CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 24, 2015
3:00 p.m. (EST)       CUPPAD Offices
                       Escanaba

PRESENT

J. Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community
G. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County
D. Rivard, Delta County
T. Edlebeck, Director – City of Kingsford
J. Linder, Director - Nadeau Township
C. Reiter, Director - Schoolcraft County

ABSENT
J. Doucette, Excused
R. DesJardins, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, E. Schada

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Corkin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A MOTION BY T. EDLEBECK, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER, THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA CARRIED.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST 27, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED MADE BY D. RIVARD, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER CARRIED.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT
A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED MADE BY J. BEAUDO SUPPORTED BY T. EDLEBECK CARRIED.

5. STAFF REPORT
Director Schultz analyzed the current financial position of CUPPAD and remarked how much stronger it is financially compared to two years ago. A significant resource has been the Regional Prosperity Initiative and it is anticipated the organization will remain in a similar strong position for at least two or three years, even if the upcoming funding allocations are reduced. Joel also clarified that the budget snap-shot doesn’t reflect additional funding that we pass through until we bill against it, such as $70,000 from MSHDA and MDOT funds. Not underestimating how the RPI has allowed CUPPAD to leverage resources and identify strategic priorities to affect over the long term, he remarked that we continue to make progress on the five key areas of the RPI (Economic Development, Work Force Development, Energy, Housing, and Quality of Life). We are entering into the third year of the process during which we will be requesting additional funds to drill down further
on activities related to the above. There are 37 strategies in all. Joel gave a Power Point presentation outlining how we are identifying RPI projects mostly derivative of what is perceived as the foremost challenge facing us in the Upper Peninsula - declining population. A declining population affects development, energy production, broadband, etc. due to the small population costs are spread over. “Take away” stats provided- while there are ten million people in Michigan, only less than 3 percent of those people reside in the Upper Peninsula and while the state has seen a 204% increase in population over the past 100 years comparable to the United States (200% increase) we have not grown and are in fact less populated than in 1920. The key demographic we are losing are millennials (24-45 approximately). So how do we affect this issue? Joel touched on various methods such as the “Creative Currency” concept directly affecting the local economy, down payment assistance, forgivable loans, place making initiatives, and tourism efforts. He reiterated that while the goals relate to population growth, they need not be permanent solutions to grow population for and even temporary “spikes” in the population can have positive outcomes on the region.

Gerry Corkin asked about how the MEDC layoffs could affect CUPPAD. Joel Schultz said time will tell, but he has been reassured by their administration that CUPPAD and the U.P. in general will be briefed soon on a solution to ensure there is adequate representation.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

7. NEW BUSINESS
7A The MSHDA Certificate of Good Standing was approved by D. Rivard and J. Beaudo.

7B Membership Updates- we have received just over half of our dues from the local units (not including counties) since the drive began August 3rd.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE: October 23, 2015 in Menominee County location TBD. Speakers will include Nancy Douglas and perhaps Brain Bousley will be available as well.

9. Items from Executive Committee
- Alger County- In his absence, the group wished Jerry Doucette a speedy recovery.
- Schoolcraft County- Craig believed the mill will be torn down. J Schultz shared what he heard regarding Zellar purchasing the property for logging and port access.
- Menominee County – Little changes since last month- hoping to get the County on board again.
- Dickinson County- Tony Edlebeck announced that Bocco Construction, the oldest pre-qualified contractor in the State, is celebrating their 100th anniversary of business. October 6 will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pine Mountain Road top course new-asphalt project. The enhanced welding classes at the ISD facility are going well and will increase partnerships with local industries beyond welding but will look to identify employer’s needs and how they can be fulfilled there.
- Hannahville – The commercial development is going well with the expanded gas station, pharmacy, laundromat, coffee shop, and retail space. They will be looking to hire a PT pharmacist. 2% Grants are due September 30, 2015.
- Delta County- The House of Ludington is being sold to a developer that will rehabilitate it for market rate housing units. They are requesting a variance due to the current parking requirements (34 spaces) to develop half of those. This is a $6 million project. The County will be establishing a Full Time Veterans Services Office.
Marquette- Jerry Doucette and Joe Stephens were appointed to the Michigan Association of Counties Board of Directors. Here’s hoping the Dark Store legislation gets out of committee and up for a House and Senate vote. While it wouldn’t be retroactive, it would at least stop the disputes from happening in the future providing the local jurisdictions with financial security. The County has already invested approximately $60,000 toward the effort. Budget cuts to the tune of $500,000 are necessitating the closure of the youth home.

10. Adjournment: A MOTION BY GERRY CORKIN SUPPORTED BY REITER (3:55 p.m.)