

CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2021

TEAMS Video Meeting and in person

12:30 pm EST

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerry Doucette, Alger County*
Esley Mattson, Alger County
Michelle Doucette, Alger County Townships
Eric Janofski, Carney Village
Gregg Johnson, Delta County, Townships
John Malnar, Delta County*
Gerald Corkin, Marquette County*
Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities
Kristin Thornton, Marquette County Townships
Jill Beaudou, Hannahville Indian Community*
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships*
Eric Buckman, Delta County Cities*
Greg Seppanen, Marquette County
Kathy Reynolds, Alger County
Mike Perilloux, City of Manistique
Craig Cugini, Marquette County Cities
Theresa Nelson, Delta County
John Denholm, Delta County
Pam Denholm, Alger County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Planning
Denny Olson, Dickinson County, Townships
Dan Rushford, Alger County village
Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County
Alan Ott, Schoolcraft County
Dale Parret, Menominee County Cities
Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities
Jacob Allison, Garden Village
Ray Anderson, Dickinson County Cities*

* Denotes Executive Committee Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Dotty LaJoye, Executive Director, CUPPAD
Michelle Viau, CFO Michigan Works
Steven T. Gromala, Menominee County

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Chairperson G. Corkin. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY P. KEIMAN, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE REGIONAL COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2021 WAS MADE BY J. MALNAR, SUPPORTED BY P. KLEIMAN; MOTION CARRIED.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Beaudou reported that there is nothing new to report. It is a very conservative budget. The column to the right under Actual Through 3/31/2021 are the funds that have come in from the Amended Budget. We have a cash balance of about \$127,000. Otherwise, the budget looks good.
MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE TREASURERS REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

CUPPAD has hired a new GIS Technician. His Name is Michael Tripp. Michael moved back to the area from bend Oregon where he worked for many years for the Bureau of Land Management. He was willing to attend the three required training sessions to become certified in Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) before officially working for CUPPAD on April 21. He will also get trained in by Ben DuBois, a previous CUPPAD employee and now Engineer Assistant for the Menominee County Road Commission, in installing and collecting data from our traffic counters. This will allow CUPPAD to continue serving our local units that need traffic counts and meet our annual contractual obligation with MDOT.

In addition to road rating and traffic counting, our GIS staff will be working on the most recent update of the MDOT non-motorized trails plan throughout the Central Region in conjunction with the East and Western UP Regions. This is an update to the previous MDOT bike maps and will include non-motorized trails associated with roads such as the four-foot shoulder systems and locally established trails developed to loop through cities. Rawan will be showing Michael how to create and update our parcel information. Delta County parcels need to have Next Generation 911 data added and Schoolcraft County will be working with a vendor to the have the structure of the Next Gen 911 data requirements created for them. Rawan will be working with the vendor and providing the information we have inputted to date and then we can take over from there. Rawan is also working with Delta County in preparation for their Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR) Review.

Our Landscape Architect, Julia Cogger, who now lives in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, is trying to find housing in Alger County. She came over from Watersmeet last week to visit her Recreation Plan projects in the City of Kingsford, the City of Escanaba, and Ford River Township. It was a full day touring each recreation facility and she was able to meet with the City of Escanaba Recreation Committee in the evening and learn from them what they envision for the City's recreation development and improvements. Her and her husband also dropped off a trailer full of their household possessions at a storage unit. They are still looking for a place for rent somewhere in Alger County as her husband will be the new building trades teacher at Superior Central starting in the fall of 21. They were planning on building a new house but need something to live in until their new house is built.

In March, CUPPAD in conjunction with the Eastern and Western Regions and Invest UP hosted a UP Broadband webinar featuring Connect Michigan, and Atlantic Engineering Group also known as AEG regarding the recent FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction. AEG was awarded subsidies to expand broadband in the UP. The dollars will support 40,622 locations currently unserved or underserved in the U.P. and the installation of 5,000 miles of fiber optic cable. AEG's goal is to begin soon and finish construction in 3 ½ years. The construction will require several hundred employees including the hiring of local companies for operations. CUPPAD has delivered this information to Rural Task Force 12A and 12B so the local road commission are aware of the extent of new permit activity and can coordinate dig activities where possible. If anyone would like the recording of the entire session, please let me know and I will forward it to you.

CUPPAD continues to work on the City of Escanaba Façade project, the City of Iron Mountain Rental Rehabilitation project, the City of Manistique's two rental rehabilitation projects, one at 107 River St. and the other at 238 Cedar St., we are also the CDBG grant administrator for the sewer lining project in the City of Manistique, and we are managing the Davis Bacon Wage Reporting requirements for the City of Escanaba wastewater treatment plant expansion project. We continue to make progress on the Harris Township Master Plan and the Alger County Hazard Mitigation plan.

We are currently advertising a Community Planner position at CUPPAD. We are looking for a talented and creative Planner that develops and writes Master Plans and Hazard Mitigation Plans. We were led to believe that we had an experienced Planner coming to CUPPAD, but he recently backed out.

In other activities, CUPPAD has been working with some communities interested in recycling and would like to receive grants to reduce or eliminate the cost of recycling carts. When contacting Recycling Partnership Program to inquire about their recycling cart grant program, they immediately expressed interest in working with CUPPAD to work with one organization that would cover the multiple communities in their district. Also, they mentioned that the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment or EGLE also provides grants for recycling carts and we could coordinate an EGLE grant with a grant to Recycling Partnership so in the end the community pays little or nothing for the recycling cart they receive. Once I get a better understanding of how this can be successfully implemented, I will discuss the financial logistics with Michelle Viau to make sure this is something we have the capacity to take on.

I do not have an update on the EDA Cares Act projects at this time. Ryan Soucy is the CUPPAD staff heading up our EDA programming and recently experienced another stroke. He was flown to the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit this past Saturday and was released yesterday. He is home now but I haven't connected with him yet. I have been in communication with his wife all along the way and at this time the only thing his doctors have revealed is that his physicians have mismanaged his autoimmune deficiency in the UP and they are waiting on test results to determine the best path forward.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. PRESENTATIONS

1:00 PM – Understanding What the American Rescue Plan means for Local Governments by Rod Taylor, Division Administrator for the Community Engagement and Finance Division for the Michigan Department of Treasury

1:30 PM – Update on Line 5 by Emma Cook with Enbridge

I. NEXT MEETINGS

- I.1 Executive Committee Meeting – 6/24/2021 at 2:00 PM ET
- I.2 Quarterly Regional Commission Meeting - 7/23/2021 at 12:30 PM ET