The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on December 30, 2002 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 7) One-Year Extension of the Watershed Agreement, and Item 8) Termination of the State Child Passenger Safety Grant.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 1, 2003 through January 9, 2003 in the amount of $883,047.70 and payroll for the period ending January 4, 2003 in the amount of $621,578.92 be approved.

The Committee considered an update on the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership from the Marquette County Conservation District. Laurie Dhondt, Administrator of the Marquette County Conservation District, was present to introduce Gary Dahlke and Carl Lindquist.

Gary Dahlke, 204 Jonathan Carver Road, Marquette, Chair of the Whetstone Brook and Orianna Creek Watershed District, distributed copies of the Whetstone Brook and Orianna Creek Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Dahlke noted this plan was 12 years in the making but has now been approved by the Michigan DEQ for the Clean Michigan Initiative. The plan opens doors for future funding to help maintain water quality and fisheries in Lake Superior. It is a living document which will change and continue to improve as time goes on.

Carl Lindquist, Project Director, Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership (CLSWP), noted the Chocolay River Watershed Plan has also been approved and the Lower Dead River Watershed Plan is currently being written and worked on by Sarah Cody, Planner. The goal of the CLSWP is to have a Management Plan for every watershed in Marquette County.

Mr. Lindquist gave an overview of the activities and projects undertaken by the CLSWP during 2002.

CLSWP continues to identify sites around Marquette County requiring cleanup and pollution prevention. Over 30,000 newsletters of the CLSWP were mailed to residences and businesses throughout Marquette County. The CLSWP helps municipalities develop and write grants for watershed projects. They helped correct erosion control problems at Sugarloaf, helped with an assessment of County forestlands, and worked on projects at Perkins Park. A Clean Michigan Initiative Grant has provided funding for the CLSWP to work on about 15 projects throughout Marquette County.

Mr. Lindquist noted Marquette County has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a “Clean Water Partner for the 21st Century”. The EPA is proud to acknowledge a number of agencies across the United States as “Clean Water Partners”. A special ceremony will be held on February 18, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Washington D.C. at which Marquette County will be presented with a special certificate of recognition as a “Clean Water Partner”.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, commended the Central Lake Superior Watership Partnership and the Marquette County Conservation District for its commitment which have resulted in very positive changes to Marquette County’s watersheds.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted the Agreement for the Watershed Program with the Marquette County Conservation District in 2002 amounted to $50,485 in funds. This agreement has expired and he recommends the Watershed Program Agreement be extended for another year.
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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
   HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 2002.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Update on the County-Wide Watershed Program from the Marquette County
   Conservation District.
7. Extension of Watershed Agent for 1yr
8. Termination of State Child Care Grant
9. 
10. 
11. PUBLIC COMMENT.
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
13. ADJOURNMENT.