

REGULAR & PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025, 10:02AM | *Meeting called to order by* Barry Bolich
This meeting was held at the Gogebic County Road Commission office

In Attendance

Barry Bolich	John Matonich	James Estola	John Zorich
Garth Stengard	Patti Hagstrom	6 Public Attendees	

Excused

Dennis Skinner (via web)	Phil Strong
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Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Zorich, 2nd by Estola; all in favor, none opposed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Matonich, 2nd by Estola; all in favor, none opposed.

- Finance Meeting of Tuesday, January 28, 2025
- Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Public Comment

None

Manager Report

This report was presented, discussed and will be made part of the recorded minutes. No action was taken.

Engineer Report

This report was presented, discussed and will be made part of the recorded minutes. No action was taken.

Old Business

- a) PUBLIC HEARING on Permit Fees ~ Motion to open the public hearing at 10:09AM was made by Matonich, 2nd by Zorich; roll call: Ayes ~ Zorich, Matonich, Estola & Bolich, Nays ~ none. Discussion took place. Dan Siirila commented on the fees. Motion to close the public hearing at 10:14AM was made by Matonich, 2nd by Estola; roll call: Ayes ~ Estola, Matonich, Zorich & Bolich, Nays ~ none. Motion to adopt the proposed permit fees was made by Estola, 2nd by Zorich; roll call: Ayes ~ Zorich, Estola, Matonich & Bolich, Nays ~ none.
- b) Administrative Evaluation Policy ~ Motion to approve the policy and revise as needed was made by Matonich, 2nd by Zorich; all in favor, none opposed.
- c) Weight Restricted Bridges ~ Information and maps were presented to the Board. No action was taken.

New Business

- a) Copperwood Mine Update ~ Mike Foley, Highland Copper Site Manager, introduced Dr. Wynand van Dyk, Highland Copper Project Director. Mr. Foley then gave a presentation. No action was needed.
- b) Copperwood Mine Resolution ~ Motion to adopt the following resolution was made by Matonich, 2nd by Estola; roll call: Ayes ~ Estola, Matonich, Zorich & Bolich; Nays ~ none.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

**FOR THE COPPERWOOD MINE PROJECT BY HIGHLAND COPPER COMPANY
IN GOGEBIC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

***WHEREAS** the Gogebic County Road Commission supports the development of safe, modern and responsible mining as planned for Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project located in Ironwood and Wakefield Townships of Gogebic County, Michigan, and;*

***WHEREAS** the Gogebic County Road Commission acknowledges the commitment of Highland Copper Company to maintain their transparent and regular engagement with local and regional communities and remain a positive partner for the region, and;*

***WHEREAS** the Gogebic County Road Commission recognizes the commitment of Highland Copper Company to develop an environmentally sound copper mine that will maximize local employment and will provide expansive economic benefits to the Western Upper Peninsula, contributing to the revitalization of the local and regional economy, and;*

***WHEREAS** the Gogebic County Road Commission acknowledges the critical importance of securing approval of a grant for infrastructure for roads, energy and broadband that provide the infrastructure necessary for local the community's ability to host the mine from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic Site Readiness fund.:*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved that the Gogebic County Road Commission fully supports the development of Highland Copper Company's Copperwood Mine Project and the Michigan Economic Develop Corporation Grant.*

- c) Gogebic County Fairgrounds ~ A request from the Gogebic County Fair Board to donate gravel for a paving project was discussed with the Board. No action was taken.

Public Comment

Dan Siirila thanked the Board for the resolution of support for the Copperwood Mine. He also asked that work on the Lake Road bridge across Mud Creek be expedited.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:38AM by Estola, 2nd by Matonich; all in favor, none opposed.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

SECRETARY

CHAIR