

**WUPPDR FULL COMMISSION MEETING**  
Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

December 21, 2020

5:00 PM (EDT)

Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

**Members Present:**

Albert Koskela, Chair (Houghton County)  
Tom Tikkanen, (Houghton County)  
Joe Bonovetz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson (Gogebic County)  
Bill Rolof, Secretary (Baraga County)  
Sandra Gayk, (Keweenaw County)  
Robert Nousiainen, 1<sup>st</sup> V.C. (Ontonagon County)  
Jim Lorensen, (Gogebic County)  
Mary Sears, (Houghton County)  
Bob LaFave, (Village of L'Anse)  
John Sullivan, (City of Houghton)  
Cheri Lampinen, (Houghton County)  
Jeff Ratcliffe, (KEDA)  
Glenn Anderson, (Houghton County)  
Mary Babcock, (City of Hancock)

**Members Absent:**

Michael Koskinen, (Baraga County)  
Mark Aho, (Keweenaw County)  
Ron Blau, (City of Hancock)  
Josh Loukus, (Houghton County)  
Paul Lehto, (Calumet Township)  
Joe Erickson, (Village of Ontonagon)  
Marlene Broemer, (Ontonagon County)  
Tony Smydra, (Village of Ontonagon)  
Bruce Petersen, (Portage Township)  
James Vivian, Jr., (Keweenaw County)

**WUPPDR Staff Present:**

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director  
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager  
Sarah Lucas, Pandemic Economic Development Planner

**Call to Order:** Albert Koskela, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM (EDT)

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was spoken.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by LaFave, supported by Tikkanen to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes - (September 21, 2020 Full Commission):** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Sullivan to approve the September 21, 2020 Full Commission minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Bills Paid:** Moved by LaFave, supported by Babcock to accept the paid bills from November 1 – November 30, 2020, totaling \$39,200.32. **Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Tikkanen, Sullivan, Sears, Rolof, Nousiainen, Lorensen, Lampinen, LaFave, Gayk, Bonovetz, Babcock, Koskela. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**Public Appearances:** None.

**Budget Amendment:** Wuorenmaa updated the amendment sent to the board prior to the meeting and explained changes from the current budget. An approximately \$23,000 amendment was received to increase the Hazard Mitigation grant. An MDOT grant was added to update the Copper County Trail Byway website. The current EDA Planning grant ends at the end of December and a new one starts January 2021. MDOT Asset Management has been delayed to due COVID. Overall, the budget looks good with a possible increase or at least break even in the general fund by FY end. The audit is currently under way. The Executive Committee had recommended the amendment be adopted. Moved by LaFave, supported by Bonovetz to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. **Motion carried.**


**Director's Report:** The Commission was sent the 2-page report. Wuorenmaa briefly gave details on each item which included housing, transportation, hazard mitigation planning, environment & energy, food systems, recreation, broadband & remote work, RPI remainder, technical assistance, EDA Partnership Planning and the EDA CARES Pandemic Response and Resiliency program. Other matters included staff changes, employee conversions from MERS defined benefit to defined contribution, insurance increase, and Iron County possible reinstatement to WUPPDR.

**Sarah Lucas:** Lucas gave an update to the Pandemic Response & Resiliency Plan and will be sharing a draft of the plan in the next month or two.

**2021 Schedule of Meetings:** The Executive Committee noted there may be some possible conflicts for meetings on the third Mondays. January meeting will be remote on January 26 and Wuorenmaa requested the commission to review the schedule and notify us of any conflicts to their knowledge.

**Other Business:** Wuorenmaa mentioned he received an email stating the budget that has been presented by the Michigan Legislature includes funding for a state psychiatric facility in Kinross, which has been a major need for the Upper Peninsula.

**Adjourn:** Moved by Tikkanen, supported by Bonovetz that the meeting adjourn at 5:41 PM (ET). Motion carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Rolof, Secretary