

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

March 15, 2021

5:00 PM (ET)

Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

| NAME   | Present, voting | Present, non-voting | Absent |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|--------|
| Robert Nousiainen, Chair, Ontonagon County               | X               |                     |        |
| Joe Bonovetz, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Gogebic County | X               |                     |        |
| Patti Peretto, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Iron County   | X               |                     |        |
| Bill Rolof, Treasurer, Baraga County                     | X               |                     |        |
| James Vivian, Jr., Secretary, Keweenaw County            | X               |                     |        |
| Albert Koskela, E.C. Member, Houghton County             | X               |                     |        |
| Glenn Anderson, Houghton County                          | X               |                     |        |
| Mary Babcock, City of Hancock (Alt.)                     |                 |                     | X      |
| Ron Blau, City of Hancock                                |                 |                     | X      |
| Roy Britz, Houghton County                               |                 |                     | X      |
| Marlene Broemer, Ontonagon County (E.C. Alt.)            | X               |                     |        |
| Mark Bromley, Iron County                                | X               |                     |        |
| Donald Chastan, Village of Ontonagon (Alt.)              |                 |                     | X      |
| Gretchen Janssen, Houghton County                        | X               |                     |        |
| Robert LaFave, Village of L'Anse                         | X               |                     |        |
| Paul Lehto, Calumet Charter Township                     |                 |                     | X      |
| Jim Lorensen, Gogebic County (E.C. Alt.)                 |                 |                     | X      |
| Lyle Olsen, Baraga County (E.C. Alt.)                    | X               |                     |        |
| Bruce Petersen, Portage Charter Township                 |                 |                     | X      |
| Del Rajala, Keweenaw County (E.C. Alt.)                  |                 |                     | X      |
| Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA ( <i>ex officio</i> )               |                 | X                   |        |
| Dan Salo, City of Houghton                               | X               |                     |        |
| Tony Smydra, Village of Ontonagon                        |                 |                     | X      |
| Mike Stafford, Iron County (E.C. Alt.)                   | X               |                     |        |
| Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County (E.C. Alt.)                | X               |                     |        |
| MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Mgr., WUPPDR                  |                 | X                   |        |
| Jerald Wuorenmaa, Exec. Director, WUPPDR                 |                 | X                   |        |

**Call to Order:** Robert Nousiainen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM (ET).

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Robert Nousiainen.

**Member Roll Call:** The following commissioners responded to roll call done by Hyttinen.

Joe Bonovetz, Bessemer, MI, Gogebic County; Patti Peretto, Crystal Falls, MI, Iron County; Bill Rolof, L'Anse, MI, Baraga County; James Vivian Jr., Mohawk, MI, Keweenaw County; Albert Koskela, Traprock Valley, Houghton County; Glenn Anderson, Hancock, MI, Houghton County; Marlene Broemer, Ontonagon, MI, Ontonagon County; Mark Bromley, Crystal Falls, MI, Iron County; Jeff Ratcliffe, Hancock, MI, Houghton County; Lyle Olsen, L'Anse, MI, Baraga County, Mike Stafford, Iron River, MI, Iron County; Tom Tikkanen, Calumet, MI, Houghton County; Gretchen Janssen, Houghton, MI, Houghton County; Dan Salo, Houghton, MI, Houghton County; Robert LaFave, L'Anse, MI, Baraga County; Robert Nousiainen, Bruce Crossing, MI, Ontonagon County.

**Election of officer: Secretary, Keweenaw County:** Nominated by Rolof, supported by Bonovetz to elect James Vivian Jr., as Secretary to the WUPPDR Executive board. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof that nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for James Vivian, Jr., of Keweenaw County as Secretary to the WUPPDR Executive board. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto to approve the agenda as presented with addition of agenda item: Lease Agreement. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes (January 26, 2021):** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to approve the January 26, 2021 Full Commission minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills Paid:** Moved by Stafford, supported by Peretto to accept the paid bills from January 1 – February 28, 2021, totaling \$112,808.06. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes:** Bonovetz, Peretto, Rolof, Vivian, Anderson, Broemer, Bromley, LaFave, Olsen, Stafford, Tikkanen, Janssen, Salo, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Public Appearances:** Molly Scappaticci, Schoolcraft College

**Acceptance of Iron County as member as of January 2021:** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Koskela to accept Iron County back as a member to the WUPPDR board. Motion carried.

**Director's report:** The initial version of the Pandemic Response & Resiliency Plan (PRRP) has been completed which includes the formation of two housing committees that have been sharing thoughts & ideas for updating the housing stock including public awareness possibly thru articles in the local newspaper; labor force assessment and mental and behavioral health assessment are also proposed in the plan. Two new grants were received: National Science Foundation Civic grant for coastal disaster and MDOT to update the regional non-motorized plan and regional bike maps; EDA is receiving a large appropriation from the American Rescue Plan.

**Lease Agreement:** Wuorenmaa explained that Michigan Works! has agreed to reduce WUPPDR's rent by \$400/month as a result of vacating our corner office. Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Tikkanen to authorized signature to the lease agreement amendment. Motion carried.

**Quarterly budget amendment:** Moved by Broemer, supported by Bonovetz to accept the amendment and place on file. Motion carried.

**ELPC request for support for new Ottawa NF wilderness designations:** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Rolof to table this item for further information. Motion carried. (Broemer abstained)

**Change of September meeting date:** Moved by Bonovetz, supported by Peretto to approve the revised meeting schedule. Motion carried.

**Other Business:** Wuorenmaa mentioned the current OMA amendment will require we return to in-person meetings starting in April and future full commission meetings will return to Parkview Lodge & Grill.

**Adjourn:** Moved by Rolof, supported by Stafford that the meeting adjourn at 5:59 PM (ET). Motion carried.

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James Vivian, Jr., Secretary