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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022**

**U.P. STATE BANK**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chair, Chocolay Township; Glenn Johnson, Vice Chair/Secretary, Marquette Township; Lauren Luce, Treasurer, Marquette County; Jim Brennan, Republic; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Bob Hendrickson, Negaunee; Nick Leach, Marquette
Excused Absence: Dawn Hoffman, Tilden; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township
Staff: Carol Fulsher
Guests: Mike Springer, Rob Katona
2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No public comment
3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Bussone motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Brennan seconded motion.** Consent agenda included January minutes:

January balance sheet showing total current assets of $800,166, total liabilities of $25,017 and total equity of 4775,149; January profit/loss statements showing income of $333,115, expenses of $28,779 for net income of $304,336; January budget v actual showing income at 99%, expenses at 358%, January general ledger showing checks written of 1384 to 1391; and February bills to be paid totaling $13,106. **Vote and motion carried**.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Johnson motioned to approve agenda as presented; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
3. Michigan Grant Updates
	* 1. 2021 Trust Fund Negaunee Boardwalk – No contract yet from DNR on grant awarded to us in December.
		2. 2022 MNRTF Development Grant for Lakenenland
			1. Lease Addendum with State of Michigan Resolution to Sign – **Brennan motioned to approve the resolution to sign the State of Michigan’s lease addendum to add five additional miles along Former Soo Line Railroad from Kawbawgam Road to Lakenenland; Johnson seconded motion. Lease addendum provides land control for trail extension project. Roll call vote taken and motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nayes, and 2 absent.**
			2. Trail Route/Surfacing – Fulsher noted that after talking with representatives from SAIL, she felt it best to provide for new, parallel trail for non-motorized users. Safer for all involved.
			3. Lakenenland Accessibility issues/Iron Belle Response – Fulsher informed Board of accessibility issues for parking at Lakenenland. We will include handicap parking within State corridor. Also noted that this portion of trail would not be recognized as Iron Belle unless we are shared space with North Country Trail. NCT not willing to upgrade their hiking trail to a biking trail.
		3. 2022 MNRTF Acquisition Grant,
			1. Appraisal – The appraisal came in with value of $185,000 or $1050 per acre. 2005 appraisal was at $1250/acre. Fulsher worried that lower appraisal may affect land owners’ willingness to sell. She will forward this number on to landowners and try to give us some leeway in grant proposal.
			2. Grantor Conversation about Land Conservation/Green space planning – Fulsher had conversation with grant administrator at MNRTF about green space planning and putting land into conservancy may not give us the 25 points we wanted. We’ve had initial conversations with U.P. Land Conservancy about putting lands into their conservancy after potential sale. Fulsher will try to point out County and Marquette Township planning and see if we can get those points.
			3. Regional Significant points – Regional significant points are up to discretion of grant reviewers. We will highlight that Rails to Trails organization recommends separation of single track trails. Also has letter of support from Michigan Mountain Biking and NTN.
4. Millage Renewal Update – We have resolutions of support from Negaunee Township, Negaunee, Ishpeming. Marquette votes on February 28, and Chocolay Township on March 14. Waiting to hear from Tilden.
5. Negaunee Township Trailhead Project – Project is on hold through winter.
6. 2022 Maintenance Projects
	1. Asphalt Repair – Coleman Engineering will have bid documents ready by March.
	2. Perkins Property trailhead – Fulsher has not talked to Bill Sanders yet on design of trailhead.
7. NEW BUSINESS
	1. 2021 Audit Letter – 2021 audit ongoing and two letters need to be signed for audit. **Brennan motioned to sign letters as presented; Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
	2. Negaunee Request for Playground at Trailhead, Patronicity Project – Received letter asking for funding for kids playground at Trailhead. **Brennan motioned to not provide funding for kids playground as we do not want to set a precedent; Johnson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher noted that she is working on grants, she has letters out to municipalities to reappoint Nick Leach, Al Reynolds and Dawn Hoffman, Dan Korhonen interviewed her and Mike Lempinen for a film on the beginnings of the IOHRA for the Fresh Coast Film Festival, she is working with Michigan Trails and Greenways on $150M supplemental bill in MEDC for Active Transportation including monies for our Lakenenland extension project, and she attended webinar on RAISE Funds through Federal government but didn’t think we could qualify. Also notified that we won a National Photo Contest again this year with Nick Jensen photo of ledgeway. She will send out to Board.
9. BOARD COMMENT – Leach inquired about Pure Michigan video and notified he may be on paternity leave during our March 23 meeting.
Brennan updated on plans of 92 acres for walking/mountain bike trails on west side of M95 and ongoing talks with DNR and Cliffs on Wetlands. They will be able to add benches this year.
Bussone notified he will be out of town for March meeting
10. PUBLIC COMMENT – Springer talked about the role of programming on the trails and notified about the Iron Range Roll on June 5, National Trails Day. Also notified that Honey Bear ski event raised $2500 and had 60 participants. Big Bay is looking at an historical trail from Harbor to Thomas Rock.
11. ADJOURNMENT *-* **Bussone motioned to adjourn meeting; Johnson seconded. Vote and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.**