

**Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! County Commissioner  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2022**

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

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Board Chair, Gerald Corkin, Marquette County; Jerry Doucette, Alger County; Carl Nykanen, Ontonagon County; and Alan Kilar, Schoolcraft County

**UP Michigan Works! Staff:**

William Raymond, CEO; Michelle Viau, CFO; and Russell Utych, Workforce Services Coordinator

**III. Public Comment**

None.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Corkin and supported by Commissioner Doucette. The motion passes.

**V. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2021, meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 4 Executive Committee meeting was made by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Doucette. The motion passes.

**VI. Financial Report**

All grants are within expected ranges. There was expressed concern regarding healthcare MiREACH funding and the shortage of healthcare workers. CEO Raymond explained that it took a while to get the MiREACH funding, but it is gaining momentum. A motion to accept the financial reports for file was made by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Nykanen. The motion passes.

**VII. Old Business**

None

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Action Items – Recommended Motions**

1. Policy Issuance 22-02

A motion to approve the policy issuance was made by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Doucette. The motion passes.

2. Policy Issuance 22-03

A motion to approve the policy issuance was made by Commissioner Corkin and was supported by Commissioner Kilar. The motion passes.

**IX. Reports**

**A. Chairman**

The full board meeting will be held on 5/5/2022 at 11 a.m. ET at the Island Resort and Casino in Escanaba. It will be held Thursday at the start of the two-day

Commissioners' meeting to get better attendance. The Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! (UPMW) Workforce development board will also meet at this time and there will be a joint presentation.

**B. CEO**

CEO Raymond will have a full written report for the May meeting. UPMW is involved in strategic planning with InvestUP to ensure a shared goal of collaboration and to avoid duplication of effort. CEO Raymond will attend a U.P. CEO summit on May 12, 2022. The Marketing Department presented a report detailing their highly successful UPMW advertising campaign. CEO Raymond is watching pending federal legislation regarding Wagner-Peyser funding that could disrupt business. Additional funding options were discussed. The MEDC Labor Market Study is a leading initiative that will make \$150K available to look at U.P. county-level labor market research.

**X. Communications**

A motion to accept the communications reports for file was made by Commissioner Corkin and supported by Commissioner Doucette. The motion passes.

**XI. Member updates**

Commissioner Nykanen reported on a new business, U.P. Products meat processing facility. They bought an existing structure that used to produce musical instrument cases. They undertook significant upgrades. They will also produce their own BBQ sauce. They are asking for letters of support to apply for a federal grant. They would like to initiate meat cutter training. UPMW can help set that training up. They would also like to become federally licensed. Commissioner Doucette asked for assistance to help a current corrections officer receive funding to help with law enforcement training. Commissioner Corkin reports they are working on ARPA priorities.

**XII. Next Meeting/Adjournment**

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled to be in person on Thursday, August 4 at 10:00 AM ET.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 at 10:00 AM ET. The entire Board will be invited, although there will be no official action items until the August in-person meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM ET.