

**CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Minutes**

April 26, 2024  
12:30pm ET

Delta County Boardroom, Escanaba, MI  
Zoom and call options

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Member at Large\*  
Kelly Livermore, Alger County Board\*  
Jill Beaudo, Hannahville Indian Community\*  
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships\*  
John Malnar, Delta County Board\*  
Mike Perilloux, Schoolcraft County Cities\*  
Kathy Vermaat, Marquette County Planning Commission\*  
Pam Johnson, Alger County Planning Commission  
Jeff Carlson, Menominee County Planning Commission  
Connie Westrich, Menominee County Member at Large  
John Denholm, Delta County Planning Commission  
Emily Leach, Marquette County Member at Large  
Laura Skrubellos, Dickinson County Planning Commission  
Dean Seaburg, Alger County Member at Large  
Randy Gorecki, Delta County Townships  
Zak Aubert, Menominee County Cities  
Joe Stevens, Dickinson County Board  
Mike Stelmaszek, Dickinson County Cities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Cugini, Marquette County Cities  
Robert Peterson, Delta County Member at Large  
Kristen Thornton, Marquette County Townships  
Bruce Birr, Schoolcraft County Commission  
Dan Rushford, Alger County Villages  
Denny Olson, Dickinson County Townships\*  
Joe Derocha, Marquette County Board  
Michelle Doucette, Alger County Townships

\*Denotes Executive Committee Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Dotty Lajoie, Executive Director, CUPPAD

Rachel Johns, Administrative Assistant, CUPPAD

Ryan Carrig, Community Planner, CUPPAD

Michelle Viau, UP Michigan W

Antonio Adan, Housing Specialist, Project Manager & Administrator with Marquette County

MEMBERS PRESENT BY ZOOM

Kathy Reynolds, Alger County Cities

Cathy Rohde, Manistique City Council

Joan Ecclesine, Manistique City Council

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY P. KLEIMAN, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR; MOTION CARRIED.**

C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2024, REGIONAL COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING BY J. STEVENS, SUPPORTED BY M. PERILLOUX; MOTION CARRIED.**

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Beaudou provided a financial briefing for new members explaining the documents received in their meeting packet. Jill requested clarification on specific points within two contracts. The first was the EDA Assisted Coal Communities Grant. Dotty and Michelle explained the grant is pass through funds. The second was the was the MSHDA showing 60% spent but only 20% complete. Dotty clarified that she will be submitting an FSR for funds to be paid out on the MSHDA contract. To summarize, Jill highlighted a strong mid-year position with a growing fund balance and on-track expenses.

**MOTION TO ACCPET THE TREASURER'S REPORT WAS MADE BY J. BEAUDO, SUPPORTED BY K. LIVERMORE; MOTION CARRIED.**

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

D. Lajoie provided an overview of the MI Neighborhoods program offered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). She emphasized the importance of maximizing participation from the region as \$2.2 million has been allocated to the six counties in the central region of the Upper Peninsula. Eligible

projects focus on either rehabilitating existing housing or developing new housing. The funding levels depend on the applicant's experience administering grants with three different levels. Beginner: up to \$200,000, Intermediate: up to \$400,000, and Advanced (administered 5+ grants): up to \$2 million. There is an 18% administration or developer fee, and applications are submitted through the MSHDA IGX portal.

Ryan Carrig presented the possibility of combining Menominee County Master Plan with Delta County Master Plan. This combined plan could then be used to apply for coastal management funds from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Following a successful EGLE application coastal management workshops would be held in both counties and coastal management elements would be incorporated into both master plans. Upon completion of the combined master plan, the team could apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for state planning research funds. Those funds would be used to update the corridor management plan for the M-35 Hidden Byway Coast Corridor, which runs from the city of Menominee to the city of Gladstone. Moving onto materials management, legal review of the interlocal agreement was conducted by Wendy Marcotte. The overall framework remains largely unchanged, with some modifications to quorum requirements and payment terms. The updated agreement was distributed to the counties and meetings will be scheduled with the county administrators and board chairs to address any questions or concerns regarding the revised agreement. **MOTION TO ACCPET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT WAS MADE BY K. LIVERMORE, SUPPORTED BY J. DENHOLM; MOTION CARRIED.**

F. New Business

G. OLD BUSINESS

G. 1 CUPPAD Bylaws – T. Karlstrom informed the Commissioners the Executive Committee held a Special Meeting and motioned to have the draft of the bylaws go for legal review with the final draft completed for Commission approval in October.

PRESENTATIONS

Antonio Adan – Marquette County Housing Specialist provided an overview of the projects multiple organizations are working together on to improve the housing crisis.

### COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Emily Leach agreed with the portion of Antonio's presentation on continuing the conversation of how aging in place affects the housing crisis.

Joe Stevens reported the completion of the autopsy building at the Ford Airport campus.

Thyra Karlstrom thanked everyone for their in-person attendance which continues to help meet the quorum requirement.

### NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee meeting- May 23, 2024, at 2:00PM

Quarterly Regional Commission meeting- July 26, 2024, at 12:30- Lunch is served at noon.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING BY T. KARLSTROM, SUPPORTED BY J. MALNAR;  
MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

*Minutes provided by Rachel Johns*