CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2017
3:00 p.m. EST

PRESENT
R. Anderson, City of Norway
J. Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community
G. Corkin, Marquette County
R. DesJardins, City of Munising (Alger County)
J. Linder, Nadeau Township (Menominee County)
D. Rivard, Delta County
C. Reiter, Schoolcraft County

ABSENT/EXCUSED
S. Aldrich, Schoolcraft County
T. Edlebeck, City of Kingsford

OTHERS PRESENT
Dotty LaJoye, Director
Emilie Schada, Staff
41 North Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chairperson Gerald Corkin with a quorum present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA MADE BY R. DESJARDINS SUPPORTED BY J. BEAUDO CARRIED.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 28, 2017 MINUTES MADE BY D. RIVARD, SUPPORTED BY J. LINDER CARRIED.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer’s report was presented to the Executive Committee. Treasurer J. Beaudo highlighted that the budget looked in order with no major concerns being that we are approaching the completion of the fiscal year with items being spent down. Certain areas are experiencing under spending when compared against the available budget allocation such as personnel/fringe which is due in part to a loss in full time employees. A specific question was related to the federal grant piece (EDA) and what exactly are we waiting on as the budget shows $31,000 compared to a $74,000 expectation. Dotty LaJoye assumed this is an EDA budget item and will clarify. Considering everything else looked in order, A MOTION BY C. REITER, SUPPORTED BY R. ANDERSON TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT CARRIED.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Dotty LaJoye reported on contracts and grants: 1) Breitung Township 2) Negaunee Township recreation plans are new. 3) CUPPAD responded to an RFP from the MEDC to provide technical assistance for the purpose of taking communities along the Redevelopment Ready curriculum toward eventual certification. 4) CUPPAD received word that a grant application to the USDA for Public Facilities will not be awarded/selected. 5) Michigan Energy Options- CUPPAD continues to have a role in facilitating these discussions between experts in the energy field and those whom may benefit in local government. Dotty continues to speak with them about specifically what the intended role of CUPPAD will be in the effort as a grant application is being developed for a one-year period. 6) RPI projects for 2018 are developing and budgets are being created in preparation for the eventual RPI grant application. 6) An EDA grant will be submitted shortly to analyze the impact of the Presque Isle closure which will be moved to the Technical Assistance funding pool per Lee Shurry’s recommendation.

One particular contract for Ishpeming Zoning is being addressed for going over time/budget by approximately 250 hours. There has been communication with the appropriate representatives to ensure their needs are met per contract and they are satisfied with the work rendered and closure occurs and the project is closed out ASAP.

6. BUDGET UPDATE- FY18

6A. the board was invited to provide feedback and input into the development of strategic funding priorities for the upcoming budget. CUPPAD’s budget typically hovers around $750,000.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. Employee Healthcare

In an effort to analyze the costs and benefits associated with employer provided health care, 41 north was present to discuss legal obligations and options related to PA 152 and health care provision. Three options include:

1) Opting Out- opting out of the Act to set your own combination of employer/employee costs.
2) Hard-Cap- following the trends of predetermined hard cap (approximately $6,000 single; $17,000 family) by default as a funding ceiling to stay under.
3) 80/20- requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors As discussed during the Director’s report, this has been a growing concern from employees who do not have the benefit of health care from employer and are susceptible to the volatility of the market place and it is the desire to not be known as the only regional planning organization in the state (15 total) to deny employees this benefit which is embedded in other organization’s as a general operating cost of doing business. On-going discussions with providers will continue in an attempt to bring to the board enough information to act upon during the next meeting in August or have a consultant come to the meeting to discuss potential options.

Jill Beaudo agreed that CUPPAD should provide employee health care coverage as a recruitment and retention practice and keep up with professional standards.

A MOTION BY R. ANDERSON, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER TO PURSUE OPTION 2- HARD CAP AND ALLOCATE APPROPRIATE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR OPTION 2 AS NECESSARY, CARRIED.

Discussion continued that appropriate compensation options for the employees “opting out” of health care coverage should also be developed for the next meeting.
7B. Memorandum of Understanding between CUPPAD and the Upward Talent Council 2018-A MOTION BY R. ANDERSON, SUPPORTED BY R. DESJARDINS TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN CUPPAD AND THE UPWARD TALENT COUNCIL CARRIED.

8. FEDERAL REVIEWS
NA

9. NEXT MEETING
The next Executive Committee will be September 28, 2017 in Escanaba.

10. ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- Alger-H58 road project is being delayed until next year. An M-28 road project is being tripled in cost to be a complete reconstruction to rebuild from Sydney’s Restaurant to the Christmas Lighthouse.
- Schoolcraft-Positive momentum happening in Schoolcraft County; M-Bank donated a building to the new economic/tourism group. Campground is a hit. New businesses coming to town and the best Folk Fest to-date occurred this year.
- Hannahville-$800,000 waste storage project out to bid and a new sidewalk will be completed along Hannahville Road to link residences to the Casino and amenities.
- City of Norway and Dickinson County- Water and sewer plant expansion is wrapping up; the city is looking at developing publicly-owned land into a rustic campground along Piers Gorge and Strawberry Lake. Ray has been visiting municipally-owned campgrounds to get ideas.
- Delta County- Jail is getting ready to start along with a new 150x150 building for the sheriff and a janitorial building. The county is settling with its 5 unions in negotiations. Speaking of campgrounds, Pioneer Park since transferring ownership to the Delta County Conservation District, has been doing great financially and has a new goal of developing river-front cabins on the grounds soon. Similar arrangements were made with Fuller Park with the Park Authority taking leadership of park development. The Air Stream event at the Fairgrounds brought in about a million dollars to the area and the Fair did great with numbers still being crunched to know the economic impact.
- Menominee- The mine is contentious and is more or less the talking point in the county recently.
- Marquette- Gery Corkin suggested if Menominee County citizens want to visit a clean, successful mine, they are welcome to tour the Humboldt Mine and see how it should be done.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm by Chairperson Gerry Corkin.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: EAS