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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 4:30 PM  
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Jim Thomas, Negaunee, Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County  
Guests: Bill Sanders, Sanders – Czapski; Nancy Helgren, UPEA  
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - Nancy Helgren, UPEA –The bid price for construction cost of Phase III came in at \$1, 636,000. Net contract amount to date is \$1,693,000 which is about 4% over. Most of the cost overrun is due to the Popko and O’Dovero holes. This does not include liquidated damages for not finishing on time which may mean money back to us. The price also includes \$12,500 to fill gap between Soo Line Bridge and Marquette City bike path. U.P. Pipe approached Helgren with proposal to stain the wall. Over time there may be oxidizing of wall. Want to stain the wall for \$13K. Britton inquired about time frame on price and warranty. Helgren not sure but provided us with written information from U.P. Pipe.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – **Durant motioned to approve the consent agenda; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Hoffman motioned to approve agenda as presented; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Director’s Orders Marquette West Grade – Fulsher noted that our letter to Director Creagh went out outlining our concerns of not getting our director’s order yet on the Marquette west grade. She also sent Facebook pictures of ATV marks on the trail to Chief Ron Olson and other DNR officials locally, regionally and in Lansing. Stacey Welling, U.P. Regional Coordinator, has been asked by Director Creagh to follow up with us and work on getting the order.
  - B. Lease on Greenwood and LS&I Grade/Humboldt Reroute –Fulsher noted that since we have had so many problems with this LUOD on the Marquette west grade, we need to consider how to approach our next LUOD on the Greenwood and LS&I grade. Do we really want to manage a “road” versus a “trail” if DNR does not provide our order requesting restriction of full size vehicles. Will affect our liability insurance. **Johnson moved that Fulsher follow up with DNR personnel on likelihood of Director’s orders as we have in the resolution we approved in August. Bussone seconded motion.** Britton asked if we can keep Ely and Humboldt out of lease. Johnson believes LS&I line might be reactivated. Discussion on alternative routes. Discussion on Tilden and Republic Township trail plans if we do not get the LUOD. **Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
  - C. Grants – Fulsher noted that we had a subcommittee look at various grants and provided direction on requests from each. She has since sent in a grant request into the Cliffs/Rio Tinto grant for \$432K which would 1) help provide dollars for our next phase, 2) would build the 1000 foot boardwalk in Negaunee and 3) would pay for kiosks at each trailhead plus 4) interpretive signage.
  - D. Cliffs Foundation Grant Monument – Fulsher informed the board that she had talked quickly with Dale Hemmila from Cliffs on ways to provide them recognition on their contribution. A monument was discussed that could be placed near the Quarry. Discussion on type of monument and how to proceed.

- E. Phase IV / Sanders Proposal – Fulsher noted that in a previous meeting we have requested a proposal from Sanders-Czapski on design for Phase IV. Sanders-Czapski had provided a written proposal on design and engineering which the board sent to the Executive Committee to discuss. **Pickens motioned to take the recommendation of the Executive Committee to hire Sanders-Czapski for \$48,000 plus expenses estimated at \$2500. Durant seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lyn Durant Resignation – Durant notified the Board and Marquette Township that she wishes to resign from this board due to family/business decisions. Her daughter just gave birth to first grandchild. Durant will wait until Marquette Township appoints a new representative. She has requested that the new appointee have a financial background. Pickens inquired if we have say in new appointee. Fulsher noted that Marquette Township gets to appoint someone who is a resident of Marquette Township, but that if we know of people who are interested, we should have them contact Randy Girard, Township Manager. **Pickens motioned to accept Durant's resignation; Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Apple Tree Planting Request – Fulsher noted that we had a request from a private citizen who wanted to use her time and money to plant apple trees along the Marquette west corridor near the 492/35 intersection. Fulsher checked with DNR and they would like to see something other than apple trees since they encourage the deer to come in. Species would have to be native. Our board requested that any trees stay off the trail by 45 feet.
- C. Administrator Contract – Thomas noted that our Administrator's contract expires on December 31, 2013. Asked the Board if they would like to send negotiations to the Executive Committee. **Reynolds motioned to send to Executive Committee to develop contract; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
- D. Contingency Fund – Fulsher noted that at the Executive Committee we discussed having a contingency fund for maintenance needs on the trail. We don't have money budgeted in 2013, but need to budget monies in the maintenance fund next year to take care of trail needs. Thomas noted that we have a new volunteer willing to work with us who has a Kobota which worked really well installing mile markers. The aggregate part of trail will need maintaining and we will need funds to take care of. Thomas and Reynolds reviewed trail yesterday and it is holding up.
- E. Proposal for ATV Trail - Fulsher explained where we are with ATV proposal to DNR. Need to get the r/r crossing okayed in writing by Canadian National with stipulations on the insurance we'd need for ATV crossing. We talked about a route east of Negaunee that would parallel our non-motorized trail, but after looking at terrain and the amount of wetlands, the trail should be moved out to Co. Rd. 492. Should we start the process with DNR to apply to be a sponsor of ATV/ORV's through our property and using motorized trail in Negaunee and Ishpeming. Bussone and Roberts walked through Map #2 (in packet) that goes through Ishpeming. Land is all on Cliffs property. There are rocky gravel roads through the property. Would be multi-use, (ATV's, walkers, bikers) but not open to snowmobilers. With IOHRA as ATV sponsor, we would get the money through ATV funds to build and maintain the trail. ORV'ers want trails and we would be the ones putting in trails for them. Discussion on pros and cons of trail sponsorship through DNR.  
Johnson had question on timing and if staff has time.  
**Pickens motioned to get process started as ATV sponsorship through State; question on what group is taking which part of trail, North Country Trail Riders versus IOHRA. Durant seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- F. 2014 Planning for Maintenance, Priorities – Discussed the need for work sessions on maintenance ideas versus putting on agenda at each meeting. Fulsher noted that Britton found a donated piece of equipment from Gentz and cut the weeds along the entire trail in Chocolay. Chocolay Township didn't have the equipment and the State didn't have the money. Discussion on IOHRA getting maintenance equipment. In Ishpeming and Negaunee the cities have been doing it but they would like us to take over.  
**Pickens motioned to set up a work session to discuss future maintenance on trail. Lajoie seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

- VII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE - Fulsher noted that our Auditor is not qualified to do our audits in the future. Needs to be peer audited and it would cost her too much money. She feels we could get audit done more cheaply by bidding out. Fulsher also noted that she, Thomas, Durant, and Britton attended a public meeting and discussion on a new Recreation Authority that is being considered. Britton is on the task force. Members include Chocolay Township, Marquette Township and City of Marquette at this time. Discussion at meeting focused on trails. Pickens was on the Parks and Recreation Committee several years ago and this authority was suggested back then. This new task force got a grant to do a feasibility study and hired Harry Burkholder of Land Information Access Association to do study and they are in that process. Results will be available in January 2014. Scope was Heartwood Property and trails. Britton will let Fulsher know when next meeting is so that she can provide everyone with notice.
- VIII. BOARD COMMENT – Reynolds, Britton, and Thomas staked out the new snowmobile route in Negaunee by r/r crossing. Replaced all the bolts on the caps on the bollards. Lots of water/condensation. Put “Never seize” in there. Should be easier to open up. Sheriff’s Department was provided keys to the bollards for emergency situations.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT - Sanders noted that on October 2 and 3, a Universal Design conference will be held in Marquette and it would be beneficial to us to attend. Also noted that NTN received a Rural Business Enterprise Fund grant of \$25K for trail equipment. Advised us to contact Laurie Krause, U.S. Forest Service in Gladstone to see if we qualify.
- X. ADJOURNMENT – **Durant motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:55 pm; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

*NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*