

**Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! County Commissioner Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 5, 2021**

**I. Call to Order, Gerald Corkin, Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm by Board Chair Commission Gerry Corkin.

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Board Chair, Gerry Corkin; Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Patrick Johnson, Delta County; Alan Kilar, Schoolcraft County; Phyllis French, Luce County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County; Joe Bonovetz, Gogebic County; Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County; Gale Eilola, Baraga County; Joe Stevens, Dickinson County; Paul Krause, Mackinac County; and Bernie Lang, Menominee County.

**Excused:**

Mark Stauber, Iron County; Scott Shackleton, Chippewa County; and Bob DeMarois, Keweenaw County.

**UP Michigan Works! Staff:**

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

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Bonovetz and was supported by Commissioner Stevens. Motion passes.

**V. Approval of Minutes from May 6, 2021, meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 6 meeting was made by Commissioner Stevens and was supported by Doucette. Motion passes.

**VI. Financial Report**

Grant Status & Overview and Line-Item Budget Report

CEO Raymond gave an overview of the financial reports. CFO Viau reviewed two new grant funding sources, MiREACH and MiLEAP, which will train 450 participants over the next two years. UPMW has a healthy budget for training.

Motion to accept for file was made by Commissioner Nykanen and was supported by Commissioner Johnson.

Voucher Review Report

A motion was made to support acceptance of vouchers by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Nykanen.

**VII. Old Business – None**

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Action Items – Recommended Motions
1. PI 21-15 - RESEA Program – Pgs. 11-13

- A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-15 by Commissioner Bonovetz and was supported by Commissioner Doucette.
2. PI 21-16 AY 2021 Wagner-Peyser Employment Services Allocations – Pgs. 14-15  
A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-16 by Commissioner Doucette and was supported by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passes.
  3. PI 21-17 – AY 2021 WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Program Allocations  
A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-17 by Commissioner French and was supported by Commissioner Krause. Motion passes. There was one question by Commissioner Bonovetz if there was an increase in these funds compared to last year. WIOA and Wagner Peyser increased by about 3%.
  4. PI 21-18 – Capacity Building and Professional Development Allocations for PY 2021 – Pgs. 19-21  
A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-18 by Commissioner Nykanen and was supported by Commissioner Kilar. Motion passes.
  5. PI 21-19 – AY 2019 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding Allocations for PY 2021 Customer Relationship Management  
A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-19 by Commissioner Stevens and was supported by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passes.
  6. PI 21-21 – AY 2019 WIOA Statewide Activities Funding for PY 2021 High Concentrations of WIOA Eligible Youth  
A motion was made to approve the policy issuance for PI 21-21 by Commissioner French and was supported by Commissioner Doucette. Motion passes.
  7. Workforce Development Board replacement for Tony Retaskie  
A motion to approve Mike Smith as the replacement for Tony Retaskie to the Workforce Development Board was made by Commissioner Stevens and was supported by Commissioner Bonovetz. The motion passes unanimously.

### **VIII. Reports – Pgs. 29-42**

- A. Chair  
Commissioner Corkin, Chair, talks about the MAC Summit regarding the Rescue Plan and how to apply funds for each county and how to spend. They are working on learning as much as they can, so they make the best decisions. Several expenses in the county increased due to the pandemic, so they will see if funds can help with that. Commissioner Stevens comments on a Veterans bill that offers property tax relief. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the bill.
- B. CEO  
CEO Raymond shares some highlights and discussion on the topics in his CEO report such as the U.P. Childcare Taskforce. The first meeting had about 35 attendees from around the region. Delta county is working on a childcare initiative with United Way. Commissioner Kilar asks how to keep informed about these efforts. CEO Raymond shares that between him and Janie McNabb they will keep informed, and if there are people in their county that want to be involved, they can join the taskforce.  
Chair Corkin asks about various service centers he has recently visited. CEO Raymond reports on his activity around the region. He reports that he would like to visit every county in the U.P. and continue meeting with Board members and partners. Commissioner Stevens talks about the new office setting being virtual – is there a possibility in the future to eliminate any of the brick-and-mortar AJCs in every county. Commissioner Stevens thinks that question will come up again. CEO Raymond indicates that it is on the radar for the future. Commissioner Corkin comments on the need to have a system in place that works for everyone.

Commissioner Krause comments that there needs to be broadband internet access across the region before we can do something like that.

In a couple weeks there will be a Familiarization Tour, with many different site selectors coming to the U.P. to assess for business location opportunities. The Governor will be part of that. On the 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Labor Market Convening at Bay College with the Governor. EDA has got 6 new funding streams available, and CEO Raymond and team will be learning more about those.

It was mentioned it's a good time for the Commissioners Board to talk about Succession Planning. CEO Raymond is not planning on leaving, but there is a need to plan. It was agreed that it's a good idea to have a plan in place. He discussed having a formal review for a raise and putting together a task force for succession planning. Commissioner Corkin notes at the next meeting he could have the board weigh in on the performance of the CEO and the raise. The Board is happy with the work and the things that CEO Raymond has done to help the system.

CEO Raymond announces that Tracy Roberts has put in her resignation. A replacement will be found for the Administrative Services Manager position.

## **IX. Communications**

The June 2021 Fast Facts, Michigan Labor Market News, and Job Demand snapshot were shared with the Board. A motion to accept these communications was made by Commissioner Nykanen and was supported by Commissioner Doucette.

## **X. Member updates**

Board members shared some updates about their regions. Commissioner Corkin recognized CFO Viau for her excellent and hard work that is integral to the organization. It was noted a resolution on a match program with the State of Michigan where units of government could apply for a matching amount of money on a project to use the American Rescue Plan money. Commissioner Bonovetz encourages all commissioners to support that. Commissioner Stevens reminds the board about the yearly MAC Conference happening in September.

## **XI. Next Meeting/Adjournment**

The next UPMW LEO Full Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8, immediately following the UPACC. The location is the Island Resort and Casino.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:58 pm.