EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 22, 2016
10:10 a.m. (EST)

CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION

PRESENT

J. Beaudo, Treasurer, Hannahville Indian Community
G. Corkin, Chair, Marquette County
R. DesJardins, Vice Chair, City of Munising/Alger County
T. Edlebeck, City of Kingsford/Dickinson County
J. Linder, Director, Nadeau Township/Menominee County
J. Malnar, for Dave Rivard, Secretary, Delta County
J. Doucette, Director, Alger County
C. Reiter, Director, Schoolcraft County

ABSENT
None

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, CEO; E. Schada, Staff

CALL TO ORDER
J. Malnar gave roll – call and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRINTED WAS MADE BY C. REITER SUPPORTED BY T. EDLEBECK; MOTION CARRIED.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 31, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY C. REITER, SUPPORTED BY T. EDLEBECK. ALSO CONSIDERING LACK OF QUORUM AT LAST MEETING, THE MOTION MOVED TO ACCEPTS RECOMMENDED ACTION TAKEN DURING LAST MEETING.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. The questions related to large travel expenditures were answered (staff going to trainings, three at that current time were in Lansing). Treasurer Beaudo noted that this Treasurer’s Report includes one of the quarterly payments to Michigan Works! A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY C. REITER, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED.

5. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
J. Schultz reported on various activities and upcoming programs and workshops staff is involved in. He mentioned a conflict occurring between the Delta County Brownfield Authority and CUPPAD over a project whose scope changed dramatically due to factors beyond staff control and the private business involved is
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upset that the scope became more expensive. Anticipating legal activity and incurred costs related to this issue, Director Schultz asked the board to support the staff involved in this issue as it works itself out. Director Schultz proceeded to update the Board on the possibility that RPI funds are threatened to go away next year (2017) a total of $2.5 million shared among all participating Regional Planning Agencies. While the impetus for the State to do this supposedly grew from some political in-fighting, these issues may have a possibility of working themselves out restoring the funding for all. Possible funding opportunities that CUPPAD should plan on being on the forefront are include “Underground Asset Mapping” or “Underground Management Plans,” considering the wind-fall in Flint, MI. MEDC may provide incentives to communities to convert underground infrastructure from lead to copper with these plans; similarly, Capital Improvement Plans will be a prerequisite for receiving some State and Federal incentives. These were some take-away messages Joel heard at a recent conference in Lansing with the Governor.

E. Schada updated the Board about the Place Making Mini-Grants ($60,000 in funding total). We will most likely not have a second round of funding due to the quality and number of applications currently in the hopper that are from throughout the six county region. The program is well received and will facilitate goodwill in the communities CUPPAD serves while increasing their capacity.

A P.T. job offer to expand the GIS services was made to a recent college graduate; he was one of four candidates and will be primarily responsible for data entry related to Delta County’s GIS project- this will increase CUPPAD’s office staff to 6 FTEs and 3 PTEs.

Joel discussed the landscape related to health care is going to be problematic whereas projections show a 30% increase for BCBS coverage. Now is a time to explore and discuss options.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
In response to the audit in which the RPI was categorized by the Auditor as General Revenue as opposed to Special Revenue, the Auditor included his written opinion that it could be done either way. To clarify the issue for next year, A MOTION WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY R. DESJARDINS, THAT THE RPI OR SIMILAR FUNDING PROGRAMS BE TRACKED AS SPECIAL REVENUE IN THE FUTURE.

7. NEW BUSINESS
None

8. FEDERAL REVIEWS
No comments made.

9. The next meeting will be held May 26, 2016 at the CUPPAD offices, Escanaba.

10. Items from Executive Committee
   - Alger County-
     Jerry Doucette reported there is business growth in the Christmas area including commercial, rentals, and a campground. The County is on track to receive an increase of 2% in revenue sharing. Zoning issues are increasingly becoming apparent as certain land uses unprecedented before become more in demand. It would be prudent for the County to re-examine and update its zoning ordinance to ensure relevance.
City of Munising - Rod Desjardins commented on the initiatives occurring in the City. The National Park Service recently announced the data of park usage indicating 37% increase in use and a direct contributor of over 400 jobs. The park clearly contributes to the area’s economic development. A millage to construct an addition to the high school to house K-12 is on the ballot- Mather Elementary would be therefore be surplus and poised for development into 40 units of affordable housing. Unfortunately, two MEDC-funded projects, the P.R. Interpretive Center at the old City Hall and the dock expansion received bids far exceeding the estimates. Also, an underground storage tank was discovered under the old City Hall which will necessitate additional expenses.

- Menominee County –
  Joe Linder mentioned there may be a mine coming into the county near the Menominee River.

- Delta County –
  John Malnar felt encouraged about the millage on the ballot May 3rd related to the new jail.

- Dickinson County –
  Tony Edlebeck mentioned a new business will soon be in operation at the multi-color building in Norway. A local business is expanding its engraving business. The local Ace hardware is moving from Iron Mountain to Kingsford. There is rumblings about the Kingsford Armory closing, Baraga Armory has been looked at for closure. Kingsford to his knowledge will NOT be studied for closure. The mail processing center in Kingsford had good news as according to an employee, lay-off letters have officially been rescinded. A new mail-sorting machine from Wausau is being installed at the Kingsford Mail Sorting Facility and the mail carriers have been moved from Kingsford to Iron Mountain to make room for the new machine.

- Hannahville –
  Jill Beaudo reported a new pharmacy, laundromat, coffee shop serving Starbucks coffee, and physical therapist will be located at the Oasis gas station expansion.

- Marquette County –
  Gerry Corkin reported on the new hospital and adjacent motel coming to Marquette, the mine closure, and the Dark Store Tax Tribunal.

- Schoolcraft County –
  Craig Reiter reported that the paper mill will be operational again, employing 70-90 people!

10. A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:25 AM WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY J. LINDER; MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared by Emilie Schada