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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2013 4:30 PM
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES**

- I. WELCOME / ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chocolay Township; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic Township; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette
Guests: Kathy Peters, Alternative, Marquette Township; Joan Duncan, Eeva Miller, Joni Gleason, Ron Yesney, Jackie Koski, George Sedlacek
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes)
- III. CONSENT AGENDA – Johnson had a question on one of the bills. **Durant motioned to pull out Bills to be Paid, Johnson seconded motion.** Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Durant motioned to approve consent agenda; Reynolds seconded motion.** Motion carried unanimously.
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Durant motioned to approve agenda as amended; Pickens seconded motion.** Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Ely Township Millage Request – Fulsher noted that the ballot language and resolution delivered to County Clerk office. Now is time to promote to the best we can and give this millage our best try. An Ely Township flyer was developed and will be mailed to all registered voters. Discussion on getting in front of voters prior to absentee ballot availability.
 - B. Tilden Township Trail Engineering Work – We have a proposal from UPEA to do the engineering for the Tilden Township trail project. Bergeon noted that the bid is based on the scope of the project and if the scope changes, the bid would change. Fulsher noted that the bid was less than the usual 15% of total project. Discussion on accepting UPEA bid or put out on bids. We have no policy on bid levels. **Johnson motioned to send to Executive Committee and bring back policy or recommendation by March meeting. Lajoie seconded motion.** Motion carried unanimously.
 - C. ATV Updates
 - i. Ishpeming Route – Group has been looking at ORV restricted route through Ishpeming. Two routes proposed. One is south of the city and circles from Washington Street south and over to Howard Oil. Ishpeming interested in putting the south trail in for those who want a more advanced route around the city. The other would be from Washington Street and go through the city of Ishpeming. Maps were provided with both options. North Country Trail Riders would be grant sponsor for ORV restricted from Ishpeming to Republic and would take the south route through Ishpeming. Most of that property is Cleveland Cliffs land. What IOHRA is interested in sponsoring is the trail from Winthrop Junction north to trail 8, follow trail 8 through Ishpeming, go onto Hematite Drive, and then follow motorized trail through rest of Ishpeming and Negaunee. Our responsibility for an ORV route would be from Winthrop Junction to CR492/M35 intersection. Discussion on trail options:
Yesney noted that the State might ask why have two sponsors.
Thomas noted that we have to get a railroad crossing and that a Canadian National letter went out month ago to request a crossing for motorized. No response yet.

Durant requested how this works with our Heritage Trail. Are we putting something in besides the spine of the trail?

By using that established trail, we try to avoid the conflict of motorized and non-motorized users. The ORV restricted trail is paid for by DNR, not Heritage Trail money. Pickens – why is IOHRA taking on this trail?

Reynolds and Hoffman and Thomas noted that the west end needs ORV trails and alleviate conflicts.

Joni Gleason – Met with DNR and Mi Trail and Horse Council. There are signs to help with education on who has right of way.

Yesney - Could be opportunities for equestrian only trails separate from others.

Johnson motioned that IOHRA work on getting needed easements on trail through Ishpeming or any sections we need and come back to board. Reynolds seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Director's Orders - Fulsher noted that Rob Katona has begun the process on two directors orders we need for trail. One is for keeping full size vehicles off the Greenwood Grade and the other is to keep the Eagle Mills grade non-motorized during period of April 1 through November 30.

D. Equestrian Meeting with Ishpeming and Negaunee personnel – Fulsher noted that we met with Ishpeming City personnel, Negaunee City personnel, and equestrians to discuss equestrian needs. The equestrian group will look for point to point and looped systems in that area. May be able to use ORV restricted trail south of Ishpeming. The Greenwood Grade is also open to equestrians.

E. Range Bank Loan - - The executive committee had three options to consider on bank loan: keep Peninsula Bank loan as is and start paying principal in March: keep Peninsula Bank loan and ask for six month extension or go with Range Bank loan at \$400K with 1% less interest charge and first payback of principal in October 2013. The Executive Committee chose the Range Bank Loan which provides for the least amount of interest payment and provides relief from our loan payment due this month.

F. Land Management - - Durant noted that we have many months that we are expecting a negative balance and we should look at our land as an asset. We need to look at how our property can work for us? Yesney noted that DNR has an Urban Forestry Initiative. Asked Yesney to give us information or go to big forest jobber and get idea on cutting.

Johnson – when their township ran short, they hired a forester who agreed to do a renewable forest type plan and have done controlled removals. Forester gets a percentage.

Thomas also had hired a forest for land behind his house.

Peters suggested getting a land management plan by a forester. If we sell trees on the land, we will get taxed on it.

Thomas noted that of our 383 acres, only ¼ to 1/3 is forested.

Lajoie could have it accessed or appraised by forester.

Johnson motioned that director or chair take into committee and bring back several actions for board to look at within 90 days along with time and sand/gravel. Durant seconded motion. Motion carries unanimously. Committee will be Durant, Fulsher, Thomas, Bussone, and Peters.

G. Trail Map/Brochure – Fulsher provided info on the Lake Superior Press bid. Provided a \$4420 bid on 5000 maps including set up and printing. Map would be 12 x 27 and fold to 4 x 9. Waiting for a second bid.

Discussed getting more bids, doing map only online and printing out ourselves.

Bergeon did note that when UPEA prints on their large printer, the cost is 7 - \$12 per sheet one-sided color.

Map should also be on the web site.

Fulsher to continue looking at options.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013 Meeting Schedule – Fulsher noted that 2013 meeting schedule is attached. Most meetings on 4th Wednesday of month, except for July and holidays at end of year. **Johnson**

motioned to accept schedule as presented; Hoffman seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Board Seats – Fulsher noted that three board seats were up this year: Pickens, Reynolds, and Hoffman. All have been reappointed by their respective government councils/commissions for three year terms.
- C. Bills to Be Paid – Johnson had a question on one bill. Fulsher answered. **Durant motioned to approve bills as presented in packet of \$63,840.37. Hoffman seconded motion.** Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS (Meetings/Seminars attended)/CORRESPONDENCE –
Provided Letter of support for NTN for a U.S. Rural Development Fund for equipment.
Monday is an Ishpeming Planning meeting on ORV Restricted trail, Wednesday is the City of Ishpeming Council meeting.
State ORV meeting at NMU on March 18.
Fulsher presenting at 10 am Saturday March 9, U.P. Environment Coalition

IX. BOARD COMMENT
Hoffman, May 15, 4:30 pm Aspen Ridge School.
Durant – Going to be a grandma

X. PUBLIC COMMENT
Sedlacek – Asked if he heard correctly that board walk in Negaunee is back in project.
Unfortunately, the rumor is not true, but discussions still ongoing for a private interest to finance.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – **Durant motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:45 pm; Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 4:30 PM, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES