

**WUPPDR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

Northern Waters Casino Resort, N5384 US 45, Watersmeet, MI

Monday, September 20, 2021  
4:00 PM (CT)

NAME	Present, voting	Present, non-voting	Absent
Robert Nousiainen, Chair, Ontonagon County	X		
Joe Bonovetz, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.C., Gogebic County			X
James Lorensen, Alternate, 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
Del Rajala, Alternate, Keweenaw County			X
Albert Koskela, Member, Houghton County			X
Marlene Broemer, Alternate, Ontonagon County		X	
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager, WUPPDR		X	
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR		X	

**Call to Order:** Robert Nousiainen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM (CT)

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

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

**Approval of Minutes - (August 16, 2021, Executive Committee):** Moved by Rolof, supported by Lorensen to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills Paid:** Moved by Rolof, supported by Lorensen to approve the bills as presented from August 3, 2021 – August 30, 2021, totaling \$33,447.73. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Public Appearances:** None

**Consideration of Munetrix for Regional Planning sponsorship:** Wuorenmaa explained this is an online platform that provides a wide variety of data at the regional, state and county level. Much of the data is provided from the Census, state databases, audits, etc. Munetrix can put together custom tools for various kinds of analysis. Local governments would have access to data that they normally would not. Rolof recommended this be brought before the Full board for final decision.

**EDA Cares contractual EDO funds / amendment to KEDA contract:** Wuorenmaa said one of the items in the EDA CARES Act grant was to use \$60,000 for the local economic development organizations to provide technical assistance to businesses to address the impacts of the pandemic. Wuorenmaa stated KEDA is the most active organization in the region and has seen member decrease due to the pandemic. Wuorenmaa recommends KEDA's portion be increased. Moved by Lorensen, supported by Rolof to recommend the change to the KEDA contract from \$22,000 to \$30,048. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Adjustment to standard pay ranges:** Moved by Lorensen, supported by Rolof to adjust the standard pay ranges recommended by Wuorenmaa. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**FY2021 final budget amendment:** Moved by Lorensen, supported by Rolof to adopt the FY2021 final budget amendment. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**FY2022 General Appropriations Act:** Moved by Rolof, supported by Lorensen to approve the FY2022 General Appropriations Act. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Credit Card Policy amendment – Increase for MaryEllen Hyttinen:** Moved by Lorensen, supported by Rolof to approve the credit card increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for MaryEllen Hyttinen with suggestion by Lorensen to revise the language in the credit card policy from "Purchase of capital outlays shall" to "Purchases shall be limited to." Roll Call Vote: **Ayes:** Rolof, Lorensen, Nousiainen. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Other Business:** Wuorenmaa mentioned the Western U.P. upcoming ARPA local fund workshop is on the same date as the U.P. county commissioners meeting. Wuorenmaa said he is waiting on a call back to see if that date can be changed or not. Lorensen brought up that Gogebic County has struggled with maintaining emergency ambulance service and they have a millage up for renewal and are hoping to accomplish a longer term for service. Both ambulance providers have stated they cannot get trained people and the reimbursement rate is not feasible to continue.

**Adjourn:** Moved by Rolof, supported by Lorensen that the meeting adjourn at 4:40 PM (CT). Motion carried.

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MaryEllen Hyttinen, Recorder

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James Vivian, Jr., Secretary