

## U.P. RC&D Council Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023

**Executive Board Members Participating Virtually:** Bill Rice-Dickinson CD, Erin Daines - MSUE, Jen Ricker-Feak – Iron Baraga CD, Mike McCarthy – Chippewa Luce Mackinac CD, Ashley Reitter-Schoolcraft CD, Amber Butterfield – Dickinson CD, Renee Leow – Marquette County Citizen, Nick Cassel & Sydney Hank-UP RC&D Council staff

**Others Participating Virtually:** Barb Kramer – Dickinson County, Gretchen Janssen – Houghton County, Jeff Carlson – Menominee County, Kelly Church – Chippewa County, Max Ramsay – Gogebic CD

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am (EDT) by Chairperson Rice.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Leow, supported by Butterfield to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

**Public Comments:** n/a

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Ricker-Feak, supported by Leow to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on March 20, 2023 with no changes. Motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** The Executive Director (ED) presented the Balance Sheet as of June 15, 2023 and the Profit and Loss statements for the period January 1, 2018 through June 15, 2023, a quarterly Profit and Loss statement from January 1, 2023 through June 15, 2023 and for the January 1 through June 15, 2023 period. The combined balance in all accounts as of June 15, 2023 was \$21,271.32. The ED reviewed several purchases made during the previous quarter including those for ACH monthly fees, and operation costs such as phone and rent. An additional item that was noted was the \$14,112.15 expense being the first contribution to MSUE for the 60/40 joint position. 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 approved bylaws. A motion was made by Ricker-Feak, supported by Daines to place the financial reports on file. Motion carried.

### **Business:**

- **County Dues** – Cassel gave an up to date list of Counties that had chose to continue support of the UP RC&D Council through dues. At the time of the meeting, 8/15 Counties sent \$350 dues.
- **UPRC&D/MSUE collaboration/Personnel Committee Updates:** Daines provided an update on the UPRCD/MSUE collaborative partnership position. Rice informed the rest of the board that the personnel committee met to discuss MOU edits and the Personnel Committee plan to meet with Dave Ivan and Josh Gunn of MSU Extension once all questions have been gathered, and review each item for clarification. Rice noted that this will take the MOU renewal deadline beyond the June 30 deadline, but Daines assured the group an extension would not be a problem, and that Dave Ivan wants UPRCD to feel comfortable with the renewal. Daines also gave an update to the group of some of the MSUE collaboration that Cassel had participated in, including a natural resources meeting in Escanaba. Ricker-Feak brought up a concern based on a few comments that had been made at a different meeting that “MSUE had absorbed UPRCD” and wanted to ensure that UPRCD kept it’s identity. Daines noted that the PR and communication pertaining to the new partnership had not been heavily pursued, and that she and Cassel will develop a strategy moving forward on what this partnership looks like to other partners and the public in general.
- **2023 In-person meeting – Marquette/Chatham?** – Cassel reminded the board and partners of a discussion had regarding an in-person board meeting. The desire to meet in person remains, thus Cassel can coordinate to make the September meeting be in person. Daines and Leow offered to assist plan should a team be needed. Daines informed Cassel that she will confirm the date of September 21, 2023 at the UPREC South Farm will be available and get James DeDecker, who runs the facility, in touch with him.
- **UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS AND PROJECT FUNDS**

### **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 \$417,294.58**

**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 June 30, 2023)

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

**Remaining funds \$5,124.16** – closing out grant July 2023

**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 \$0.00** – Closing out grant June 30, 2023

**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 \$61,491.63**

**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** + an additional \$35,000 when agreement is complete

**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 \$51,313.91**

**MISGP – A multi-CISMA response to Himalayan Balsam in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula**

Agreement Amount \$194,200

Match Commitment \$21,800

Project Dates: March 28, 2023 to April 30, 2025

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

**Remaining funds \$194,200**

**Great Lakes Commission – Upper Peninsula Aquatic Invasive Species Education Cooperative (2023)**

Agreement Amount \$8,323.69 Match Commitment \$0.00

Project Dates: June 6, 2023 to August 31, 2023

Partners – WRISC, KISMA, WePIC, L2L CISMA, TSCISMA, Bay Mills Indian Community

**Remaining funds \$8,323.69**

**Partner Updates:** Kramer wanted to give a shoutout to the Conservation Districts and their wonderful opportunities for pollinator gardens and providing the plants. Ricker-Feak informed the group of the IBCD open house and election the Saturday following the UPRCD board meeting, and it will be held at the Iron County Court House. Please reach out to her for more info.

**Future Meeting Dates:** June 20, 2023 @ 10:00am - Virtual

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Leow, supported by Daines to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am. Motion passed.