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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

MINUTES

- I. ROLL CALL - Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty LaJoye, Marquette County
Absent: Larry Bussone, Ishpeming
Guests: Jackie Koski, Humboldt Twp; Mike Lempinen
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - No public comment
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - **Britton motioned to accept consent agenda as printed; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.** Consent agenda included December board meeting minutes and December Financials including balance sheet showing total assets of \$351,951; total liabilities of \$330,099 and total equity of \$21,852; December profit/loss showing a net loss for December of (\$11,038), but yearend income of \$11,873; Q4 budget v actual showing -55% and year end of 921% due to net income of \$11,873 versus budgeted income of \$1289 due to trail maintenance and acknowledgement signs coming under budget, December ledger with checks from 1702 to 1716 and January bills to be paid totaling \$32,629.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Britton motioned to approve agenda as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Humboldt Washout and RTP and ORV Grant Agreements – Fulsher noted that our RTP grant was amended to add \$25,000; our ORG grant was also amended upwards with another \$25,000. These amendments will help cover the Humboldt bridge expenses of \$72,000. Moose Country grant was also amended \$25,000 and they will pay their share separately. Smith Paving got the bid and started work this month. Bridge will not be in until the end of this month.
 - B. ORV Ordinance Ishpeming – Ishpeming planning commission approved the preferred route and ORV amendment in August, but amendment and route stalled before getting to Council. Council wants to take it up at February council meeting, but needs map to show that preferred route. Thomas provided a map showing the preferred route to show board members. ORV will follow Washington Street from Winthrop Junction to Trail #8 snowmobile trail once it hits behind West Division Street and continue following Trail #8 through Ishpeming. IOHT holds easements with all property owners affected.
 - C. Grant Updates
 1. ArtPlace America 2016/MSU Sustainable Built Environment – Fulsher is trying to push these two opportunities forward with the Cliffs Shaft Area, but is waiting for Ishpeming to call meeting of new committee. MSU SBE would provide landscape architects to work with City to create a blueprint for area; however, they wanted applications in by January. ArtPlace is due on March 2. Fulsher noted it is a very simple first step due and she will continue working on that, but we do need the landowners to get on board.
 2. 2015 Recreation Passport Grant Agreement and Resolution – Fulsher noted that we were successful with our application and now we have a grant agreement to sign. **Britton motioned to**

sign the attached resolution to sign grant agreement and provide the necessary funds; Hoffman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 8 yesses, 0 nos and one absent.

- 3. 2014 DNR Trust Fund Signage – We are moving forward with this grant. Paperwork went into DNR to try and single source graphic design and hardware of signage. We will then need to bid out sign panels. Committee is working diligently on these next 10 panels.

4. Rails to Trails Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund – Fulsher noted that she finished this grant application and requested \$25,000 to help pave the Negaunee hills region as it is becoming a problem area for bikers who do not want to attempt the loose gravel hill. We will learn in early June if successful.

D. Millage Renewal Timeline/Resolutions Update/Funding – Fulsher provided a timeline of our millage renewal. Our board has approved the ballot language and signed the resolution. Four municipalities have signed a resolution to put us on August ballot—City of Ishpeming, City of Negaunee, Negaunee Township and Marquette Township. We are still waiting to get on Marquette City; Chocolay Township and Tilden Township. Those resolution and ours are due to County Clerk on May 9. With the new law signed by Governor, we can not send out mass mailing, use radio ads, etc with our tax monies after June 2. August 2 is the election date. If millage not approved, the November 8 election date would be next and our ballot language and municipal members would have to sign new resolutions by August 16. Does not give us enough time to get on November ballot. Discussion on the new Michigan law. Pickens noted that there is a lawsuit filed against this new law and may stop the law from going into effect. He will watch on that. Fulsher did note that with the way our monies come in and how we are audited, we will have a budget for 2017 even if millage renewal fails. Discussion on going back to municipalities and asking that they sign resolutions to put on November ballot if August fails, but their voters passed it. Fulsher will follow up.

E. Greenwood Grade Permit – Fulsher noted that Barbieri called a meeting with DNR and brought in Senator Casperson's staff and others. DNR provided a permit to Barbieri to use the trail as access to his property from April 1 to November 30 and continues until an alternate access route is found. Prior to this permit, Barbieri only had permission for propane trucks to use trail. Board discussion. A follow up letter or phone call needs to be made to DNR to inquire why we weren't included in meeting and have a say as the local managers of the grade.

F. New Map – Fulsher noted that she is working on a new map layout. Included in packet are costs associated with 10,000; 25,000; and 50,000. She is working with CVB to see if they will cover most of cost since they are the ones who use most of them. She is hoping to get 25,000 ordered.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Future plans if not millage supported – In packet were options if millage fails; 1) try for millage renewal in 2017 in municipals where voters passed it, 2) continue as Recreation Authority without millage funding, 3) dissolve recreation authority and start non-profit, 4) dissolve recreation authority and let municipals keep their portion of trail. Fulsher noted that the Recreation Authority holds the agreement with Canadian National on the r/r crossing. Discussion also on Fulsher's contract which only goes to December 31, 2016. Will put on February agenda.

B. Michigan Trails Summit – February 16 – Fulsher has been requested to speak on funding of trail at the biannual Michigan Trails Summit on February 16. Hoffman motioned that IOHT covers expenses to go to Trail Summit in Traverse City; Reynolds seconded motion. A copy of the day's agenda was provided in packets. Vote and motion carries unanimously.

VII. BOARD COMMENT - Hoffman – Family resource night is May 25 which is our meeting date in May.

Peters talked last night at Land Conservancy annual meeting about the Bayou project in Chocolay. Johnson (Gary) – Mike's design of sign will be completed soon and he will forward to Fulsher. Will be mounted on poles and log displays at Bank Building. 16 x 8 feet.

Reynolds – inquired if we came up with source for benches. Fulsher noted that with our Recreation Passport grant, we will have to bid out and then we will have source. Looking at using recycled plastic benches and then have Lempinen add a unique design.

Discussion on bike trail through Ely and Humboldt Townships. Fulsher noted that we could use C.Rd. 601 as bike route alternative from Humboldt to Republic. The grade in Ely and Humboldt is not conducive to bikes and she does not want to promote as bike friendly. Will have to think about that on the map. A discussion on whether to try to find funding to upgrade at least from Tilden to U.S. 41.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 23, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES