

CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2025

12:30pm ET

Delta County Boardroom, Escanaba, MI

Zoom and call options

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelly Livermore, Alger County Board*
John Malnar, Delta County Board* (via Zoom)
Denny Olson, Dickinson County Townships*
Jill Beaudou, Hannahville Indian Community*
Kathy Vermaat, Marquette County Planning Commission*
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships*
Mike Perilloux, Schoolcraft County Cities*
Pam Johnson, Alger County Planning Commission
Dean Seaberg, Alger County Member at Large
Kathy Reynolds, Alger County Cities (via Zoom)
Lisa Howard, Alger County Townships
Amy Berglund, Delta County Planning Commission
Theresa Chenier, Delta County Townships
Joeseeph Walker, Delta County Cities
Amber Butterfield, Dickinson County Planning Commission (via Zoom)
Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities
Dana LaLonde, Marquette County Board (via Zoom)
Connie Westrich, Menominee County Member at Large
Zak Aubert, Menominee County Board
John Starzynski, Menominee County Cities
Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County Board
Randy Gorecki, Bark River Township

*Denotes Executive Committee Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Member at Large*
Christine Williams, Delta County Member at Large
Jordan Stanchina, Dickinson County Cities
Emily Leach, Marquette County Board
Kristin Thornton, Marquette County Townships
Donald Park, Menominee County Planning Commission
Carol Welch, Menominee County Villages

OTHERS PRESENT

Dotty LaJoye, Executive Director, CUPPAD

Ryan Carrig, Community Planner, CUPPAD

Michelle Viau, CFO, UP Michigan Works!

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Dotty LaJoye, acting as chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In lieu of roll call, there was a request that all members present provide an introduction for the benefit of new members; a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN BY D. OLSON, SUPPORTED BY P. KLEIMAN; MOTION CARRIED.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2024 REGIONAL COMMISSION MEETING BY P. KLEIMAN, SUPPORTED BY M. PERILLOUX; MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING BY M. PERILLOUX, SUPPORTED BY P. KLEIMAN; MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Beaudou presented the Treasurer's Report, giving an overview of current financials; expenditures and revenues are in line with the progress of the fiscal year. Comments were made on the delay of the City of Ishpeming Housing Readiness project, which was delayed due to new City administration; Ishpeming Township Recreation Plan over budget due to excess time spent. Changes to the check signing policy resulted in large packet materials for the meeting, to prevent this in the future, a discussion was had on just including the check and deposit register, and having individual members with questions contact Dotty with questions. The Executive Committee has the responsibility of reviewing financials in detail, so detailed expenses should not be sent to the entire Regional Commission unless requested.

MOTION TO INCLUDE ONLY THE CHECK AND DEPOSIT REGISTER IN FUTURE MEETING PACKETS, AND ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT BY J. BEAUDOU, SUPPORTED BY K. VERMAAT; MOTION CARRIED.

Review of accounts payable included with Treasurer's Report, no further discussion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

D. LaJoye presented the Executive Director Report to characterize the wide range of projects being worked on by staff and highlight mission and goals for the benefit of new members. Ryan Soucy, Senior Planner, is working with various trade unions to develop EDA grant applications. Soucy is facilitating the creation of the Outdoor Recreation Innovation Action Network under an EDA grant,

and supporting community and regional economic development needs to be worked into a future update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Jessica Walter, Associate Planner, is gaining experience working on community recreation plans, developing housing readiness materials, and starting on the Ely Township Master Plan. Emily Soucy, Community Planner, is continuing work on strategic communications, and developing recreation and master plans with Ishpeming and Forsyth Townships. Mike Tripp, GIS Coordinator, is continuing to work on parcel equalization and 911 addressing in Delta and Schoolcraft County. Helen DeMarsh has been hired on a contract basis to support Mike with parcel edits and allow him to work on broader projects with staff. Ryan Carrig, Community Planner, is facilitating materials management planning, MDOT transportation projects, and various planning and zoning projects with communities. Dotty highlighted upcoming events CUPPAD is supporting, including a Renewable Energy Academy to be held at Bay College, and the upcoming Delta County Citizen Planner course.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY D. OLSON, SUPPORTED BY C. REITER; MOTION CARRIED.

ELECTION OF THE FY25-27 CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION

D. LaJoye presented the known filled positions of the CUPPAD Regional Commission for FY25-27 after communication with various groups and municipalities. Several positions remain unfilled, and LaJoye will continue outreach to retain members.

MOTION BY P. KLEIMAN, SUPPORTED BY D. OLSON TO ELECT THE PRESENTED LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION; MOTION CARRIED.

ELECTION OF THE FY25-27 CUPPAD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

D. LaJoye presented the slate of potential positions and nominees for Executive Committee positions. Per the Bylaws, each group of members by county select a member by caucus to represent the county on the Executive Committee. Rotation of counties results in Delta County having two representatives on the Executive Committee for this term.

ALGER COUNTY MEMBERS- MOTION BY D. SEABURG, SUPPORTED BY L. HOWARD TO SELECT K. LIVERMORE FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WITH D. SEABURG DESIGNATED ALTERNATE; MOTION CARRIED.

DELTA COUNTY MEMBERS- MOTION BY T. CHENIER, SUPPORTED BY A. BERGLAND TO SELECT J. MALNAR AND C. WILLIAMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; MOTION CARRIED.

DICKINSON COUNTY MEMBERS- D. OLSON BY CONSENSUS.

MARQUETTE COUNTY MEMBERS- CAUCUS HELD VIA EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH SELECTION OF T. KARLSTROM.

MENOMINEE COUNTY MEMBERS- MOTION BY Z. AUBERT, SUPPORT BY J. STARZYNSKI TO SELECT P. KLEIMAN; MOTION CARRIED.

**SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY MEMBERS- MOTIONS BY M. PERILLOUX AND C. REITER FOR SELECTION;
PER ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER, SELECTION WAS DETERMINED BY RANDOM DRAW WITH M.
PERILLOUX SELECTED.**

HANNAHVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY- J. BEAUDO BY CONSENSUS.

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

PRESENTATION- NONE

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

D. Olson commented on the new Dickinson County Board and ensuring their participation in various Boards and Committees; his attendance at the recent State of the State address and opportunities for bipartisanship in Lansing.

J. Beaudou commented on the opening of the new tribal administration and health center building, and ongoing and planned construction projects at the Island Resort and Casino.

K. Vermaat requested to clarify the requirements of the Economic Development District representation outlined in the Bylaws, and for a description of any impacts to grant applications and funding that CUPPAD has encountered for the next meeting.

D. LaLonde commented on the retirement of Scott Erbis and the tentative hiring of a new Marquette County Administrator.

K. Livermore and D. Seaburg commented on recent events in Alger County and partnership between the County and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to provide mutual support for updates to the County GIS.

M. Perilloux commented on trends in COVID testing in wastewater treatment samples in the UP.

L. Howard commented on receiving a notice of award for a \$430,000 MDNR Trust Fund grant for updates to McQuisten Park based on an application made with support from CUPPAD. The process of installation of solar panels on the Munising Township Hall and financing support.

C. Westrich commented on preliminary discussions to create a Menominee County ORV circuit trail from the general areas of Escanaba-Cedar River-Shakey Lakes-Hermansville. Updates to Shakey Lakes County Park and use for the Menominee County Fair.

J. Walker commented on his start as Planning and Zoning Administrator for the City of Escanaba and recent developments in the city.

Z. Aubert commented on the reorganization of the Menominee County Planning Commission and the hiring of Lexi Hagan to head the Menominee County Business Development Corporation. City of Menominee DDA seeking funds for a downtown arch project and upcoming events.

P. Kleiman commented on growth in Harris Township as a result of projects by the Hannahville Community; debate between Menominee County municipalities and the Road Commission on use of recently adopted millage funding.

C. Reiter commented on ongoing issues with Schoolcraft County lakes and Lake Authority responsibilities, working with EGLE on issues. Possibility of Schoolcraft County rescinding its zoning authority back to the Townships.

A. Berglund commented on the work of the Delta County Planning Commission towards a new County Master Plan. The experience of Invest UP's Rural Fellowship Program to offer experience and placement support for Lexi Hagan.

Next Meetings

Executive Committee meeting- March 27, 2025 at 2:00PM

Quarterly Regional Commission meeting- April 25, 2025 at 12:30PM- Lunch served at noon.

Adjournment

**MOTION BY P. KLEIMAN, SUPPORT BY K. LIVERMORE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:06PM;
MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes by Ryan Carrig