

## U.P. RC&D Council Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2022

**Board Members and Staff Participating in Meeting:** All participated via ZOOM video conference

**Executive Board Members Participating by Teleconference:** Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Erin Daines - MSUE, Jen Ricker-Feak – Iron Baraga CD, Ashley Reitter-Schoolcraft CD, Amber Butterfield – Dickinson CD, Teri Grout-Rock River Township Supervisor, Renee Leow – Marquette County Citizen, Tiffany Escherich (Associate Board Member) – Bay Mills Indian Community, Nick Cassel & Sydney Hank-UP RC&D Council staff

**Others Participating in Person or by Teleconference:** Theresa Nelson – Delta County, Kelly Church – Chippewa County, Gale Eilola – Baraga County,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am (EDT) by Chairperson Rice.

**Approval of Agenda:** Cassel requested to add an intro for Tiffany Escherich under Business. A motion was made by Butterfield, supported by Ricker-Feak to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Comments:** No public comments were made

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Daines, supported by Ricker-Feak to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 21, 2022 with no changes. Motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet as of September 8, 2022 and the Profit and Loss statements for the period January 1, 2017 through September 8, 2022, a quarterly Profit and Loss statement from July 1, 2022 through September 8, 2022 and for the January 1 through September 8, 2022 period. The combined balance in all accounts as of September 8, 2022 was \$53,387.46. The ED reviewed several purchases made during the previous quarter including those for LARA, ACH monthly fees, and operation costs such as phone and rent. The ED reminded the board these dollars are the un-restricted monies not tied to any grant. He then referenced two documents 1) ACH documentation and 2) Scans of all receipts for purchases made with the un-restricted dollars. This documentation is provided to the Executive Board per the newly developed and approved bylaws. A motion was made by Butterfield, supported by Daines to place the financial reports on file. Motion carried.

### **Business:**

- **Tiffany Escherich – Bay Mills Indian Community (*Bio/Review of Associate Board role*):** Cassel recommended giving Escherich a moment to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and allow any questions and conversation to ensue. Escherich provided her past education and career background, with various tasks involving invasive species management for both Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Bay Mills Indian Community. Rice proceeded to explain the roles/responsibilities of the Associate Board position, which is near inclusive to an Executive Board position, except the final ability to provide a vote. Escherich mentioned looking forward to getting more involved in UPRCD.
- **UPRCD/MSUE collaboration:** Daines provided an update on the UPRCD/MSUE collaborative partnership position. Things are moving along to get Cassel onboarded. Daines reviewed the process Cassel went through with a position application and interview process. There will be many details to work through as this process continues, but in general things are running smooth and Cassel starts the role effective Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rice mentioned to the Executive Board and other partners that the Personnel Committee will be meeting to discuss several finance actions needing to take place regarding UPRCD specific grants and MSUE salaried dollars. The committee will bring the findings to the Executive Board as a whole.
- **Upcoming funding opportunity:**
  - Wildflower Association of Michigan – Hank notified the Executive Board of a funding opportunity through the Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM). Her and Cassel would like to submit a proposal for \$1,200 to fund a school pollinator demo garden. She has reached out to several rural schools such as Three Lakes Academy in Cutris, Engadine Public Schools, and Tahquamenon Public Schools, with fair response. Proposals are due December 1. Reitter mentioned she just participated in a similar project, as did Escherich, and if Hank needs any assistance to reach out. A motion was made by Ricker-Feak,

- seconded by Grout. Motion carried.
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) - *A multi-CISMA response to Himalayan Balsam in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Cassel gave a brief history and synopsis of a newer invasive plant found in the UP, Himalayan Balsam. Its early detection and State Watch List status, along with its obvious spread from the Eastern UP to the Central UP, has warranted action. Cassel requests support and a motion from the Executive Board to submit a proposal to MISGP to fund a response project to Himalayan Balsam. A large component and dollar amount would be distributed to the Lake to Lake CISMA and Three Shores CISMA to perform survey/management and outreach efforts. The proposal budget is not complete but will be in the range of \$150,000-\$250,000. Cassel will provide an exact budget via email to the Executive Board. Proposal due November 1<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Grout, seconded by Reitter. None apposed. Motion carried to submit the proposal, upon refinement of the budget.

## **UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS AND PROJECT FUNDS**

### **EPA GLRI – Expanding Phragmites management in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**

Agreement Amount \$663,655 Match Commitment \$0.00

Project Dates: January 6, 2022 to April 30, 2024 (*will be extended through fall 2024 due to delayed start*)

Partners – DNR, Dickinson, Iron/Baraga, Marquette, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation Districts, Michigan Tech and their associated CISMAs

Remaining funds **\$585,805.33**

### **MISGP – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration and Landowner Stewardship**

Agreement Amount \$191,600 Match Commitment \$21,800 - *met*

Project Dates: March 2019 to March 31, 2022 (Extended to Sept. 30, 2022)

Partners – Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, and Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation Districts and their associated CISMAs

Remaining funds **\$500.00 – ENDS SEPT. 30, 2022**

### **NFWF SOGL – Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin**

Agreement Amount \$150,000 Match Commitment \$150,000 (reduced to \$66,035.26 due to COVID)

Project Dates: August 2019 to December 31, 2021 (Received extension to Dec. 31, 2022 due to COVID – requested additional request – only valid through June 30, 2023)

Partners - Marquette, Alger, Dickinson, & Chippewa Luce Mackinac CDs, GLIFWC, WIDNR, Marinette Co.

Remaining funds **\$78,484.63**

### **MISGP – Upper Peninsula European frog-bit detection initiative**

Agreement Amount \$239,100 Match Commitment \$37,400

Project Dates: April 30, 2021 to April 30, 2023

Partners – Dickinson, Iron/Baraga, Marquette, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation Districts, Michigan Tech and their associated CISMAs

Remaining funds **\$136,084.22**

### **DNR Fisheries Habitat Grant Program – Tahquamenon River road stream crossing inventory update**

Agreement Amount \$62,400 Match Commitment \$6,900

Project Dates: July 16, 2021 to Oct. 7, 2022 (potential 1 month extension)

Partners – DNR Fisheries Division, DNR Forest Resources Division, Bay Mills Indian Community, LSSU Center for Freshwater Research and Education, Chippewa/Luce County Road Commissions, Hiawatha National Forest

Remaining funds **\$17,367.64**

### **Great Lakes Commission – Upper Peninsula Aquatic Invasive Species Education Cooperative**

Agreement Amount \$6,579.52 Match Commitment \$0.00

Project Dates: June 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022

Partners – Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Three Shores CISMA,

Remaining funds **\$0.00 - Spending ended Aug. 30, 2022 – final report due Sept. 30, 2022**

### **DNR Fisheries Habitat Grant Program – Au Train Lake Cooperative Habitat Enhancement Initiative**

Agreement Amount \$89,200.00 Match Commitment \$22,500

Project Dates: August 2, 2022 to Oct. 6, 2023

Partners – DNR Fisheries Division, Alger Conservation District, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Hiawatha National Forest

Remaining funds **\$89,200.00**

**Hiawatha National Forest PA – Sharptails and Pollinator Habitat Enhancement**

Agreement Amount \$67,000.00 Match Commitment \$17,617.60

Project Dates: August 11, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2024

Partners – Hiawatha National Forest, Sault Tribe, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association

Remaining funds **\$67,000.00**

**GLRI CWMA – Managing non-native Phragmites across the Hiawatha National Forest**

Agreement Amount \$55,138.00 Match Commitment \$15,163.20

Project Dates: August 24, 2022 to Mar. 31, 2025

Partners – Hiawatha National Forest, Three Shores CISMA, Lake to Lake CISMA

Remaining funds **\$55,138.00**

**Partner Updates:** Reitter mentioned the MACD Region 2 meeting to be held Oct. 11 and invited partners to attend if interested. Ricker-Feak mentioned the MACD Region 1 meeting which will be held Oct. 12 and also invited partners. Escherich updated meeting attendees she was awarded 5 different grants, one was a Natural Resources Youth Initiative to enhance the Boys and Girls Club. She's also working on shoreline stabilization work coinciding with spotted knapweed removal and working on a hot composting facility.

**Future Meeting Dates:** December 13, 2022 @ 10:00am EDT

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Leow, supported by Daines to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am. Motion passed.

*Resource Conservation  
and Development Council*