CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m., by Chairman Hill.

AGENDA APPROVAL
Chairman Hill asked if there were any changes to the agenda, being none, R. Ford moved to accept the agenda as presented, supported by D. Timmer, motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
A motion to nominate D. McLean for the Chairman position was made by G. Kinsella and supported by R. Ford. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate C. Duflo for Vice-Chairperson position was made by D. Timmer and supported by G. Kinsella. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate J. Durm from Mackinac Co. to the Treasurer position was made by D. Reid and supported by E. Becks. It passed unanimously.

A motion to retain D. Reid as Secretary was made by G. Kinsella and supported by C. Duflo. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Chairman Hill passed the gavel on to D. McLean. Chairman McLean asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Timmer, Reid and Claus identified minor changes to the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes with those corrections was made by E. Becks. D. Timmer supported the motion it passed unanimously.

Minutes from the December 4, 2013 Executive Committee meeting were presented for approval, motion by J. Hill, supported by D. Reid to approve the minutes as presented, the motion carried unanimously.
FINANCIAL REPORT –
S. Bowlby presented the results and auditor recommendations of the FY 2013 Financial Statements and audit. Recommendations include a policy on electronic fund transfers, and keeping the personnel files current and completed as possible. With only 4 staff, segregation of duties has been an issue and although some areas have been addressed, this may have to be looked at closer especially if federal funding increases to $500,000, and a policy developed to address this. D. Timmer suggested that regardless of the federal funding level, a policy should be drafted to be prepared.

D. Timmer made a motion to accept and approve the auditor’s report. K. Claus supported the motion. It passed unanimously.

E. Benoit delivered the Financial Report covering the period from October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 to the Board. Two reports were presented, one breaks down each of the funding programs from their start date to the end of the quarter showing the percent of time elapsed and percent of expenditures of the total program amount. The second financial report displays the financial position for all programs with the total of all expenses during the first fiscal quarter. E. Benoit explained that EUPRP&DC is trying to improve on recording all in-kind time as it helps with the match needed for many of the grant programs. A motion was made by D. Timmer to accept the financial report as presented, supported by J. Hill. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
Chairman McLean asked if there was any “New Business”. G. Kinsella mentioned the Graymont Mining project and wondered if EUPRP&DC Board would take a stance for it and be willing to draft a resolution in support as this will create direct and indirect jobs throughout the region. After some discussion R. Ford made a motion to have the Executive Director draft a resolution supporting the economic impact of the project with the understanding that as a mining operation they will be regulated by the State as to environmental concerns.

D. Timmer mentioned that the Chippewa Co. Road Commission will be going ahead with the Little Rapids Restoration implementation project to replace the causeway on Sugar Island.

D. Timmer also suggested that EUPRP&DC check into places for video conferencing as it reduces the travel costs and time and there are a lot of agencies out there that could use that service. Director Hagan said they had studied it and had several places suggested throughout the county but now need implementation money. R. Ford mentioned that there are places such as Helen Newberry Joy and probably War Memorial Hospitals that for a fee can be used, if available. Other places mentioned were LSSU and the libraries. D. Patrick suggested that this effort be looked upon at a regional level when choosing sites, because the counties are so large it makes sense that a convenient location would benefit more than just one county, for example, people from Drummond Island or DeTour in Chippewa County and Cedarville in Mackinac County. J. Moore mentioned that the updated Roberts Rules of Order has a section specific to electronic meetings. A motion was made to have EUPRP&DC disseminate this information to various agencies to try and develop an interest and match money to be able to apply for a grant by R. Timmer and supported by D. Reid. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Director Hagan provided a brief update on the EDA EDD program and the CEDS Annual Report process for 2014, as well as updates on the Little Rapids GLRI project, the Lake Michigan CZM Water Trail project, the 2007 Scenic Byways grant, Hiawatha Forest Trail Project, the city of Sault Ste. Marie Master Plan Update, and a proposal EUP submitted for consideration by CZM for the FY 2015 round of project to inventory Lake Superior and the St. Mary’s River.

Director Hagan discussed at length the Governor’s Regional Prosperity Initiative and the reasons for the denial of our initial proposal. EUP has been invited to re-apply for funding, with the revised application submission deadline being 2-1-14. Staff submitted a proposal in the amount of $209,900 for funding consideration under Tier One of the Regional Prosperity Initiative. We received word from the Governor’s staff on December 23, 2013 that our proposal was denied funding. It became apparent at this time during a conference call with the Governor’s team that they did not support various elements we had proposed for funding under this initiative, specifically funding directed to Michigan Works
staffing, and the implementation of the two strategies we identified in our proposal. In speaking with the Directors of the other 5 regions that were also denied or only partially funded, it became apparent that several of us had submitted for funding to specifically implement strategies and that it is obvious that the Governor does not want the Regional Planning Agencies to be the implementers of strategies during this round of funding. We have been invited to revise our proposal and re-submit for funding on or before 2-1-14, however, the initial timeline still stands, and any items proposed in our revised submission will have to be delivered by 9-30-14 and the Governor’s team has stated via email that we should carefully construct our tasks to only include what we feel we can accomplish in a 5-6 month window. They anticipate making award announcements in early March on the revised proposals.

Director Hagan then discussed at length a potential collaboration that could occur between the Commission and Michigan Works, with the creation of a Regional Council, with one Executive Level CEO position, and program managers for the individual agencies, who would retain their original missions, charters, programs and services, but share in executive level staff, administrative and overhead costs. The RPC Executive Committee met with the Michigan Works Director and Director Hagan on January 13, 2014 to discuss this possibility, at that time the Committee unanimously agreed that it should be analyzed and brought before the entire Governing Board for further discussion, in addition, it was recommended that we include this proposed consolidation in our revised RPI application to defray any potential costs associated with relocation, technology, staffing and other expenses related to this concept. We have prepared a short document outlining some of the details that are known at this time.

Director Hagan presented the following Resolution of Support for consideration by the Board:

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan’s Regional Planning Agencies, Workforce Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan’s ten Prosperity Regions; and,

WHEREAS, the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission desires to obtain funding through this Regional Prosperity Initiative to develop a Regional Economic Strategy that is action oriented and also to investigate the feasibility of consolidating the operations of the RPC and Michigan Works agency into one “Regional Council” organization; and,

WHEREAS, the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission will serve a 3 county area which includes over 39 local governments, 2 higher education institutions, 1 Work Force Board, 1 Regional Planning Agency, 1 Rural Transportation Task Force, 1 Intermediate School District and many Economic Development, business and non-profit organizations; and,

WHEREAS, only the one (1) regional planning agency in the 3 county region is qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Commission designates its Executive Director, Jeffrey S. Hagan to be the authorized signatory on any and all documentation associated with this grant and to accept such a grant award, should one be made;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission hereby supports the Commission as the grant applicant on behalf of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Michigan Prosperity Region.
Motion by D. Timmer, supported by G. Kinsella

Roll call vote: YES – Hill, McLean, Timmer, Walk, Duflo, Ford, Durm, Reid, Becks, Kinsella, Moore, Claus, Patrick

Chairman McLean offered that a motion is in order to permit staff from Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission to begin discussions with Michigan Works! and analysis of the collaborative and creation of the Regional Council, including relocation of operations into one shared office space, shared CEO, administrative staff and the various elements therein.

Motion by E. Becks, supported by D. Timmer to research the collaboration concept and look strongly towards the implementation of the concept once full details are known. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Chairman McLean asked if there were any comments. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT –
A motion to adjourn was made by G. Kinsella and supported by D. Timmer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.