

CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION
Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2021

TEAMS Video Meeting and in person

12:30 pm EST

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerry Doucette, Alger County*
Esley Mattson, Alger County
Ray Anderson, Dickinson County Cities*
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
Theresa Nelson, Delta County
John Denholm, Delta County
Pam Johnson, Alger County
Ray Anderson, Dickinson County Cities*
Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle Doucette, Alger County Townships
Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Planning
Denny Olson, Dickinson County, Townships
Dan Rushford, Alger County village
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships*
Eric Janofski, Carney Village
Craig Cugini, Marquette County Cities

* Denotes Executive Committee Member

OTHERS PRESENT

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

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 J. DOUCETTE, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

G. CORKING EXPLAINED THAT A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE CUPPAD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 23 , 2021 AND ADOPT THE ITEMS FROM THAT MEETING THAT WERE RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION. SUPPORT WAS MADE BY J.MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Beaudou reported that the budget still does not reflect the amount of funds we will be able to collect in FY21 and which projects will be going into FY22. We will need to see that information within the next couple months so we know what projects we have going forward. **MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE TREASURERS REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY J. DOUCETTE; MOTION CARRIED**

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

CUPPAD is now fully staffed. Ryan Carrig joined CUPPAD on July 6. He is working on 3 of the 4 Hazard Mitigation Plans, which includes Delta County, Schoolcraft County, and Menominee County. He may take Alger County too. Ryan C is also assisting Ryan Soucy with community surveys gathered from Grand Island Township in preparation for the development of their Master Plan. D. LaJoye stated that she will hand off her role and responsibilities as the CUPPAD staff person managing the MCACA mini-grant program. Ryan Carrig should be very good at managing that program and has an interest in being active in the arts locally as his wife is an artist. Also, the Central Region will benefit from a pair of fresh eyes and new energy, and help bring some of the new programming to the Central Region that MCACA is developing. He is also becoming acquainted with the environmental review process as CUPPAD has several agencies that rely on us for that service. They have nowhere else to go, yet their essential projects evolve around HUD and CDBG/HUD-funded projects and require an environmental review.

Ryan Soucy is busy with the CEDS, the CEDS committee and the development and reviews of various CEDS type projects that our partners are coming up with as their eyes are all on the 3-billion dollars the EDA received in ARPA funds. There are 6 different NOFAs just announced by the EDA yesterday. TIP Strategies, the consultant hired with EDA CARES ACT funds to develop an economic resiliency strategy plan for Marquette County and provide a template for the other five counties, is scheduled to be complete by the end of August and we are looking forward to seeing

the entire package they put together. Ryan Soucy is also working on the City of Ishpeming Master Plan and the City of Negaunee Master Plan.

G. Corkin requested a breakout of the EDA funds that are available for the region. D.LaJoye said she will look into that and report her findings at the next meeting.

Julia Cogger is now full-time with CUPPAD as of July 1. She has been developing very high-level recreation plans, and she is ready for Township Master Plans. Julia will also be assisting with the non-motorized trail development workshop that CUPPAD will be conducting at the Burt Township School on August 12 at 4:00 pm. They have a new Supervisor that is interested in seeing a non-motorized trail be developed from the school to the 1,000 plus acres of forested school-owned property that is maybe 3 or so miles from the school itself. The community of Grand Marais supports the project and frequently seeks ways to help their local school with various recreation projects.

Rawan Hinzman, formerly Rawan Alhabbal, has become a citizen of the United States and has taken her husband's name. She is doing true GIS trailblazing work on the NEMT project that CUPPAD has been contracted to do for UPCAP. She is gaining confidence to lead projects and do what it takes to learn new skills to serve our members. The most recent example occurred when our 911 update contract with Schoolcraft County was at question with the Schoolcraft County Clerk, the County Sheriff, and the Building Codes and Zoning Administrator. The building codes/zoning staff, who was also tasked with taking GPS points for 911 updates, became very frustrated with CUPPAD because we were not assigning addresses to his 911 points in the GIS system. He wanted something that we were not contracted to do, but it was clear that they need that service. Rawan researched 911 systems in Michigan and is confident that we can make that part of our services. She is also going for her Master's in GIS through the University of Wisconsin starting this fall.

If there was an award for the Regional Planning Agency in the State of Michigan that has PASER rated the most roads in the shortest time, CUPPAD would win thanks to Michael Tripp. Thanks to Mike Tripp's ability to grab ahold of the project, learn it as quickly as possible, and schedule and perform 100% of the Federal Eligible roads in the Central Region. Mike's achievements are important because now CUPPAD GIS staff can shift over to the development of the Superior Region Non-Motorized Trail Plan and Bike Map and expend the \$17,000 budgeted for FY21. Other CUPPAD staff will also have a role in that project.

D. LaJoye reported that she has been working on various CDBG projects and new grants for more CDBG projects. CUPPAD has three Rental Rehabs, one in the City of Iron Mountain is nearly complete and two in the City of Manistique are just starting. The Senior Center renovations in the City of Ishpeming and the City of Negaunee are near completion. The City of Ishpeming will be having an open house at their newly renovated senior center next week. The City of Escanaba is requesting a grant extension on their Façade Improvement grant that was approved in 2019. That project included façade improvements to three separate buildings on Ludington Street in Escanaba with \$31,000 in CGA funds to CUPPAD. Early on, the project hit delays in the bid process. Then COVID 19 hit, everything was shutdown other complications ensued between the contractor and

one of the businesses. Right now it looks like the MEDC is willing to consider a grant extension to allow the remaining property owners to move forward with 50% funding from CDBG. We also have a sewer line extension CDBG project in the City of Manistique that will be starting soon and it looks like the City of Escanaba will meet the requirements for additional CDBG funding of 1.8 million dollars toward necessary upgrades to their wastewater treatment system. I'm hoping all of this activity settles down so I can return the Harris Township Master Plan and the Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

G. Corkin requested an update on the Village of Carney Category A grant application. D. LaJoye reported that the MDOT representative was very optimistic about the Village receiving Category A funds until he performed a site visit and saw that North Guard Street seems to function as a driveway for the Performance Lumber Company, as they even have their lumber stacked alongside the road. Category A funds are specifically for economic development projects that are impacted by public roads. G. Corkin emphasized the importance of retaining the 52 jobs at Performance Lumber Co. Losing Performance Lumber Company and the 52 jobs would have serious consequences for all jobs in the region that rely on the lumber industry.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. PRESENTATIONS

1:00 PM – Bruce Morre with Highline will provide information about the installation of 6,000 mile of fiber optic cabel across the Upper Peninsual over the next 3 years.

I. NEXT MEETINGS

- I.1 Executive Committee Meeting – 8/26/2021 at 2:00 PM ET
- I.2 Quarterly Regional Commission Meeting - 10/22/2021 at 12:00 PM ET