Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2013
9:00 AM, Studebaker’s Restaurant, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Members Present:
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.
Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Ron Ford, Luce Co.
Bill Ferguson, Chippewa Co.
George Kinsella, Chippewa Co.
Greg Zimmerman, Chip. Co. Private
Beverly Holmes, Village of Newberry - Luce Co.
Richard Timmer, Private
Jim Durm – Moran Twp., Mackinac Co.
Dean Reid, Mack. Co. Private
Kristen Claus, Chip Co. SSM
Eric Becks, LSSU
Colleen Duflo, Luce Co. Private

Guest:
Sue Bowlby

Staff:
Jeff Hagan
Ellen Benoit
Nathan Fazer
Nathan Coon

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m., by Chairman Hill.

AGENDA APPROVAL
D. Timmer moved to accept the agenda as presented, supported by J. Durm, motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
A motion to accept the minutes was made by G. Kinsella and supported by E. Becks. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT -
Sue Bowlby from Anderson, Tackman & Co. presented information on the 2012 Financial Statements and audit. A comparison report from previous years to last year was passed out and explained by Ms. Bowlby and reviewed by the Commission. Auditor recommendations were also explained to the Board members. D. Timmer made a motion to accept the auditor’s report as presented. K. Clause seconded the motion and it was passed with a unanimous approval.

E. Benoit delivered the Financial Report covering the period from October 1, 2012 – March 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 over the fiscal year to the quarter ending March 31, 2013. A motion was made by D. Timmer to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was supported by E. Becks. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Timmer discussed the Asset Management program and as representative of the Chippewa Co. Road Commission expressed his hopes that MDOT would extend the rating process coverage to the local roads as well as the Act 51 roads to give a true analysis of the transportation infrastructure condition. N. Fazer explained that they have been working with some local units of government and county’s on getting the local paved roads rated and have at least a base rating of 1 year in most parts of the region, but will continue to push this request to the Asset Management Council for future analysis and trends of road surface conditions. Only paved roads are rated as the condition of gravel roads changes quite frequently.
NEW BUSINESS

G. Kinsella inquired about the north Huron scenic pathway project status. D. Patrick mentioned attending the State’s bike trail initiative meeting. G. Zimmerman mentioned a report published by the Algoma Public Health on the benefits of trails. The North Huron Scenic Pathway Group has not been meeting since the Conceptual Routing design was done in 2008. EUPRP&DC is still working with MDOT on getting M-134 designated as a Recreational Heritage Route, who has indicated it will be. Once it is designated EUPRP&DC will revive the North Huron Scenic Pathway group to discuss goals for the route. It is up to the local units to raise the funds and do the groundwork to actually build off-road bike trails. MDOT did pave 4 foot shoulders along M-134 from Mackinac Trail to Hessel. E. Benoit mentioned Mackinac Trail has been designated as US Bicycle Route 35 and stakeholders are discussing promotional opportunities through signage and brochures/maps to direct cyclists off the route into our communities to the east and west.

The DNR Land Strategy Management was announced by D. Reid, the state has 240,000 acres of state land for disposal. These lands are typically parcels that are hard to reach or have little or no access available.

B. Holmes mentioned she attended one of the Governor’s Energy Forums held across the State to discuss the State’s future in energy. There is a website available for public comment at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). B. Holmes also related the energy optimization program in Newberry and the costs to users. Ms. Holmes reported that the Village of Newberry has begun the Streetscape Phase II project and would appreciate a letter of support from the M-123 Scenic Heritage Route Committee for the Enhancement Grant.

G. Kinsella discussed the Economic Development and Taxation gaming compact that would be coming up in October.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Hagan requested that any discussion of the staff quarterly update that was presented in the meeting packet be taken up under Old Business, there was no discussion regarding the staff reports.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

CEDS Annual Update 2013
Draft 2013 CEDS Annual Update was presented for approval by the Regional Commission Board to open a 30 day review and comment period to commence on May 6th and end on June 5th, 2013. Motion by G. Kinsella, supported by J. Durm to approve the opening of the public comment period as identified by Director Hagan, this motion passed unanimously.

EDA Partnership Planning Grant Renewal – Resolutions / application
Discussion ensued regarding the EDA Economic Development District Planning grant renewal paperwork that was received by the Commission. The grant rate for the upcoming three year award period has been adjusted to 60% federal funds and 40% local funds. Director Hagan will attempt to negotiate the grant rate back to 70/30% with the EDA Chicago Regional Office, because of the time sensitive nature of the application process, Director Hagan presented the following resolution which must be contained in the application package in order to renew the funding:

RESOLUTION – EDA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Executive Committee does hereby authorize the application to the Economic Development Administration for a continuation of a Section 203 Planning Assistance Grant of at least $174,495 to be matched with at maximum $116,330 of local funds for a total project amount of $290,825 for the three year period beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, and does so authorize Jeffrey S. Hagan, Executive Director to accept and affirm the Section 203 grant award should one be made.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authorized Signatory for the above mentioned grant application shall be the Commissioner Chair, James Hill.
I hereby certify that this resolution was passed by a unanimous vote at a meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission Governing Board on April 24, 2013.
Moved by D. Reid, supported by R. Timmer
No: none

LOCAL SHARE RESOLUTION
Whereas, the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission requires local matching funds for the EDA Economic Development District Partnership Planning Grant and other grant opportunities as they become available, in addition to funds to provide technical assistance to the local units of Government in the Eastern UP;
Whereas, the Commission requires annual dues from Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties of the Eastern UP, based upon the local share formula identified in the By-Laws, which should be paid quarterly;

Whereas, the Commission shall request at minimum $40,000 in local share funding, or as so advised by the Commission’s Governing Board, to satisfy grant requirements and local conditions;

Whereas, the local share appropriation committed by the County’s is in no way encumbered so as to preclude its’ use toward the EDA project;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission agrees with the terms for local share documentation as set forth in this resolution and certifies that this resolution was passed by a unanimous vote at a meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission Governing Board on April 24, 2013.

Moved by  R. Ford, supported by D. Patrick
Yes: 13
No: 0
Absent:  5

Motion carried unanimously.

Update on the Governor’s Reinventing Region’s Budget Proposal
- Governor included language to fund economic blueprint plans, regional collaboration with workforce, higher education, adult education ($5.0 million)
- Three tiers of funding available ($250,000/$375,000/$500,000)
- House has removed the language, Senate is considering the Omni Bus bill with the language, two chambers will have to reconcile on this.

LITTLE RAPIDS UPDATE
Director Hagan provided an update on the various project elements of the Little Rapids project, including an update on meetings planned for late May with the Sugar Island Seniors, the Sault Area Sportsman’s Club and a joint session with the Township and County Road Boards. Engineering design work is at approximately 30% complete, preferred alternative of box culverts has been selected, plans and specifications will be draft to that regard. Environmental Assessment work is approximately 75% complete. The Hydraulic Flow Modeling report was completed in late
February/early March. Monitoring framework plan has been completed in draft form and will be submitted to NOAA by LSSU. Board members were encouraged to attend any of the public meetings scheduled for the project.

NEXT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – CENTRAL UP
Director Hagan discussed with the Board a proposal submitted by the Central UP to designate that region as a Michigan Next Development Corporation zone. This designation would allow for Delta and Marquette Counties to offer tax incentives that are not currently available to other areas in order to incent or attract developments to this area, the apparent long term plan is to have the entire UP designated as a next development corporation, however, nobody seems to have any details on when that would occur or the process for making that a reality. Right now on the eastern end we see this as a definite cause for concern and I am working with both Carmen and Kristen to set up a meeting with the entities that are championing this from the Central UP in order to better educate ourselves on the potential threats and/or opportunities that this could create.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION
The region partnered with Sault Tribe, NWMICOG, WMSRDC, SW MI PC, and LIAA to submit a proposal for funding consideration to the DEQ CZM program, for an inventory and designation of Lake Michigan as a national water trail. Our segment of the project would extend from St Ignace to Escanaba, projected cost $33,945 ($16,972.50 fed/local). Our role in the project would be to inventory our segment of the trail, upload inventory information and other data on the inventory points to a website and map, develop and distribute a map of the route in our Region and host one meeting of the project team in St. Ignace during the project period. Proposed project start date is 7/1/13, through 6/30/14.

OTHER PROJECTS/GRANTS/PROPOSALS
No additional updates on the HNF RAC proposal, Director Hagan met with HNF staff in St. Ignace in early February to further discuss the project and a draft agreement was said to be forthcoming from HNF for this project in order to begin the work during FY 2014 (October 1, 2013). As of this meeting date no agreement has been developed or submitted to EUP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

ADJOURNMENT – Discussion of the next meeting took place as availability of Russell’s Diner in Eckerman was questionable. D. Hagan asked the group how they would feel about rotating the meetings between the Sault, St. Ignace and Newberry. A motion was made by J. Durm, supported by D. Timmer, to try rotating meetings and to hold the next meeting in St. Ignace, at a place yet to be determined. The Board unanimously passed the motion to rotate meetings. A motion to adjourn by R. Timmer, supported by K. Claus and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.