



**UPward Talent Council  
County Commissioners  
Executive Committee  
May 2, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call To Order**

Board Chair Gerald Corkin calls the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Eastern.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Patrick Johnson, Delta County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Tim Aho, Iron County; Gerry Corkin, Marquette County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County and Craig Reiter, Schoolcraft County.

**Excused:**

Kevin Erickson, Luce County

**Michigan Works! Staff:**

William Raymond, CEO; Michelle Viau, CFO; and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager.

**III. Public Comment**

None.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda was made by Commissioner Bonovetz and seconded by Commissioner Doucette; motion was approved unanimously.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes was made by Commissioner Johnson and was seconded by Commissioner Nykanen.

**VI. Financial Report**

**A. Grant Status and Overview.** CEO Raymond indicates that we are on track with spending for the year. CFO Michelle Viau explained that there will be approximately 4 OJT contracts for Workplace Spending and Statewide employer engagement funds are available for staffing for the Employer based specialists for the GoingPro



program. Those funds will be used before June 30 due to the chance that the State may take back any extra funding. Commissioner Bonovetz asked about the Apprenticeship Program and if any funding would be added to that. There was not additional funding given, just about \$25K for the Apprenticeship Coordinator. Commissioner Corkin asked if there is any upcoming State monitoring coming up. CEO Raymond indicates that we have several monitors coming this summer. Bill Raymond informs that there will be some form of a budget for the June meeting, but we'll have to make some assumptions based on past funding because we don't know about the allocations yet.

- B. Line Item Budget Report.** Motion to approve Line Item Budget Report was made by Commissioner Bonovetz and supported by Commissioner Johnson. Budget report was approved.
- C. Voucher Review Report.** Vouchers were reviewed and a motion was made to approve vouchers by Commissioner Nykanen and supported by Commissioner Doucette. Vouchers we approved unanimously.

## **VII. Old Business**

None

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Action Items – Recommended Motions**

- i. UPward Talent Council Michigan Works! County Commissioner Board By-laws Update motion**

CEO Raymond takes the board through any updates and proposed new changes to the by-laws. Commissioner Reiter questions if phone participation is allowed for quorum. Commissioner Corkin comments that if we have important issues to vote on, we need participation in person. Phone options for participation will be provided in the future. Motion to approve the updated UTC County Commissioner board by-laws was made by Commissioner Reiter and supported by Commissioner Bonovetz. Motion was approved.

### **B. Executive Committee - Vacancy**

There was a discussion regarding the absence of a Commissioner for Luce County. UTC is still trying to reach Kevin Erickson to ask if he can represent Luce county on the Executive Committee – Commissioner Doucette advised that he will reach out to the clerk or chair of Luce County to inquire.

## **IX. Reports**

- A. Chairman.** Board Chair Commissioner Gerry Corkin states that the Menards case vs City of Escanaba will be heard starting May 17<sup>th</sup> – he thinks Escanaba feels good about the chances. They have received most of the monies to fund it, and he's hopeful they are successful. He indicated that other cities and counties contributed to the leg work needed for the Dark Star loophole. Empire Mine is on hold until they come up with a customer for the pellets. If they get a long-term contract, they will



re-open, but it's on hold for now. This may create a shortage of pellets. WII Energies Marquette is closed and about 200 jobs were lost. CEO Raymond indicated that we were as involved as we could, we did a Rapid Response to help people.

Commissioner Bonovetz inquired whether is it anticipated that Marquette will be able to absorb the employees? Commissioner Doucette comments that there are lots of skilled trades in the plants. Some of the commissioners provided updates on some county-specific news and projects.

- B. CEO.** CEO Raymond updates on some upcoming events and item, such as the Soo Locks going in. Our Workforce Services Manager is staying abreast of things there. There is an upcoming June combined board meeting with the Workforce Development board, Bill shares the high-level agenda and indicates that MEDC will come to give a presentation on some of the projects going on. Both boards will meet separately first, and then combine. Bill Raymond talked about the last phases of the Marshall Plan and hoping that some funds come to the U.P. The new Governor Whitmer's program is called Michigan Connect and we're waiting to see how that will play out. So far, there is great bipartisan support from both the House and Senate. Bill talked about the JMG program and how that is a great way to get to kids and provide support and a path for them right out of high school. The funding for JMG was initially cut, but they are trying to get it back in the budget. They are hopeful to get funding back for this important program.

#### **IX. Communications**

Motion to approve Communications was made by Commissioner Bonovetz and then supported by Commissioner Aho. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **X. Public Comment.** None

#### **XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Corkin adjourned meeting at 2:46 P.M. Eastern.