

CUPPAD REGIONAL COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2025

12:30pm ET

Delta County Boardroom, Escanaba, MI

Zoom and call options

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelly Livermore, Alger County*

Kathy Reynolds, Alger County Cities (via Zoom)

Pam Johnson, Alger County Planning Commission

Lisa Howard, Alger County Townships

John Malnar, Delta County Board*

Christine Williams, Delta County Member at Large*

Randy Gorecki, Delta County Townships

Denny Olson, Dickinson County Townships*

Dana LaLonde, Marquette County Board

Kathy Vermaat, Marquette County Planning Commission

Nate Heffron, Marquette County Cities

Zak Aubert, Menominee County Board

Mike Perilloux, Schoolcraft County Cities*

Jill Beaudou, Hannahville Indian Community*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dean Seaberg, Alger County Member at Large

Amy Berglund, Delta County Planning Commission

Joseph Walker, Delta County Cities

Jeff LeFevre, Delta County Villages

Jordan Stanchina, Dickinson County Cities

Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Member at Large*

Emily Leach, Marquette County Board

Kristin Thornton, Marquette County Townships

Donald Park, Menominee County Planning Commission

Connie Westrich, Menominee County Member at Large

Peter Kleiman, Menominee County Townships*

Carol Welch, Menominee County Villages

John Starzynski, Menominee County Cities

Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Dotty Lajoie, CUPPAD Executive Director
Ryan Carrig, CUPPAD Community Planner

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Malnar at 12:32pm. 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Beaudou provided a review of the Treasurer's Report, highlighting the increase to the fund balance projected at the end of FY25, corresponding with expenditures being less than projected. Final FY25 budget numbers will be adjusted through October, but no major changes are expected. K. Vermaat asked about the high amount of contractual expenses for third-parties; this being pass-through for work done on behalf of grants CUPPAD administered, particularly the Outdoor Recreation Study in FY25. Z. Aubert asked whether the funds maintained as restricted could be moved to a higher-yield account; the restricted funding is related to the 2014 sale of the CUPPAD building and have been maintained as "cushion" in the bank balances. D. LaJoye will look into the language of the building sale and Executive Committee decisions related to the use of funds from 2014. D. LaLonde asked whether the lack of quorum would affect the Executive Committee's approval of the FY26 budget- D. LaJoye had checked with Wendy Marcotte, legal counsel, prior to the meeting to confirm that CUPPAD could continue to operate without any liability. There was lengthy discussion on the lack of quorum and consideration of the budget- D. LaJoye read the Bylaws and clarified the procedure for the adoption of the budget approved by the Executive Committee. D. LaJoye detailed the conversation with legal counsel on the options the Regional Commission could consider to address the lack of attendance by representatives which has affected the ability to maintain quorum for Regional Commission meetings. D. LaJoye will be sending formal letters to each legislative body that should have representation on the Regional Commission but has not sent a representative in the past several meetings; the letter will ask the body to appoint a member, or vacate the appointment for the Commission's two-year representative cycle. K. Vermaat commented that the recent updates to the Bylaws to formally include alternates had not addressed the absenteeism, and that further updates may be needed. There was lengthy discussion about the various representational requirements of the current Regional

Commission. R. Gorecki asked if the Executive Committee could address the issues and draft bylaw updates ahead of the next Regional Commission meeting.

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REVIEW

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D. LaJoye reported on the hiring of Eric Szymanski after the withdrawal of a previous candidate. The Office of Rural Prosperity is leading discussions between state government departments, Michigan Association of Regions, and other stakeholders on the establishment of a Statewide Planning Office to coordinate state initiatives through the Regions. More information is needed to establish what level of responsibility the Regions would have, and how the program could be sustainably funded.

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

NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Adoption – FY26 Budget Due to the lack of quorum, the Commissioners reviewed the budget and asked questions. K. Vermaat asked about the continued availability of state and federal grant programs that could realize additional revenue; D. LaJoye commented on the removal of programs from each budget and the reliance on local contracts for the majority of the budget.

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

OLD BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS

I.1 Nate Heffron – City of Negaunee CEA 2025 Finalist Nate Heffron, City Manager of the City of Negaunee gave a presentation on the work on the Negaunee Downtown revitalization and the recent acceptance of a Michigan Municipal League Community Excellence Award after competing with other communities from the state.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

C. Williams reported on Delta County moving forward with Coleman Engineering to maintain 911 addressing, splitting it from the CUPPAD GIS contract. How the Delta County Airport could be affected by government shutdown as an Essential Air Service-funded facility. Z. Aubert gave an update on the efforts of the Menominee DDA to secure funding for its downtown arch project, work in the downtown to clean up blight. D. LaLonde gave an update on the addition of Karl Numinen to the Board of Commissioners, the expansion of flights at Marquette Regional Airport. D. Olson asked that everyone hope for good weather as they help deliver the State Capitol Christmas Tree from Sault Ste. Marie to Lansing. Updates from Dickinson County.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Executive Committee- 11/20/25 at 2:00pm

Quarterly Regional Commission- 2/27/26 at 12:30pm, lunch at noon

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED BY VICE CHAIR J. MALNAR AT 2:20PM.

Minutes by Ryan Carrig.