CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  

October 28, 2015  
10:00 a.m. (CT)  
Riverside Golf Club  
Menominee  

PRESENT  

J. Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community  
G. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County  
R. DesJardins, City of Munising  
J. Doucette, Alger County  
J. Linder, Director- Nadeau Township  
D. Rivard, Delta County (10:50 a.m.)  

ABSENT  

C. Reiter, Schoolcraft County  
T. Edlebeck, City of Kingsford  

OTHERS PRESENT  

J. Schultz, E. Schada  

CALL TO ORDER  
The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Corkin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.  

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
A MOTION BY R. DESJARDINS, SUPPORTED BY J. LINDER, THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA CARRIED.  

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES  
THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY J. DOUCETTE CARRIED.  

4. TREASURER’S REPORT  
A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED MADE BY J. BEAUDO SUPPORTED BY J. LINDER CARRIED. However, there was a request for further clarification from Michigan Works! Regarding rent payments as it appeared an extra payment occurred. For simplicity, it is requested that rent is invoiced and paid during the same fiscal year. A proposed rent schedule would be December, March, June, and September for example. It was also requested by Gerry Corkin for the amount of rent Michigan Works pays to Delta County.  

Other than a status quo budget, noteworthy items included a $145,000 under Contractural due to the TMA and projecting $200,000 for RPI. The budget is proposed at $746,000.  

5. STAFF REPORT  
Director Schultz gave a report on the year-end financials of CUPPAD and the comparisons were noted from previous years demonstrating a much stronger current financial position than in year’s past. For example, CUPPAD has a cash balance at the end of FY15 at $354,923.33 compared to $89,878 (FY14) and $92,116.04
(FY13) respectively. Part of this is attributed to an increase in RPI funding during FY15 and a lower overhead structure. Joel ventured to guess that the role he plays as CEO combined with Michelle Viau’s as CFO/accountant on a contract basis is affordable to CUPPAD and the arrangement is paying off for the organization’s fiscal health. The board encouraged the Director to look into a succession plan for the organization because nothing is permanent, as they say. The board was concerned about the position of the organization if Joel had a reason to change the current arrangement.

Director Schultz elaborated on two proposed RPI projects that aim to affect change in the U.P. fostering regional prosperity by enhancing economic development and “place.” The Pure Michigan Campaign ($100,000 request to leverage $400,000 locally) would achieve a national marketing campaign and stimulate $6.00 in the U.P. economy for every dollar spent.

Along the same logic, the Complementary Currency Program ($50,000 RPI request) will encourage local employers to participate in this fringe benefit program incentivizing local spending through the MI Upper Hand website where over 70 local entrepreneurs sell merchandise made in the U.P. At $20 per pay period per year, the program is being piloted with current Michigan Works employees. The goal is to achieve $1 million of economic impact in the region. Jill Beaudo encouraged there to be variety of choices as there may not be merchandise that will appeal to a wide audience.

Emilie Schada explained the proposed Place Making grant program they hope to garner support from the RPI fund with approximately $50,000 to help promote public gathering, improved aesthetics in downtown areas, and enhance the places in communities where people will want to spend time and money.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS Membership Dues Update; these were provided as well as a breakdown of membership rates per county.

7. NEW BUSINESS
7A Year End Staff Report was provided for the members to review.


9. Items from Executive Committee

- Alger County - the new jail continues to be a priority;
- Menominee County – Little changes since last month- hoping to get the County on board again;
- Hannahville – The spa project will be taking place as the next major project, a new amenity at the Casino; it will be completed in 6-8 months and open next year.
- Delta County- The County considered a zoning ordinance which addressed wind mills and requested it go back to the Planning Commission for revision; major changes include set-backs. Just getting off the ground is the possibility of a pedestrian bridge over the river that would accommodate water and sewer infrastructure.
- Marquette- the County passed the FY 16 budget which included a cut of $500,000 to the County Youth Home, which was unfortunate but its use has been declining.

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