Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
12:00 p.m. Maple Ridge Restaurant, Eckerman, MI

Members Present:
Barb Lisiecki, SSM
Jim Moore, Chippewa Co.
Leisa Mansfield, SSM COC
Dean Reid, Mackinac
Michelle Walk, MSU Ext.
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.
Diane Patrick, Mack Co.
Jill Maki, Luce County
Billie Jo Hermanson, Luce
Bev Holmes, Newberry
Mike Herbst, Luce Co.

Guests:
None

Staff:
Jeff Hagan
Ellen Benoit
Nathan Fazer

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m., by Chairwoman Hermanson.

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Commissioner Reid noted a change on page 4 under the roll call vote his name was listed in Yeas and again in Abstained and he did abstain so his name should be removed from the Yeas. Motion by D. Reid to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2011 Board meeting with that change, supported by M. Walk, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT
E. Benoit delivered the Financial Report to the Board for the 3rd quarter of the 2011 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2011. Two reports were presented, one breaks down each of the funding programs from their start date to the end of the 3rd quarter showing the percent of time and expenses. The second financial report shows the financial situation for all programs over the Fiscal Year October 1, 2010 to the end of the 3rd quarter, June 30, 2011. There were no questions on the financial report. Motion was made by L. Mansfield to approve the financial report, and was supported by M. Herbst. The motion carried unanimously.

MCACA
E. Benoit reported that it is expected EUPRP&DC will be invited to apply for the Minigrant Regranting Program for FY 2012 very soon. This program receives $4,400 for administration and $13,600 to re-grant for local art/culture projects. The administration money must be matched 1:1 with cash and/or inkind. E. Benoit asked for a Resolution from the Board to approve the application and allow the Executive Director, J. Hagan sign all necessary forms for the program. B. Holmes made the motion to support a resolution to apply for the MCACA Minigrant Regranting program. J. Maki supported the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**EDA EDD**

The CEDS Annual Update was completed during late May after a meeting of the Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee (REDA), and submitted to the Chicago regional office during mid-June. The local Economic Development Organizations in the Region, County Clerk/Administrators and the MEDC were sent hard copies. The annual update is available for download from our website, print copies are available upon request. I did bring copies of the priority projects listing, it should be noted that right now Luce County qualifies for 70% grant rate through EDA, Chippewa County 50% and Mackinac 60%. Dennis Foldenauer our EDA rep is planning a visit to the Region on September 22nd to meet with the REDAC group, Board members are welcome AND encouraged to attend to meet Dennis. Once the meeting details have been finalized I will send the information out.

At the Executive Committee meeting in early June, we discussed the Regional Growth Strategy developed by the RPC with assistance from the Land Policy Institute, at this point it is still in a final draft format, I would like to make this a more attractive piece that could be used to promote the Region, etc. I talked to Angela Nebel at Summit PR in the Sault to see if she could assist us in revamping the document with a more forward angle of marketing/promotion. She submitted to me a cost proposal to do this for an amount not to exceed $2,400. Mrs. Nebel can provide upon request work samples, however, having worked with her on a couple of projects in the past, I am confident in her ability to take on the revamp of the Regional Growth Strategy. While the amount of the proposed does not require board approval, the Executive Committee recommended this be an item for discussion at this meeting.

**CDBG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The funding cycle for this grant ended on 6/30/11, we are continuing to work with MEDC staff in Lansing on renewal of the TA grant, especially given the important projects underway in the Region, with Frontier-Mascoma and the SSM/LSSU SmartZone. We have not received word back as to whether the contract will be renewed, outside of the two aforementioned projects, we provide assistance to any community in the region that has an eligible CDBG project, this assistance includes but is not limited to the SHPO Section 106 Environmental Review, Environmental Review Record, Grant Application and in some cases administration of grants. The major project under this program that we are involved in right now is the Frontier/Mascoma Cellulosic Ethanol Refinery in Kinross Charter Township, they are seeking 3+ million in funding through the CDBG program for the rail spur on this project.

**TRANSPORTATION**

MDOT has reported that the 2007 Scenic Byways grant will go before the State AD board on 8/16/11 and that we can anticipate a Project Authorization to begin work on this LONG-AWAITED project during September. It is expected that once this project gets underway, funding will be released for the other two Byways grants we have awards in hand for, 2009 and 2010.

**LOCAL PLANNING PROJECTS**

- We are beginning work on an update to the Portage Township Master Plan, to include a future land use section and some updated maps for the Plan. There will be a slight delay in completing the project because the Township did not pass their Planning Commission Ordinance prior to July 1, 2011, and the Planning Enabling Act requires 63 days before the Ordinance is deemed effective, the Township Board passed the Ordinance on July 12th it was publicized in the local paper on the 14th, therefore the earliest we would be able to meet with the Township PC to discuss the draft plan and approve it for distribution would be September 16th, despite the delay, this project should wrap up by the end of September, and conclude with the 42 day review and comment period, putting the completion of the project at our around early November.
HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING
It is anticipated that this project will begin prior to September 30, we received a request for additional information on our proposal from the office of State Police during early July, this request was fulfilled within the window identified by the OSP in order to obtain funding for the project.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
This project is underway; staff conducted a kickoff meeting in Cedarville on Monday, July 18th to provide an overview of the project to interested stakeholders. Staff will begin developing an inventory database of the assets along the Lake Huron shoreline area for inclusion on the website.

LITTLE RAPIDS PROJECT
Executive Director was notified during late May that this proposal, submitted to NOAA during February, was among the highest quality proposals received nation-wide and has been recommended for FULL funding, the grant award will be $347,568, of which the Commission will receive approximately $35,000 to administer the grant. We anticipate a contract will be issued prior to the end of this fiscal year for this 18-month project.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE:
Executive Director presented information contained in the Board packets with regard to the Regional Councils Act. This legislation has been in the works by the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) Law Committee for over a year, prior to December of 2010, there was no outreach to the regions or input asked of the existing State Designated Planning Regions (SPDR’s). The first iteration of the legislation was horrible, and while the version you have in front of you now is a considerable improvement over those earlier versions, it still exists as a very confusing piece of legislation, one that tries to be too many things to too many different stakeholders, and all the while really disregards that WE are the current State Designated Planning Region for the Eastern UP. There seems to be intent here to create some “new” regions below the bridge somewhere. Direction Hagan’s contention is that the process for creation of new regions should not be strapped to the backs of EXISTING regions. These should be two separate and distinct pieces of legislation. Furthermore, what was done to create this current version was a melding of the Metro Councils Act, the Regional Planning Act and County or Regional Economic Development Act. There are provisions from the Met Council Act that have been carried forward in this legislation that are not favorable to the existing State Designated Planning Regions, such as the ability to levy a tax, not even the existing Metro Councils have done that (even though its’ in their enabling legislation) and the ability to own parks, museums, etc. The Director applauds the effort undertaken by the MAR/MAP Subcommittee to try to work to develop legislation that works for everyone; unfortunately the end result thus far has been a failure. For a small rural region (smallest in the state), the existing PA 281 Regional Planning Act, works for us. If this new legislation were to pass we would have to jump through all sorts of unnecessary hoops and pretty much restructure our board and organization in order to fit this “new” criteria, and then if after a year the Governor decided to re-draw the boundaries of the regions, so be it. The Regions were originally created BY THE COUNTIES who came together and agreed on the boundaries. Keep in mind too that there is no new “planning funding” tied to this legislation, you can be pretty sure that many more unfunded mandates would be thrown at us as a way of ensuring a consistent delivery of services state-wide. But all Regions are not created equally, nor do they have equal capacities. Right now the legislation is out for review by MAC, MML, MTA, Business Leaders of MI and an assortment of other “stakeholder” groups. At this point the Director wanted the Board to be aware of this, and to be prepared if the legislation finds a sponsor and begins to move, as witnessed with the recent Gravel Mining legislation, things can sometimes move at LIGHT speed in Lansing now-a-days.

SOLID WASTE
As the agency responsible for the development and implementation of the EUP Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, EUP was approached by a private waste hauler who has purchased property in Dafter Township to sort out of the waste stream and recycle construction materials. DEQ has urged the private entity to complete the site process identified in our Solid Waste Management Plan, this is a lengthy process, and will require a meeting of our Planning Committee. The Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission Board is authorized to make non-governmental appointments to this Committee, in reviewing the committee

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membership, there were three members that needed to be addressed, 1 – Chippewa County Board, 2 – Private Sector, and 3 – City of Sault Ste. Marie. Chippewa County recently appointed Jim Moore to fill the vacant County position, and I am in discussions with the City Manager on the Sault Ste. Marie position. Executive Director recommendation on the private sector member was to appoint Bernie LaJoie, he has been a member of the Committee since 2007 and it is important that we have members that are familiar with the process and the role of the Committee, Director will send a letter of invitation to Mr. LaJoie to serve on this Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**
The meeting schedule for 2012 will be established at the next meeting. The Executive Committee will meet next on September 14, at 10 am in the Sault. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2011 at the Maple Ridge at noon as this time seems to be working for everyone.

Governor Snyder is planning to make a townhall visit to Sault Ste. Marie on August 15.

**OLD BUSINESS**
Chairwoman Hermanson asked if there were any questions or discussion on any of the staff program reports that was part of the meeting packet. There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None received.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Motion made by J. Moore to adjourn the meeting, supported by M. Herbst. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.