

MICHIGAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

July 26, 2022

Marquette County Courthouse Complex
234 West Baraga Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855

Board Members Present:

Justin Horvath, RD Fund Board Member

Erin Kricher, RD Fund Board Member

Margret Minerick, RD Fund Board Member

Gary McDowell, RD Fund Board Member and MDARD Director

Other Attendees:

Heather Throne, MDARD

Sasha Eliason, MDARD

Sherri Goodreau, MDARD – virtual

Matt Johnson, External Affairs Manager for Eagle Mine

Sarah Lucas, Office of Rural Development Director

Karen Anderson, public

Meagen Morrison, Eagle Mine

The meeting was called to order by Director McDowell at 1:01 p.m.

Gary McDowell welcomed members of the Board and guests. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the February 23, 2022, Rural Development Board Meeting

Justin Horvath moved to approve the February 23, 2022, meeting minutes with no changes. Second by Erin Kricher. Motion carried unanimously.

2021 Legislative Report

Heather Throne presented the 2021 legislative report packet to the board. The document outlined all grants awarded from 2017-2022 and showed current grant status.

Office of Rural Development Update

Sarah Lucas gave an update of the Office of Rural Development to the Board, noting the \$3 million in funding and three additional staff.

Eagle Mine Presentation

Matt Johnson, External Affairs Manager from Eagle Mine, presented an overview of the mine, with detailed discussion on severance tax, ways of the mine, and future expectations for the mine for the next several years. The production in 2022 will be higher than 2021. The last mine payment is expected in 2027.

Review of Public Comment and 2023 Grant Guidelines and Timelines

Heather Thone presented the public comment report showing all comment received through the MDA-Grants email for the FY23 grant cycle. Sasha Eliason will follow up with these comments via email to show the public that their comments have been heard.

Throne, also, presented the board with the FY23 grant guidelines and timeline. During the discussion of the guidelines, change was requested to add Technical Assistance Programs to the Funding Areas. Under grant criteria, another suggestion was to make funds available at the beginning of the Grant Fiscal Year in place of the Awarded Date for reimbursable funding for equipment only.

A motion was made by Minerick to make the suggested change of making cost reimbursement funds available at the beginning of grant fiscal year for new and used equipment. Erin Kricher seconded. Motion carried.

Establish 2023 Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to have the next meeting take place on February 23, 2022, in the lower peninsula and the second meeting for the last week in July in the upper peninsula.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.