Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 28, 2010  
5:00 p.m. Trout Lake Township Hall, Trout Lake, MI

Members Present:  
Don McLean, Chippewa  
Dawn Nelson, Mackinac  
Jill Maki, Luce  
Dick Timmer, Chippewa  
Mike Patrick, Mackinac  
Rita Lemanek, Luce  
Greg Zimmerman, LSSU  
Jim Durm, Moran Twp.  
Billie Jo Hermanson, Luce  
Bill Ferguson, Chippewa  
Bev Holmes, Newberry  
Terry Webb, Newberry  

Guests:  
Jesse Knoll, Chippewa

Staff:  
Jeff Hagan  
Ellen Benoit  
Nathan Fazer

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Timmer at 5 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Timmer asked if anyone would like to make any changes to the agenda. There were none. A motion to approve the agenda was made by M. Patrick and supported by J. Durm. It was approved unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Chairman Timmer asked if there was any discussion on the Minutes from the January 27, 2010 EUPRPDC Board meeting that was sent along in the packet. Being no additions or deletions to the minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner Maki to approve the minutes as presented, and was supported by Commissioner Lemanek. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS -

Chippewa County – J. Knoll updated the board members on the application for the Broadband Initiative. EUPRP&DC had assisted with providing demographic information to Lighthouse Computers for the application. Steve Mason, Lighthouse Computers has given some presentations about it. Commissioner McLean updated the Commission regarding the County expanding the offices over to the City-County Building once the City of SSM has moved to their new offices. A new member appointed to the County EDC Board/REDAC, Leisa Mansfield, Director of the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce. Also, there is an effort beginning to develop for an across the Peninsula ORV trail. Commissioner Zimmerman informed the members of a recent very successful event with 80 people registered for a Farm Tour with dinner at a local restaurant who used the products from each of the farms for the meal. Commissioner Timmer expanded with news the local farmer’s market has started. Agriculture is the #2 Industry and the next step is perhaps to develop a small business incubator – such as a commercial kitchen so products can be developed and used here at the local level. Commissioner Ferguson
informed the members of what is happening in Whitefish Township with a new Emergency Services building construction and the M-123 Heritage Route projects.

**Luce County** – Commissioner Maki talked about the new committee set up to look at the blight issues and to try to develop community pride in efforts to present a good impression for visitor’s to the area as well as to those who live there. Commissioner Lemanek informed the members the new CAA building had been completed and is in use with headstart and senior meals. Commissioners Webb and Holmes talked about the USDA grant/loan to upgrade their water system. Also, the Village working in collaboration with the Civic Center group will be taking over a brownfield property just north of the railroad tracks which will be developed as a trailhead for a bike route along the Heritage Route. EUPRP&DC assisted the M-123 Heritage Route Committee with a Scenic Byways grant application for a preliminary engineering study along the route. Match contributions were made by a number of stakeholders to make the application possible.

**Mackinac County** – Commissioner Patrick talked about the effort to develop a pedestrian bridge across I-75 to connect Father Marquette Park with MDOT Welcome Center/Straits State Park. The new hospital has opened. Commissioner Durm talked about the USDA loan/grant for water line replacement project in Moran Township and efforts to find funding sources to rebuild the Father Marquette Museum that had burned several years ago. Commissioner Nelson commented on a proposal for aerial imagery that Mackinac County may be interested in. Discussion then followed about Geographic Information Systems (GIS), what an integral part it can play and perhaps looking into the possibility of regionalizing. Director Hagan talked about the Governor’s push for regionalizing and sharing services. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve researching the possibilities of regionalizing GIS services and having an educational conference. It was supported by Commissioner Durm and approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS - PROGRAM REPORTS**

Chairman Timmer asked if everyone had a chance to review the program update report that was included in the mailing of the Board packet and were there any questions and or comments?

Staff reports included updates on the Economic Development Program, Transportation Program, Heritage Route Program, Asset Management Program, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, GIS Inventory for Chippewa County, Community Development Block Grant Technical Assistance Program, Dafter and Bay Mills Township Master Plans, Whitefish Township and Luce County Wildfire Protection Plans and Chippewa County Communication Asset inventory project and new projects starting.

E. Benoit asked the Board members for a motion to approve the funding plan for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs minigrant program. Commissioner McLean made that motion and it was supported by Commissioner Patrick. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT -**

E. Benoit explained the current financial status. Two financial reports were passed out – one displaying each program’s expenses from inception to date, as some programs have different
start dates and timeframes. The second report detailed the expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2009 to date.

A motion to approve the financial report as given was made by Commissioner McLean, and supported by Commissioner Patrick. The motion was unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

EDA – Director Hagan informed the Board of the update of the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and asked for a motion to approve the resolution of support. Commissioner McLean made the motion to approve the Resolution of Support of the 2010 CEDS report. Commissioner Patrick supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken:


NAYS: None

CZM – Director Hagan talked about a project the EUPRP&DC would like to make application for under the Coastal Zone Management Grant Program. There are several agencies and groups that have their own information but there is no central place that one can go to get all the information regarding trails, public areas, kayaking area, etc. The proposal is to take inventory and gather that information along the North Huron shoreline from St. Ignace to Drummond Island and develop a web site that will have all the information at one site. Maps, brochures, presentations and web pages will be produced to display and disseminate that information. From this inventory a foundation will be in place to develop a greenway and blueway trails and corridor management plans. The application would be for $23,000 with a cash/inkind match of $23,000 for a project total of $46,000 over the period January, 2011 – March, 2012. Commissioner Durm made a motion to approve a Resolution of Support a grant application to the CZM program in that amount. Commission Nelson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:


NAYS: None

Director Hagan talked about one of the check signers no longer being available and asked for approval to have Commissioner Timmer added for signing checks. Commissioner McLean made the motion, D. Nelson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Director Hagan discussed with the Board the need for a color copy machine. The agency having newly moved offices has discovered the current copy machine does not meet the needs and a lot of work could be done in-house with a color copy machine. He gave the Commissioners the information he had gathered for 2 machines - cost, lease arrangements, trade-in value for old machine, etc. A motion to approve trading in the current copier to upgrade to a 40 page per minute color copier on a 5 year lease with a maintenance agreement was made by Commissioner Patrick. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hermanson. On a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

NAYS: None

Director Hagan discussed the Great Lakes Association of Councils and asked for a resolution of support to membership. Commissioner Durm made that motion and it was supported by Commissioner Nelson. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Hagan asked permission of the Board to purchase 2 plaques – one for Rodney Richards who had served on the Commission many years and one for Pete Hanses who is retiring from MDOT who has been very instrumental in funneling dollars to the EUP region. A motion to approve getting 2 plaques as talked about was made by Commissioner Maki. It was supported by J. Durm and passed unanimously. It was discussed and decided to invite Rodney Richards to the next meeting to present the plaque to him.

Director Hagan talked about the upcoming events and handed out a listing. D. Hagan provided information on the new TIGER II Discretionary Grants Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Chairman Timmer asked if there were any public comments at this time. Trout Lake Township Supervisor, Marjorie Cooper, took a minute to welcome the EUPRP&DC members and talk about what’s happening within their Township and the new town hall.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Maki with support from Commissioner Holmes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.