

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

Monday, October 16, 2023  
4:15 PM (ET)  
Via Zoom Audio/Videoconference

NAME	Present, voting	Present, non-voting	Absent
Joe Bonovetz, Chair, Gogebic County	X		
Patti Peretto, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.C., Iron County			X
Robert DeMarois., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Alternate, Keweenaw County	X		
William Menge, Secretary, Baraga County	X		
Tom Tikkanen, Treasurer, Houghton County	X		
Robert Nousiainen, Member, Ontonagon County	X		
MaryEllen Hyttinen, Office Manager, WUPPDR			
Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, WUPPDR			
Lisa McKenzie, Assistant Regional Planner, WUPPDR			

**Call to Order:** Joe Bonovetz, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM (ET)

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

**Member Roll Call:** The following commissioners responded to roll call done by Hyttinen. Robert DeMarois, William Menge, Tom Tikkanen, Robert Nousiainen, and Joe Bonovetz.

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

**Approval of Minutes - (September 18, 2023):** Moved by Menge, supported by DeMarois to approve the minutes, with correction to include Tikkanen in attendance. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills Paid (September 1 – September 30, 2023):** Moved by Tikkanen, supported by Nousiainen to approve the bills paid as presented, totaling \$85,447.90. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: DeMarois, Menge, Tikkanen, Nousiainen, Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Public Appearances:** None

**Resolution of support for Copperwood Mine Project:** Bonovetz informed the committee there have been some changes with Denis Miville-Deschenes, President & CEO leaving. Charline Miville-Deschenes is the main contact for corporate level contact. Moved by Nousiainen, supported by Menge to support resolution 2023-03 as presented and authorize signatures. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: DeMarois, Menge, Tikkanen, Nousiainen, Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**Information and resolution for EDA local share and signature authorization:** Wuorenmaa explained this is one of WUPPDR's normal grants, but application is still required. The grant is \$210,000 with a match of \$140,000 for a total of \$350,000. EDA requested a resolution. Moved by DeMarois, supported by Tikkanen to approve resolution 2023-04. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: DeMarois, Menge, Tikkanen, Nousiainen, Bonovetz. **Nays:** None. Motion carried.

**New Gogebic County member government(s)**: Wuorenmaa solicits new governments every now and then and was able to confirm the City of Wakefield as a new member. He will be talking with Ironwood about joining. Wuorenmaa also stated that the commission still needs to take action to accept them after their governing body approves it. Commissioners supported accepting Wakefield as a member government.

**Target WUPPDR member contributions for FY2024**: Discussion took place regarding increasing the member dues since they have not been raised since 1978. Wuorenmaa will speak with all the counties to explain why and answer any questions they may have. This item will be addressed again at the December meetings. Moved by Menge, supported by Tikkanen to support the member contribution increase. Roll Call Vote: **Ayes**: DeMarois, Menge, Tikkanen, Nousiainen, Bonovetz. **Nays**: None. Motion carried. *(New contribution amounts attached)*

**Other grant updates**: Wuorenmaa gave updates on the following grants: Rural Readiness, DNR Spark, Dept. of Energy, and EGLE material management.

**Other Business**: None

**Adjourn**: Moved by DeMarois, supported by Menge that the meeting adjourn at 4:54 PM (ET). Motion carried.

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William Menge, Secretary