PRESENT
G. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County
T. Elegeert, Vice-Chair, Delta County
J. Stevens, Secretary, Dickinson County
J. Beaud, Treasurer, Hannahville Indian Community
R. DesJardins, Director, Alger County
B. Bedard, Director, Dickinson County
J. Gardiner, Director, Menominee County
J. King, alternate for S. Aldrich, Schoolcraft County

ABSENT
S. Aldrich, Director, Schoolcraft County (alternate present)

OTHERS PRESENT
J. Schultz, 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. The Committee welcomed new member Rod DesJardins representing Alger County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY B. BEDARD, SECONDED BY J. GARDINER AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed with a cash balance on September 30, 2013 of $97,570. J. Beaud noted the August cash outlay for personnel seems high, probably due to three pay periods that month. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SECONDED BY T. ELEGERT, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
J. Schultz reported on the following:

A letter was received from Forsyth Township's attorney, renouncing their agreement with us for the update of the Forsyth Twp. Zoning Ordinance. The correspondence stated their disappointment with the lack of progress on this project. Joel drafted three possible responses to their letter: 1) apologizing for putting the project behind schedule and how can we help correct this effort; 2) we feel the township is also at fault and
include an invoice for our services rendered to this point (approximately $2,500); 3) refund their membership check, noting that the way they have conducted business is not consistent with our direction. Discussion followed. J. Schultz stated that he would prefer the third option of returning their membership check of $1,233; that would make a big statement. The contract stated a completion date of September 30, 2013, but it’s not uncommon for the date to change. They should have come to management or the Board before acting. It was the consensus of the Board to keep Forsyth’s membership dues and bill them for the $2,500. We have to consider down the road if there’s turnover within the Township someone new will read into this history.

J. Schultz reported our group health insurance renewal effective January 1 will be going up about 42% in order to comply with the Affordable Care Act. His recommendation would be to drop the group insurance and have each employee find out what it would cost for their own individual insurance. The Marketplace has benefits by income and if they exceed the income limits its better to go to an insurance agent for a quote. We have the necessary forms, etc. for each employee to fill out to get their quotes. We would have to go to an HSA compatible plan in order for us to deposit money in it and be pre-tax. We need to know what it will cost each of them before we can come up with options for compensation. G. Corkin suggested contacting Ben Wood at Consumer Mutual to see if they could offer a better rate. Joel stated that MW employees didn’t feel comfortable going with a different insurance, they would rather pay more for BC/BS. Joel will do some research and communicate with the Board. A tentative Board meeting date of November 25 at 2pm was set for health insurance if necessary.

J. Schultz presented a draft of the Regional Prosperity Initiative Application for review. The submission deadline is November 1. Rhiannon put most of this together. We are applying for Tier One to complete a feasibility study for the purpose of developing a strategy to move to a different tier. The total funding request is $228,000, $193,000 for Tier One and $35,000 for a feasibility study. We have agreed to collaborate with the Western and Eastern Regions. Each of the three U.P. regions is requesting funding for UPEDA staffing and travel budget. We would pool together awarded funds for a total of $150,000, with $50,000 from each region. We need a resolution authorizing submittal of the grant application and will act on this later in the meeting.

Not much activity on the Cow Power grant due to the government shutdown. Ed McBroom is very interested in the project. MDARD (Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development) has a grant opportunity for county fairs to make building and other capital improvements to their fairground facilities; grants range from $1,000 to $20,000 and are due November 15. MDARD will also be accepting proposals for regional food systems grants; can apply for up to $75,000.

J. Schultz reported that Bittner Engineering and Moyle Construction took a look at the building; they will draw something up for us. Arnt Asphalt Sealing Company has recommended we wait until next spring to do the asphalt work, to late in the season, not enough time to properly dry; waiting on the gutters and minor foundation repair. We should probably get a market analysis on the building before we look at any major renovations.
November 1 is the deadline for CEDS project submissions and we have not had a lot of submissions. We will have to educate people after our past history.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Dues Update
The membership dues have been coming in steadily; 59 to date. R. DesJardins noted that Jerry Doucette, Alger County’s Board Chair, is asking why the county dues aren’t prorated; why not go to a per capita for counties. J. Schultz replied that population thresholds could be an option; there are a lot of options we could use and we are willing to explore them. Rod will ask Alger County what they can afford.

FY14 Budget Review
J. Schultz noted the FY14 budget was reviewed and approved at the September meeting and there have been no changes since then. Our estimated expenses are $384,985 and revenue $384,985. The local contracts listed individually have signed contracts. The New Local Contracts estimate of $33,000 and $5,000 of Miscellaneous Income is unidentified income we still have to come up with.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Grant Application for Regional Prosperity Collaborative
A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE REGIONAL PROSPERITY GRANT APPLICATION WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SECONDED BY T. ELEGEERT, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FEDERAL REVIEWS
No Federal Reviews.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE
A tentative meeting date of November 25 at 2pm at the CUPPAD office was set to discuss health insurance. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2013 at the Terrace in Escanaba (with dinner immediately following meeting).

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
R. DesJardins reported that the City of Munising is in the process of trying to find a new City Manager and Alger County is revisiting CUPPAD membership dues. T. Elegeert reported that Delta County Commissioner Ryan Holm is resigning and Ann Jousma Miller will be his replacement, and the Pinecrest MCF Administrator was let go yesterday. J. Stevens reported that quite a few industries in the area are hiring and the hospital is looking for a health care partner. J. Gardiner reported the City of Stephenson is negotiating with Chalk Enterprises to buy the property and Menominee County is working on harbor dredging. J. King reported the Cedar Street CDBG DIG grant was just completed. J. Beaud reported Hannahville’s gas station expansion is in the second phase and Hannahville was awarded a grant for an Aquaponics Development Program for youth. G. Corkin reported that $45 million will be spent upgrading County Road 550 to the new mine and
the City of Marquette has introduced an ordinance to try and stop the increased truck traffic which is causing a lot of controversy.

ADJOURNMENT
A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:59 A.M. WAS MADE BY J. GARDNER, SECONDED BY J. BEAUDO AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.