CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m., by Chairman Hill.

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Chairman Hill announced there were two sets of meeting minutes to approve, one being the minutes from the last Commission meeting in April and the second from the Executive Committee meeting held in June. A motion to accept the minutes from the last Commission meeting with no changes was made by R. Ford and supported by D. Patrick. The motion passed unanimously. There were no corrections to the Executive Committee meeting minutes. J. Moore moved to accept those minutes as presented and it was seconded by D. McLean and also passed with a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT -
E. Benoit delivered the Financial Report covering the period from October 1, 2012 – June 30, 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 June 30, 2013. A motion was made by E. Becks to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was supported by K. Clause. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
D. Reid announced he attended a meeting of Forestry Resources covering the U.P. and northern L.P. that Congressman Dan Benishek held regarding the federal forests and timber sales. The Ottawa Forest service timber sales is just under 60% and Hiawatha Forest timber sales is under 40% of what could be sold. Payment in lieu of taxes is based on 25% of timber sales so this is something that the Counties should keep an eye on. The rail line owned by CNN from Trout Lake to Newberry is reported to be in bad condition so they can only travel about 10 mph. There is a Northwoods Rail Alliance based in Wisconsin and it might expand membership over to Michigan as we have some of the same issues, so he would recommend if that happens to get some representatives from our region in that Alliance.
Also from D. Reid, Mackinac County formed a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and this group is applying for funds to help fill in gaps of funding of the Mackinac County Economic Alliance and re-developing brownfield properties in the County.

D. Reid also informed the Commission of opportunities for land owners of forested land ways to significantly reduce property taxes by enrolling forested property into programs offered through the State of Michigan. A land management plan is required and there are eligibility rules, application procedures and various fees or penalties for withdrawal. Conservations districts receive a small share of this program funding through the timber sales.

D. McLean talked about the recent coordinated SORVA ride and presented a map of the designated routes to get from Brimley to Trout Lake and Hulbert. They hope to get a designated route from Trout Lake to St. Ignace using the old rail grade that they can promote.

R. Ford brought up the topic of cell phone towers and coverage for dead zones in Luce County. He had heard about some Township’s erecting the towers and then leasing them to the Companies to recoup their money and wondered if there was any information about that available. J. Moore said that Kinross Charter Township leases out their water tower for cell phone usage. Director Hagan also had heard of similar Counties to our region, down state, that are erecting towers and leasing out. He will check into it and get more information on costs, etc., from a township or other municipality that has done this.

B. Holmes informed the Commission that the Newberry Streetscape Phase II is underway. They did get turned down on a Transportation Enhancement grant, but will try again next fall. The Village did get a Blight Elimination grant through the State to help defray the cost to demolish structures that are deemed derelict. The Heritage Route has a promotional video on YouTube on the area – search under Explore M-123.

B. Holmes announced that Governor Snyder will be coming to Newberry August 1st, at Zellar’s at noon.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Hagan asked if there were any questions or comments on the staff reports that were included in the meeting packet, there was no discussion regarding the staff reports.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Economic Administration Development Grant
The grant for FY 2013-2016 was submitted to EDA in May. Director Hagan did participate in a conference call with the EDA officials regarding the local match requirement and fought to keep the 70/30 ratio, but EDA officials were adamant about the figures they were using to base the rates on and it is now 60% Federal with 40% local match, but Director Hagan could use some in-kind and Transportation program funds to make up the difference, keeping the local match request to the Counties at the same funding level. At this time EDA has reviewed the grant application for completeness and has deemed it complete so it is on to the next phase, but we do not know how long the process will take to receive the award. It has been awarded since 1969, so we are assuming it will be forthcoming and are continuing work based on that assumption.

The CEDS report 30 day review has been completed and approved by the Executive Committee and submitted to EDA in June.

Update on the Governor’s Reinventing Region’s Budget Proposal
Director Hagan provided information on the Regional Reinvention proposal and discussed the proposed funding options that may be coming available through the State.
LITTLE RAPIDS UPDATE
Progress is continuing on the Little Rapids project with the engineering design to be completed by September. Comment boxes with a drawing of the proposed design were placed on the mainland and island to gather more public comments. Twenty-five were received. The Sportsmen’s Club is very supportive, with the most opposition coming from residents of the Island. The project will open up more water flow through the causeway restoring the flow of water in the area to that of a river instead of the lake-like flow it is now, allowing for a better habitat for more varieties of fish. The Road Commission Board has approved and will move forward on the construction project should funding be available. The Great Lakes Commission is taking a lead role in application for several projects to NOAA, one of which will be the construction of this project and has provided a funding amount line item for Regional Planning to continue to do some publicity and administration duties for the project.

CONNECT MI BROADBAND SURVEY
EUPRP&DC is working together with EUPISD and the Luce Co. EDC in gathering local information through a survey. The survey was advertised in local newspapers (with the exception of the Evening News, where something got lost in translation, but will soon be advertised). The deadline for the survey is August 5th and we have received back over 200 in the mail and about 80 on-line. Once tabulated the information will be geocoded to maps to be able to provide information to local internet provider’s on where service in the region is needed.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION
Application to the CZM Program has been awarded. The EUPRP&DC with some funding provided by Sault Tribe, is collaborating with WNMiCOG, WMSRDC, SW MI PC, and LIAA to inventory access sites along Lake Michigan in the groundwork necessary to get it designated as a national water trail. Our role in the project will 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. The Sault Tribe has offered to fund part of the inventory because they service Delta and Schoolcraft counties and CUPPAPD has decided not to become involved in the project.

OTHER PROJECTS/GRANTS/PROPOSALS
No new information has come in on the HNF RAC proposal.

G. Kinsella made a motion to accept the Director’s Report, D. McLean supported this motion. It passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made by D. McLean, supported by R. Ford and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.