

## **CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION**

### **Quarterly Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

July 25, 2025

12:30pm ET

Delta County Boardroom, Escanaba, MI

Zoom and call options

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Malnar, Delta County Board\*  
Kathy Reynolds, Alger County Cities (via Zoom)  
Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships\*  
Amy Berglund, Delta County Planning Commission (via Zoom)  
Christine Williams, Delta County Member at Large\*  
Theresa Chenier, Delta County Townships  
Dana LaLonde, Marquette County Board  
Kristin Thornton, Marquette County Townships  
Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities  
Connie Westrich, Menominee County Member at Large  
John Starzynski, Menominee County Cities  
Randy Gorecki, Delta County Townships  
Theresa Chenier, Alt., Delta County Townships  
Denny Olson, Dickinson County Townships\*  
Amy Stephens, Alt., Marquette County Member at Large  
Sven Gonstead, Alt. Marquette County Board

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Member at Large\*  
Kelly Livermore, Alger County Board\*  
Kathy Vermaat, Marquette County Planning Commission  
Jordan Stanchina, Dickinson County Cities  
Mike Perilloux, Schoolcraft County Cities\*  
Dean Seaberg, Alger County Member at Large  
Pam Johnson, Alger County Planning Commission  
Emily Leach, Marquette County Board  
Joeseeph Walker, Delta County Cities  
Donald Park, Menominee County Planning Commission  
Carol Welch, Menominee County Villages  
Zak Aubert, Menominee County Board  
Dan Rushford, Alger County Villages  
Lisa Howard, Alger County Townships (via Zoom)  
Jeff LeFevre, Delta County Villages  
Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County Board  
Jill Beaudou, Hannahville Indian Community\*

**\*Denotes Executive Committee Member**

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Dotty LaJoye, Executive Director, CUPPAD  
Ryan Carrig, Community Planner, CUPPAD  
Jessica Walter, Associate Planner, CUPPAD  
Rachel Johns, Administrative Assistant, CUPPAD  
Michelle Viau, CFO, UP Michigan Works!

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by John Malnar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken; a quorum was not present.

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, NO MOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED OR APPROVED.**

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

**DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, NO MOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED OR APPROVED.**

However, the following corrections were noted for the Quarterly Regional Commission minutes dated April 28, 2025: D. LaLonde was present in-person, rather than via Zoom; N. Heffron was mistakenly listed absent twice, and R. Gorecki should be identified as a representative for Delta County Townships, not Bark River Township.

#### TREASURERS REPORT

Michelle Viau, Michigan Works CFO, provided a concise overview of the current financials and addressed inquiries related to the recently issued accounts payable checks.

**DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, NO MOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED OR APPROVED.**

#### Accounts Payable Review

Review was included as part of the overview given during the Treasurers Report.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

D. LaJoye provided an update on several ongoing local planning assistance projects, including multiple County Master Plans and Recreation Plans currently in progress. She also shared information on upcoming training opportunities:

- **The Michigan Infrastructure Council** – is offering free **Asset Management Training** (also referred to as the Champions Program). This training, which is open to both the public and private sectors, focuses on water infrastructure and the principles of asset management.
- **MDOT** is hosting a virtual **Wheel Training** on **August 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**, geared towards city managers, planners, engineers, elected officials, and DDA staff. The training will help participants evaluate various types of bicycle accommodations.
- **CEDAM** will offer a **Rural Real Estate Bootcamp** the week of **September 15<sup>th</sup> in Marquette**, designed to equip participants with the tools needed to support the development of affordable housing within rural communities.

**DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, NO MOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED OR APPROVED.**

### NEW BUSINESS

CUPPAD Annual Audit – The auditors presented the audit report to the Executive Committee at the May meeting. Committee members received a copy for review and were asked to submit any questions to Dotty via email for discussion at the June meeting. However, the June meeting was canceled, and no questions have been received to date.

**DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, NO MOTIONS WERE CONSIDERED OR APPROVED.**

### OLD BUSINESS

### PRESENTATION

Jessica Walter gave a comprehensive presentation on the housing development tool kit she created.

### COMMISSIONER UPDATES

K. Reynolds gave an update on the city of Munising. The DDA has surpassed 400 grants. The city is currently looking to fill the city manager's position. The downtown area has been very busy with tourists this summer.

C. Williams reported on the rehiring of Emily DeSalvo as the Delta County Administrator and Controller. The Delta County airport is waiting for acceptance from the DOT to switch providers from Sky West to Denver Air. The county is currently working with CUPPAD on a 5-year Recreation Plan and Master Plan. The U.P. State Fair is scheduled for the second week of August.

D. LaLonde reported that Marquette County has hired the former airport administrator as the Administrator for the county. The Wings Over Sawyer air show is scheduled at the Sawyer Regional Airport on August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

N. Heffron commended CUPPAD staff for their continued role in supporting local communities. The Capital Improvements Plan for the city of Negaunee is currently under review. Also, the city has made it to the final round for the Michigan Municipal League's Community Excellence Award.

C. Westrich thanked Jessica for her presentation and expressed interest in the housing development tool kit for the approximate 25+ acres Menominee County owns within the city limits of Stephenson.

D. Olson reported the Dickinson County board underwent quite a lot of restructuring. The new board members are learning their new roles. There have been traffic issues that could be fixed, but it will take millions of dollars.

Next Meetings

Executive Committee meeting- August 28, 2025, at 2:00PM

Quarterly Regional Commission meeting- October 31, 2025, at 12:30PM- Lunch served at noon.

Adjournment

**MEETING ADJOURNED BY VICE CHAIR MALNAR AT 2:00 PM.**

*Minutes by Rachel Johns*