CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 5, 2013
3:00 p.m. (Eastern) 

The Terrace
Gladstone, MI

PRESENT
G. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County
T. Elegeert, Vice-Chair, Delta County
J. Stevens, Secretary, Dickinson County
J. Beaudo, Treasurer, Hannahville Indian Community
R. DesJardins, Director, Alger County
B. Bedard, Director, Dickinson County
J. Gardiner, Director, Menominee County

ABSENT
S. Aldrich, Director, Schoolcraft County

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, staff
B. Strem, staff

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Corkin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 25 AND NOVEMBER 25, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY J. STEVENS, SECONDED BY B. BEDARD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed with a cash balance on October 31, 2013 of $74,203. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY J. BEAUDO AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Update of potential local contracts was provided. We will be doing the US41 Transportation Incident Management Plan for $19,000. G. Corkin reported that the City of Negaunee was awarded a $100,000 grant for Bernie Rivers Park; Peter VanSteen did a lot of work on this and did an excellent job.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
J. Schultz reported he met with Henry DeGroot of Forsyth Township regarding our contract with them for their zoning ordinance update. It appears they may have acted rashly and hopefully we will be back on track with them; another meeting is scheduled for January 9.
MDOT is disappointed with the way the Heritage Route Plan was handled. Peter Van Steen is picking up the pieces. We met the deliverables, but they want us to implement what’s in the plan. We need to inspire community interest and get it back on track; more publicity of the route, maybe t-shirts, partnering with other events that could be associated with the route, etc.

A kickoff meeting for the Deacon Calf project was held in Stephenson on November 25. A good Steering Committee has been created and the next meeting will be with legal counsel regarding how we set up a coop.

A calendar has been created on Google showing all the due dates for our contracts, grants, progress reports, application deadlines, etc. Staff will get reminders as deadlines approach. This will be a good tool to keep track of all our deadlines. The Board will receive monthly calendar updates.

We have been trying to connect better with Menominee County by getting involved and participating in a couple of their projects. The county dues rate will stay the same for the time being; no sense lowering the rate for some if they are not going to join.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Dues Update
The county membership letters and invoices will be sent out in December.

Employee Health Insurance
J. Schultz presented four scenarios for employee health insurance showing salary expenditures, CUPPAD’s cost, employee burden: #1) current salary expenditures with health insurance; #2) 2014 continuation of group plan; #3) 2014 dropping insurance and giving $8,250 raise; #4) 2014 if CUPPAD staff was put on SCEA payroll. Joel noted all three 2014 scenarios include Rhiannon with benefits; she has been a solid addition for us and has a low health share plan and the Board agreed. With the third scenario the group insurance is dropped and everyone is given the same raise of $8,250. The staff is then responsible for their own health insurance and can choose whatever plan they want. This is the best option for the employee burden and CUPPAD’s costs. We can’t do an HSA without a group. We would keep the group plan in place until all the staff can transition to their own plan. The fourth option would be to put the staff on the SCEA payroll; this would be the best option but next December the SCEA will be faced with the same problem.

Discussion followed. J. Beaudo noted that we need to send a message to staff that we are concerned and want to take care of them. J. Stevens stated that he is concerned with the new law, the security issues, with all the problems they have been experiencing, what if nothing works. J. Schultz replied we will keep the current group plan in place until all staff have their own insurance.

A MOTION TO CONTINUE THE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN UNTIL ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ENROLLED IN AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN OF THEIR CHOICE WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY T. ELEGEERT. Discussion followed. J. Stevens asked if the employees are paying anything toward their health insurance; they should pay something. J. Schultz replied that it depends on what plan they decide to go with. Everything is the sum of the individual now; the rates are based on age. J. Beaudo stated that we are
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approving a wage increase; they can do whatever they want with it. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH TWO OPPOSED: JOE STEVENS, BARB BEDARD.

J. Beaudo stated that the wage increase should be addressed separately. A MOTION TO GIVE AN $8,250 WAGE INCREASE TO ALL EMPLOYEES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014, OR PRORATED AFTER THAT DATE BASED ON WHEN THEY OBTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SECONDED BY G. CORKIN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH TWO OPPOSED: JOE STEVENS, BARD BEDARD.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY14 Art Minigrant Funding Recommendations
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY14 ART MINIGRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ART REVIEW PANEL ON NOVEMBER 13 WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER, AND CARRIED.

FEDERAL REVIEWS
One Federal Review; place on file.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE
The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2014 at the CUPPAD office.

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
J. Gardiner reported the City of Stephenson purchased 37 acres of property within the city to encourage an industrial park. G. Corkin reported Marquette County has finally resolved their health insurance after four months; it will be less insurance but still good.

ADJOURNMENT
A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:10 P.M. WAS MADE BY J. GARDINER, SECONDED BY J. BEAUDO AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.