



**UPWARD Talent Council  
County Commissioners' Executive Board Meeting  
March 7, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call To Order**

Board Chair Gerald Corkin calls the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M. Eastern.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Eley Mattson (alternate), Alger County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Gerry Corkin, Marquette County; Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County; Patrick Johnson, Delta County and Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County

**Absent:**

Tim Aho, Iron County

**Michigan Works! Staff:**

William Raymond, CEO; and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager

**III. Public Comment**

There is no public comment.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda is made by made by Commissioner Bonovetz; seconded by Commissioner Johnson; the motion passed unanimously.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from Dec 6 2018 meeting is made by Commissioner Nykanen; supported by Commissioner Johnson; Commissioner Reiter abstained from vote due to not being on the board at that time. Approval of Minutes passed with majority vote.

**VI. Financial Report**



CEO Raymond presents the financial report. Bill Raymond indicates that things look good and spending is on track for the year. The GoingPro Contracts are being executed and will be spending those funds by the end of the year.

Commissioners Nykanen and Corkin reviewed the line item budget and vouchers and everything was in order; there were no questions. CEO Raymond indicated that they will start budget process soon for the upcoming year. Chair Corkin requests that the budget should be first brought to the Executive Committee to review and recommend to the full board in June. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner Reiter; motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Old Business

None

## VIII. New Business

### A. Action Items – Recommended Motions

There were several motions to vote on:

**Michigan Works! System Plan Instructions for Calendar Year 2019** motion – Motion made by Commissioner Bonovetz; seconded by Commissioner Nykanen. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Brief discussion of electronic voting and video options** – CEO Raymond let the board know that they are in the process of trying to update by-laws; they are going through the old by-laws and making sure those reflect the changes and consolidations over the last few years. For the Upper Peninsula, video options are important because there is challenging geography. Bill explained that all of the hub centers are video capable and suggested making a plan for inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Commissioner Corkin agreed that video can be an option for someone who is a great distance away, but that meeting in person is always encouraged. Commissioner Reiter states that he believes it is important to have a quorum present. It was agreed that UPward will get a document with some options ready to bring to the executive committee, and then get feedback. Then, they will prepare statements and updated by-laws draft for the full committee to vote on in June.

**C. Executive Committee – New member and vacancy** – There was discussion regarding the open seat vacated by John Waltman of Luce County. Commissioner Corkin suggested that the new Luce County Commissioner appointed to UPward's board, Kevin Erickson be asked to be on the Executive Committee. Tracy Roberts, Office Manager and CEO Bill Raymond indicated that they will be reaching out to Commissioner Erickson. We



need representation from the Eastern U.P. Commissioner Reiter said he may have another commissioner in Schoolcraft that he can pull in. The members agreed that a Plan A would be to find someone from one of the 3 counties in the east.

## **IX. Reports:**

### **A. Chair**

Chair Corkin met with the CEO of Cleveland Cliffs and he indicated that they are ready to re-open Empire mine, but first they will need a long-term contract with the producer of pellets. There will be a shortage of pellets in the years to come so he is fairly confident that the need is out there. The good news is that Minnesota has been eliminated from the competition; Commissioner Corkin brought to the Executive Committee's attention the Resolution for house bill 4227. He explained that most of the U.P. Legislators are promoting the resolution and he would like to have commissioners support that within their counties. He requested that we contact each board member to get their support – via email or phone. CEO Raymond advises that he will send it to them, and allow any if anyone objections.

There was discussion among the executive committee on finding the right talent and trained individuals for the myriad of jobs that are open. Bill Raymond explained that finding skilled labor is in the most difficult time he's ever seen and there are real challenges to getting people lined up in the pipeline. UPward is working to understand the reasons that people are not ready, willing, and able to work (lack of DL, lack of ppl, no HS diploma, not interested in working). He indicated that the team is looking into it and will provide updates.

### **B. CEO**

CEO Raymond updated the board on the Micro-business development program. He thinks there is starting to be some clarity; this has been out there, but it hasn't been widely publicized; Bill will be receiving updates and he will also be talking to the economic developers to get it out there for them to understand as well. CEO Raymond updated the executive committee on the IMPACT Awards and the winner. Commissioner Nykanen commented that the U.P. did not receive funding for a Marshall Plan consortium, but CEO Raymond advised that although the U.P. did not received funding in the first round, they can still submit for subsequent rounds.



#### **X. Communications**

- A. **Region 1 Jan 2019 Labor Snapshot**
- B. **Jan 2019 Fast Facts**
- C. **Civilian Labor Force Estimates Jan 2019**

Motion to accept Communications made by Commissioner Nykanen; seconded by Commissioner Bonovetz. Motion passed.

#### **XI. Public Comment**

#### **XII. Next Meeting:**

Meeting is scheduled for April 4th.

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

With no other comments, meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:02pm.