CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Corkin. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY C. ADAMS, SECONDED BY B. CARLSON, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 25, 2013 MINUTES WAS MADE BY D. KRISTOLA, SECONDED BY R. ANDERSON, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SECRETARY’S REPORT
None

TREASURER’S REPORT
J. Beaudo presented the Treasurer’s Report with a cash balance on January 31, 2014 of $234,762. It was noted that receipts for the month are high due to the Regional Prosperity Grant of $159,000 and a
couple other larger grant payments. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY B. CARLSON, SECONDED BY J. STEVENS, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
G. Corkin presented the Executive Committee report; agenda items included review and approval of the FY14 Audit and an Authorized Signature Resolution for our Partnership Planning Grant.


DIRECTOR’S REPORT
J. Schultz reported that the Regional Prosperity grant is progressing well. We will start drafting the five-year plan as we solidify goals, needs, and projects. We also applied for $70,000 for a transition grant and that is still pending.

J. Schultz reported on potential grants staff have been working on. A Wildlife Habitat grant was submitted in late February for a GIS mapping study of public lands available for hunting, trapping, and non-consumptive wildlife-related recreation along the U.P. Hidden Coast Recreation Heritage Route. A Wage Study project was submitted to the MEDC through UPCDC as the regional project request; to study wage disparities between the U.P. and other areas. A proposal to provide educational workshops to would-be viticulturists is due April 11; partnering with local vineyards and Bay College to increase knowledge and interest of cold-hardy grape production in the region.

There is a March 31 deadline for a Hannahville 2% grant to develop the Delta Ag and Schoolcraft Ag Youth groups; proposal requests funding for website and logo development, volunteer background checks, and hands-on learning activities. Staff is also working on a regional school bus route efficiency proposal and Superior Health Alliance grant. Staff is reviewing jail budgets and studies completed in 2007 and 2010 to address the current jail problems. The studies addressed the problems, but no real solutions identified.

J. Schultz reported on the energy crisis in the U.P. The Presque Isle Power Plant announced it will be closing down. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which oversees the electrical grid in the Upper Midwest and part of Canada, is saying it can’t be shut down and they will subsidize Presque Isle to operate. Current rules would require that 92% of the Presque Isle operating deficit be paid by Wisconsin electrical users and 8% paid by U.P. electrical users. Wisconsin users may protest which may force U.P. businesses and residents to pay a higher surcharge on electric rates. The grid can’t supply enough power to the area. We all need to be aware of this and communicate it to the proper channels. There is a reliability issue for power in the U.P.

Our EDA Planning grant was submitted in February and staff is working on some minor deficiencies. We have not had a public works grant in over 13 years and we are anxious to support an EDA project. We have a wish list of projects but nothing that qualifies for an EDA grant; we can test these projects with different funding sources.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Amendment
P. Van Steen presented the Progress Report and Amendments to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report (CEDS). The update is completed on an annual basis; a call for projects was initiated last fall. The CEDS Committee has reviewed and approved the document and is recommending adoption by the full Commission. The document will be submitted to EDA to maintain our designation as an EDA district.

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2014 PROGRESS REPORT AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL UPPER PENINSULA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DOCUMENT DATED FEBRUARY, 2011 WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY J. THORNTON, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PROGRAM
A tour of Loadmaster in Norway was conducted immediately following the Commission meeting. Loadmaster manufactures rear-load and side-load refuse bodies.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE
The next scheduled meeting is April 25, 2014 in Menominee County.

ADJOURNMENT
A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY B. WERNER, SECONDED BY B. BEDARD, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.