CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 25, 2014
10:00 a.m. (Eastern)
Bay de Noc College
Escanaba, MI

PRESENT
G. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County
T. Elegeert, Vice-Chair, Delta County
R. DesJardins, Director, Alger County
B. Bedard, Director, Dickinson County
J. Gardiner, Director, Menominee County

ABSENT
S. Aldrich, Director, Schoolcraft County
J. Stevens, Secretary, Dickinson County
J. Beudo, Treasurer, Hannahville Indian Community

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, staff
A. Milne, staff

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Corkin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
J. Schultz requested addition to agenda: New Business - 7A Superior Heath Care Resolution. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY T. ELEGEERT, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 19 AND JULY 11, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed with a cash balance on June 30 of $190,953.96. Receipts for the month were $51,413.17; total cash outlays $31,679.91. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY J. GARDINER, SECONDED BY B. BEDARD, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Grant/Contract Update
The Committee reviewed the updated list of potential contracts and grants staff are currently pursuing.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
J. Schultz reported on the RPI initiatives and noted that things are going well. We are towards the end of the RPI process. The application for next year allows organizations to put in co-applications. CUPPAD will discuss this possibility with other UP regions. J. Shultz also mentioned the initiatives and priorities that have come
out of the RPI process. Energy is the first priority. CUPPAD has applied for an EDA grant to explore off-grid options in the region. Broadband coverage is the second priority. Joel mentioned the MI Connect effort that has helped some areas get providers. We will request funding to continue this effort. G. Corkin mentioned the possibly of reaching out to Eagle Mine as they have given some money towards economic development efforts. Workforce development is the third priority. At the last RPI meeting it was agreed that many parents do not understand what options available for kids aside from a four-year college. J. Schultz mentioned the idea of a marketing campaign to inform parents about high tech job training opportunities. Roads are the 4th priority for the region. MDOT has been represented at the RPI meetings. The initiatives and strategies identified in the RPI process are similar to those identified in the CEDS project, but this project has gotten more stakeholder support. Also mentioned a meeting with Ken Murdoch at MEDC where CUPPAD was mentioned in a positive light.

J. Schultz mentioned that CUPPAD has hired an intern, Carl Linderoth, to help complete the MDOT Bike Map project. CUPPAD receive $25,000 from MDOT to do this work. CUPPAD has interviewed another potential intern to help with GIS work. Also noted that there was a non-profit organization formed that will allow CUPPAD to seek more funding from foundation sources.

B. Bedard mentioned that Dickinson has made some improvements to their local trail networks. G. Corkin mentioned the potential for $450,000 to be invested in local trail systems.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Alger County voted to rejoin CUPPAD.

NEW BUSINESS
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY B. BÉDARD, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CUPPAD has applied to the Superior Health Care Foundation for funding. They have not asked for a resolution, but may want one in the future that indicates that matching funds are available.
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUPERIOR HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY B. BÉDARD, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FEDERAL REVIEWS
Three Federal Reviews: City of Ishpeming Public Improvements, AMCAB Head Start Continuation Grant Application, CUPPAD’s Generating Economic Development; place on file.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE
The next meeting will be held on August 28, 2014 in Escanaba.

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. Gardiner reported that the Stephenson elderly building complex construction will start soon. T. Elegeert mentioned that there is some concern about the wind farm on the Garden Peninsula. This issue will be coming before the zoning board. Some people are unhappy about wind turbines, will propose a change in
setbacks. B. Bedard stated that Dickinson had voted to build 10 hangars at the airport and that Felch Twp. is looking for a loan for producer of fracking sand.

R. DesJardins reported that there is a land transfer of the Henley Field property from the USFS to the county that is close to completion. This would allow grant funds to be available for improving the site. Also pre-approved for marina grant, but now there is a problem. There was a meeting with the Picture Rocks Cruise Company to take the old city hall building and rehab it into a multi-agency visitor and museum center. There has been enthusiastic response from legislators. This project would be similar to the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary Center. There would be a benefit to the city as the property would stay on the tax rolls. Tourism business has doubled in Munising over the past 5 years; tourism is expected to keep growing.

G. Corkin reported that Pete VanSteen did a good job with the façade project in Ishpeming. Work will start on the project on 8/1/2014. Eagle Mine will start up in the next few 2 months. Humboldt Mill is 95% complete. G. Corkin also provided an update on the winter freeze disaster. Emergency Management did not understand the cost of the let runs even though the reason behind it was explained. There is a battle in Lansing over this issue. There is $6 million in strategic funds for emergency competitive grants. They are waiting to hear back from FEMA in the next week or so about this issue. There have also been tax appeals from big box stores which has the potential for millions of dollars to be lost. The tax tribunal has been lenient.

ADJOURNMENT
A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:00 A.M. WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.