CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 7, 2014
10:00 a.m. (Central)          Oak Crest Golf Club
                               Norway, 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
B. Herioux, Delta County
J. Schultz, staff
P. Van Steen, staff
B. Strem, 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
The agenda was reviewed with three additions noted under New Business: 7B-EDA Planning Grant Authorized Signature Resolution; 7C-Disability Insurance; and 7D-June Board Meeting Date. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED WAS MADE BY J. STEVENS, SECONDED BY T. ELEGEERT, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 23, 2014 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 January 31 of $234,762. Receipts for the month were $195,977, which includes the Regional Prosperity Grant of $159,000 and a couple other larger grant payments. J. Beaudo noted the Contractual Cash Outlay figure of $18,250 represents six months for Director ($12,000) and three months for Financial Services ($6,250). A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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 and contracts 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 to be submitted for a 2% grant (Sault Tribe), and a 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. We have to educate the counties and municipalities on how to build up funds so they can apply for a public works project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Dues Update
The City of Negaunee and Escanaba Township have paid their dues. The Village of Powers indicated they will be mailing a check.
NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of FY13 Audit Report
The Committee received a copy of the FY13 Audit.

J. Beaudo noted she had two questions on the audit: Note 10 on page 14 regarding Beginning Fund Balance Adjustments; accounts receivable overstated by $7,174. On page 15 Excess Expenditures are indicated for some of our grants, i.e., MDOT Heritage Route, Rural Task Force, etc. These issues are probably addressed in the budget process and costs recovered with Indirect, but some clarification would be helpful. Staff will get clarification from Michelle Viau for next meeting. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY13 AUDIT REPORT WAS MADE BY T. ELEGEERT, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EDA Planning Grant Authorized Signature Resolution
P. Van Steen reported that when our EDA Planning Grant was submitted on grants.gov Michelle Viau’s signature automatically went on the application because she set up the account. Gerry Corkin is stated as the Authorized signatory in the application so we have to resubmit some forms with Gerry’s signature.

A MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GERALD CORKIN TO ACT AS SIGNATORY FOR THE EDA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION WAS MADE BY J. STEVENS, SECONDED BY J. BEAUDO, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Disability Insurance
J. Schultz noted that the Personnel Policies state that the weekly disability income is approximately 50% of the employee’s weekly wage but our weekly disability policy provides a maximum weekly benefit of $200, which is not close to 50%. The statement in the personnel policies was probably overlooked as salaries increased over the years. A MOTION TO ADJUST THE PERSONNEL POLICIES TO REFLECT OUR CURRENT DISABILITY POLICY WAS MADE BY J. STEVENS, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

June Board Meeting Date
J. Schultz has a conflict with the June 26, 2014 Board meeting date. A MOTION TO CHANGE THE JUNE BOARD MEETING DATE TO JUNE 19, 2014 WAS MADE BY J. STEVENS, SECONDED BY J. BEAUDO, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FEDERAL REVIEWS
Two Federal Reviews: City of Norway (purchase new police car) and Marquette County RSVP (Marquette County Aging Services); place on file.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE
The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2014 in Escanaba.

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
G. Corkin reported the Empire Mine will continue to operate for another two years; this is important to our economy.
ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:55 A.M. WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY B. BEDARD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.