Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Local Elected Officials Board and Workforce Development Board Combined Meeting
Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 1:00pm ET | Bay College, Escanaba

MEETING MINUTES

I. **Call to Order, Mark Stauber**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm ET by Commissioner Stauber.

II. **Roll Call**

A. **Local Elected Officials Board (LEO)**
Mark Stauber, Craig Kent, Damon Lieurance, Patrick Johnson, Joe Stevens, Gretchen Janssen, Randy Eckloff, Jeff Carlson

B. **Workforce Development Board (WDB)**
Mark Massicotte, Melanie Bicigo, Samantha Cameron, Travis Cary, David Goudreau, Dr. Nerita Hughes, Ted Johnson, George Kinsella, Chris Doyle, Ryan Stern, JR Richardson, Mike Smith, Julie Wonders, Paul Meneghini

III. **Public Comment**

IV. **Combined Board New Business**

A. **Board Member Spotlight Presentation – Paul Meneghini, Enbridge**

Paul Meneghini presented Enbridge as a first-choice energy provider. He reported that Enbridge paid $5,478,975 in 2025 property taxes across seven counties.

V. **LEO Only New Business – Mark Stauber**

A. **Approval of Agenda – *Pgs. 3-4***

A motion to approve the LEO & WDB Combined Meeting Agenda of 05.12.2026, was made by Commissioner Janssen, supported by Commissioner Johnson, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

B. **Approval of LEO Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2026 – *Pgs. 5-7***

A motion to approve the LEO meeting minutes of 02.17.2026, was made by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Eckloff, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

C. **Public Hearing – Annual Budget for July 1st, 2026 – June 30th, 2027, *Pgs. 8***

A motion to approve the Annual Budget for July 1st, 2026 – June 30th, 2027, was made by Commissioner Janssen, supported by Commissioner Johnson, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

D. Voucher Review Report

A discussion was held about the usage of fleet vehicles and when the reports are turned in. Board members will be provided with the Travel Policy.
A motion to approve the Voucher Review Report, was made by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Johnson, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

E. Approve Workforce Development Board Nomination – Steve Pelli, MRS – *Pg. 9*

Mr. Pelli of MRS was introduced. He is from Calumet and spent 18 years with DHHS and is now with MRS. He is the Site Manager supporting staff throughout the UP as the district manager.
A motion to approve Steve Pelli as a Workforce Board Member was made by Commissioner Stevens, supported by Commissioner Eckloff, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

F. **Approve Policy Issuances – *Pgs. 10-17***

1. **PI 26-02: Michigan Works! System Plan Instructions for Calendar Year 2026**

   A motion to approve PI 26-02 was made by Commissioner Johnson, supported by Commissioner Kent, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

2. **PI 26-03: Appropriation Year 2025 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Statewide Activities Funding for the Young Professionals 2026 Initiative**

   A motion to approve PI 26-03 was made by Commissioner Janssen, supported by Commissioner Eckloff, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

3. **PI 26-04: Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund/General Purpose Funding for the Young Professionals Plus Initiative**

   A motion to approve PI 26-04 was made by Commissioner Johnson, supported by Commissioner Janssen, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

4. **PI 26-05: Going Pro Talent Fund Program Administration Fiscal Year 2026 Cycle 1**

   A motion to approve PI 26-05 was made by Commissioner Eckloff, supported by Commissioner Janssen, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

VI. WDB Only New Business – Mark Massicotte

A. **Approval of WDB Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2026 – *Pgs. 18-22***

A motion to approve WDB Meeting Minutes of 04.16.2026 was made by Dr. Hughes, supported by Mr. Johnson, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

B. **Approve Policy Issuances – *Pgs. 12-17***

1. **PI 26-03: Appropriation Year 2025 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Statewide Activities Funding for the Young Professionals 2026 Initiative**

   A motion to approve PI 26-03 was made by Mr. Stern, supported by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

2. **PI 26-04: Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund/General Purpose Funding for the Young Professionals Plus Initiative**

   A motion to approve PI 26-04 was made by Mr. Johnson, supported by Dr. Hughes, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

3. **PI 26-05: Going Pro Talent Fund Program Administration Fiscal Year 2026 Cycle 1**

   A motion to approve PI 26-05 was made by Mr. Kinsella, supported by M. Stern, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

C. Approve Local Policies

1. **Debt Collection Policy – *Pgs.* 23-27**

   A motion to approve the Debt Collection Policy was made by Mr. Smith, supported by Dr. Hughes, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

Combined Boards

VII. Financial Report – Michelle Viau

A. Line-Item Budget Report *Pg. 28*

Going Pro is not included in the new State Budget.
A motion to approve the Line-Item Budget Report was made by Commissioner Kent, supported by Mr. Meneghini, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

B. Grant Status and Overview *Pg. 29*

A motion to approve the Grant Status Overview was made by Commissioner Janssen, supported by Commissioner Eckloff, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

VIII. Reports

A. CEO – Debb Brunell

Ms. Brunell reviewed the CEO report and provided updates on the development of a new Strategic Plan, new grant opportunities, and Kobasic Foundation support for the MindTrekkers Program. She also highlighted recent activities, including the Mark Perna event, Invest UP, UPSHRM (formerly UPHRA), organizational recognitions, and staffing updates. Upcoming events discussed included sending Ms. Erkkila a card on behalf of both boards; the Going PRO Talent Fund, where 27 of 31 Cycle 1 applications were approved for just over $1 million in funding; and the expectation that Cycle 2 funding will be reduced due to statewide funding cuts. Additional upcoming events included the JA Girls Dream Fair on May 14, the UP State Fair Governor's Luncheon on August 20, and the Annual Association Meeting scheduled for September 14–16, which will be attended by four members.: Mark M., Dave G., Ted J., Joe E. The board also reviewed its goals for the 2025–2026 year and agreed that the goal-setting process had been valuable. Members plan to develop additional goals for discussion at the next meeting. Lastly, Ms. Brunell asked the membership about ways to support Going Pro even if the state is not.

B. LEO Chair – Mark Stauber

Commissioner Stauber spoke about financially supporting the MindTrekkers event. He stated that the CTE housing project had great reviews and spoke to the need for housing in Iron River.

C. WDB Chair – Mark Massicotte

Mr. Massicotte thanked the board members for their time and commitment and conveyed happiness toward the Lower Peninsula's admiration of the Upper Peninsula's success.

IX. Old Business

A. CEAC – Debb Brunell

Ms. Brunell reported that the current chair has stepped down and they are working toward a new chair and a new strategic plan.

B. State WDB Report – Mike Smith

Mr. Smith and Dr. Hughes reported that a meeting is scheduled for June. They shared that the credentialing agreement with Bay College was the first of its kind, and that seven skilled trades are now available through the ACE program, which can be applied toward an associate degree. They noted that nine colleges across Michigan have signed the agreement, allowing students to begin either through ACE or at a participating college and receive credit in either direction. The discussion also highlighted the importance of strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) connections between K–12 schools and the skilled trades. In addition, members were informed that Workforce Pell Grants will soon be available for eligible students enrolled in qualifying 8- to 16-week credentialing programs.

C. MW Board Report – Dave Goodreau

Mr. Goodreau reported that there is growing angst with its 38-person Michigan Works Association board. He also mentioned that the MEDC is under fire at the state level.

D. CEO Annual Review -Commissioner Stauber, Janssen, Stevens

Board members expressed strong satisfaction with the CEO's performance, citing firsthand experiences working with the organization, positive interactions with staff, and favorable feedback from fellow board members. The review included discussion of organizational reports and progress toward established goals. Board members noted the importance of setting meaningful and measurable goals that are ambitious yet achievable and encouraged continued focus on performance outcomes. Based on the review and overall performance assessment, Commissioner Stauber and Commissioner Janssen recommended a 3% salary increase for the CEO, effective immediately.
A motion to approve a 3% salary increase for the CEO was made by Commissioner Stauber, supported by Commissioner Janssen, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.

X. Member updates

A. Received updates from all who were present.

XI. Communication

A. **Performance Report – *Pg. 30***

Ms. Brunell reported that it is a negotiation year. UPMW has learned a lot from this report and will change the way some of the information is tracked moving forward.

B. **Data Report – *Pg. 31-37***

The data report is attached for your review.

C. **UP Career Outlook Report – *Pg. 38-39***

This report is attached.

D. **All Staff Meeting Agenda – *Pgs. 40-41***

Ms. Brunell shared the All-Staff Meeting Agenda with the board and reminded them that they are invited.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

WDB- August 26th, 2026 12:00pm ET | UPMW Marquette AJC
LEO- August 11th, 2026 11:00pm ET | UPMW Marquette AJC

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Janssen, supported by Commissioner Johnson, and unanimously approved. Motion passes.