CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

12:30 pm EST

CUPPAD office
2950 College Ave
Escanaba, MI 49829

PRESENT

Jerry Doucette, Alger County
Rod DesJardins, Alger County
Michelle Doucette, Alger County (alternate)
Gregg Johnson, Delta County
Gerald Corkin, Marquette County
Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County
Jill Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community
Patrick Jordan, City of Escanaba
Steven T Gromala, Menominee County
Dave Rivard, Delta County

Absent
Dan Rushford, Alger County
Jacob Allison, Garden Village
Denny Olson, Dickinson County
Greg Seppanen, Marquette County
Benny Herioux, Delta County
Esley Mattson, Alger County
Kristin Thorton, Marquette County
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County
Jim Nankervis, Marquette County

Michelle Viau, CPA, CFO, Michigan Works
Pam Johnson, Treasurer, Alger County

OTHERS PRESENT
Dotty LaJoye, Executive Director, CUPPAD

A. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chairperson G. Corkin. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited. Roll call was taken, quorum was not present for the full Commission; a quorum was present for the Executive Committee.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY R. DESJARDINS, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER; MOTION CARRIED.
C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE REGIONAL COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2019, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2020 WAS MADE BY J. DOUCETTE SUPPORTED BY R. DESJARDINS; MOTION CARRIED.

D. TREASURER’S REPORT
J. Beaudo reported that the budget is starting to adjust to the reduction in staff and expressed concern for the fund balance as there has been little change or increase since last month. MOTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY J. DOUCETTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Gerry Corkin reported that CUPPAD had to layoff two of its employees in January

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
D. LaJoye provided an update on activities. CUPPAD is rebounding from the elimination of Regional Prosperity funds. CUPPAD is working closely with the EDA to seek resources for projects of more regional impact. CUPPAD will begin updating its 5-year CEDS. The previous RPI Committee will become the CEDS Committee allowing strong partnerships to continue. The Director of the Economic Development Integration (EDI) visited the U.P. in mid-February. His purpose was to meet with each of the three regions and the Smart Zones in their districts. The Smart Zone in the City of Marquette has been focusing on talent development around cybersecurity, and they were selected as one of ten Rural Innovation Initiatives across the country qualifying them for a very competitive technical assistance grant. The EDA is one of several funders in this grant, and the EDI Director believes there is an opportunity for growth in the new economy with tech-startups in the Upper Peninsula. He widely promoted all 3 EDDs as a resource for economic development projects. He explained the importance of economic development projects beginning with their inclusion in the CEDS as the CEDS is the economic development strategy for the region. CUPPAD continues to work with the local units of government with asset management, and Ryan has brought additional resources from the Michigan Association of Planning. CUPPAD is hopeful that our initiatives will align with the Governor's proposed budget for FY 21, which has 40 million dollars dedicated to local climate-resilient infrastructure grants.

NEW BUSINESS
1. Release of audit to Executive Committee. Executive Committee received copies of the audit for review and recommendation to the full commission on April 24. MOTION TO APPROVE RELEASE OF THE AUDIT AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY J. DOUCETTE, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER; MOTION CARRIED.

F. PRESENTATION
Rachel Barra, Program Manager of Innovate Marquette Smart Zone presented information about the Smart Zone as a talent development hub for tech startups around cybersecurity and other creative and innovative New Economy opportunities. Their approach to success is to expand on their existing strengths; connect their strengths across the region with other SmartZone’s, EDDs, EDOs and capital networks; develop new sparks of innovation by actively empowering rural communities; and accelerate their pace of change with new startups, new jobs, attract companies, new markets, and capital investments.
G. **NEXT MEETING AND PLACE**
The next quarterly Regional Commission meeting will be April 24, 2020 at 12-noon with lunch in Escanaba.

H. **ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:31 P.M.

*Minutes prepared by Dotty LaJoye*