the Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) and that was sent to all UP CWMA's and UP board members last week. 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 180 acres of the larger stands that were sprayed with herbicide this season earlier this week and will meet the contractor doing this work next week to see if the mowing can be done under the current snow conditions. This project continues until December 31, 2014.

**Proposed NAWCA Project and Proposed EPA Phragmites Project:** UP RC&D Council received preliminary notice that this proposal will be funded, but the final decision will not come through until sometime in March and is partially dependent on congressional appropriations.

**Correspondence:** The Council received a letter from Luce County stating that they did not put any funds in their budget for the conservation district (CD has passed those funds on to the UP RC&D for dues in past years).

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

**Future Meeting Dates:** April 4 (UP Council Office), June 6 (teleconference), August 1 (UP Council Office), October 3 (teleconference), and December 5 (UP Council Office).