Members Present:
Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.  Dean Reid, Mack. Co. Private  Colleen Duflo, Luce Co.
Jim Moore, Kinross Charter  Kristen Claus, Chip Co. SSM  Greg Zimmerman, Chippewa Co.
Twp. - Chippewa Co.  Eric Becks, LSSU

Guests:
Barbara Evans, LSSU Professor of Biology
Cameron Penny, LSSU Student

Staff:
Jeff Hagan
Ellen Benoit
Nathan Coon

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m., by Chairman Hill. Introductions were made around the table.

AGENDA APPROVAL
Chairman Hill asked if there were any changes to the agenda, being none, K. Claus moved to accept the agenda as presented, supported by C. Duflo, motion carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS
At this time, Director Hagan gave some background on the presentation and how it came about. Dr. Zimmerman, then, introduced the guest speakers, who gave a very interesting presentation on the current business set up by the students of LSSU to give them hands-on experience in their degree specialty, with collaboration between departments of business, engineering, and biology. The business, called Superior Aqua Systems, is a fish rearing system that is energy efficient and affordable with a potential to tap into a market that the Chinese dominate right now. The students have written the business plan to start-up the business, as well as, a business plan to go with the fish rearing system that can be sold as a complete unit to start a business. Grants and awards helped finance a hoop-house on LSSU property with solar and geo-thermal energy to help offset energy costs. Many students volunteered hours of labor in building the hoop house and designing the system, marketing, etc. They will start by raising trout to start, but will be exploring the fresh cold water species that can be raised in the system successfully and profitably. Besides fish rearing, a byproduct could also be a marketable fertilizer from the fish waste, which in the Great Lakes system creates dead zones, thus potentially reducing those dead zones in the natural environment. This project gives the students real world experience.

After the presentation, there was a question and answer period. It was a very impressive presentation and exciting to see LSSU spearheading these efforts.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Chairman Hill presented two sets of meeting minutes for Board approval; one being the minutes from the last Commission meeting in July and the second from the Executive Committee meeting held in September. A motion to accept the minutes from the last Commission meeting with no changes was made by D. McLean and supported by K. Claus. The motion passed unanimously. There were no corrections to the Executive Committee meeting minutes. D.
McLean moved to accept those minutes as presented and it was seconded by C. Duflo and also passed with a unanimous vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

E. Benoit delivered the Financial Report covering the period from October 1, 2012 – September 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 which ended September 30th. A budget for FY 2014, which started October 1, was also distributed. The budget included all the programs that have been contracted at the current time. There is still some future potential projects. A motion was made by D. McLean to approve the financial report as presented, supported by D. Reid. The motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Director Hagan asked if there were any questions or comments on the staff reports that were included in the meeting packet. D. Reid wondered if the agency was applying for the Regional Prosperity grant. Director Hagan said he would be discussing that in his report.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

*Economic Administration Development Grant*

The EDA grant was awarded just before the government shut down in September. Although the program had technically started July 1, local funds were used to cover the interim period until the application was fully processed and awarded.

*Governor’s Reinventing Region’s Prosperity Grant Application*

Director Hagan passed out information on the application for the Governor’s funding offer to Regional Planning agencies and COGs. Hagan explained a little background on the initiative and how it has affected our region. The U.P. regions were able to keep their boundaries, with help from Senator Casperson. Each U.P. region will apply to the Prosperity grant program separately. EUP is applying for $209,900 for Prosperity Plan development and $56,000 for a feasibility study. Staff have been working hard on the development of a proposal for funding consideration under Tier One of the Regional Prosperity Grant initiative. Funding proposal will include development of a blueprint plan for the EUP, funding for two videoconferencing sites in the EUP and funding for collaborative partners staffing needs (EUP WFDB, UPEDA etc), as well as the implementation of existing strategies (2-3 max).

After explaining the application and products and work to be done, D. Hagan asked for Board approval of the application through a resolution. Moved by E. Becks, supported by K. Claus to approve the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan’s Regional Planning Agencies, Workforce Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan’s ten Prosperity Regions; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, workforce development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private business; and,
WHEREAS, the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission will serve a 3 county area which includes over 39 local governments, 2 higher education institutions, 1 Work Force Board, 1 Regional Planning Agency, 1 Rural Transportation Task Force, 1 Intermediate School District and many Economic Development, business and non-profit organizations; and,

WHEREAS, only the one (1) regional planning agency in the 3 county region is qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission hereby supports the Commission as the grant applicant on behalf of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Michigan Prosperity Region.

A roll call vote was taken
E. Becks – Aye G. Kinsella – Aye J. Hill – Aye D. Reid - Aye
D. Patrick – Aye J. Moore – Aye K. Claus – Aye
D. McLean – Aye C. Duflo – Aye G. Zimmerman - Aye

LITTLE RAPIDS UPDATE
The Great Lakes Commission has applied for and received funding for Phase II of the Little River Rapids project. The Road Commission Board supported the project in which the causeway from the ferry to the Island will be re-built to allow more flow, therefore restoring the flow of water in the rapids. Although not an applicant, EUPRP&DC has been asked to contract for PR work and arranging meetings. This will be an 18-36 month project. URS is completing work on the Environmental Assessment and Flow modeling on this project. They are also working on the development of the permits needed to move into phase 2 of the project, which is implementation of the preferred alternative design, 400-600ft of box culverts on the causeway. We have been awarded an extension on this project through 11/30/13 to finish up the EA and HFM work and the design specifications.

Great Lakes Commission will be supporting the permit work with $10,000 of grant funding, which will be passed through EUP to our sub-consultant URS Corp. I would entertain a motion of support on this arrangement. Motion by Zimmerman, supported by McLean. The motion passed unanimously.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT Lake Michigan Shoreline
Staff has started data collection for this project. An LSSU student (recommended by Dr. Zimmerman), Haley Tamieski from Newberry, was hired on as a part time to help upload information and with other work in the office.

2007 National Scenic Byways Grant
This project was wrapped up during September, with final site amenities currently underway at both the Eckerman and Hamilton Lake Sites. The website, and the marketing and PR components were successfully completed and implemented this summer and the Superior Watershed work on the watershed map was completed in late September.

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.

OTHER PROJECTS/GRANTS/PROPOSALS
Director Hagan discussed and asked for Board approval to enter into a lease agreement for the purchase of a new plotter. It would be a total of $5,252.40 or $145.90 per month over 36 months. An offer of $500 was made for the old plotter by Northwoods Surveying, which would have gotten $250 in a trade in value.
D. McLean moved to allow D. Hagan to enter into a lease agreement for the purchase of the plotter. E. Becks supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

E. Becks – Aye  G. Kinsella – Aye  J. Hill – Aye  D. Reid - Aye
D. Patrick – Aye  J. Moore – Aye  K. Claus – Aye
D. McLean – Aye  C. Duflo – Aye  G. Zimmerman - Aye

**HNF RAC PROJECT**

EUP received a contract from the Hiawatha Forest Service in early September on the RAC Trail Study project, staff is planning to ramp up efforts on that project this winter.

**OTHER PROJECTS/GRANTS/PROPOSALS**

Met with Clark Township Supervisor to discuss an update to their Township Master Plan.

Met with City of SSM staff regarding development of a new Master plan for the city.

E. Benoit mentioned the intentions of applying for a CZM grant to inventory and develop water trails for the Lake Superior/St. Mary’s River Shoreline in partnership with Sault Tribe. The project will be similar to what has been done for Lake Huron and what we are currently doing for Lake Michigan, but will incorporate more cultural and historical data and stories. The deadline for this grant is December 31, 2013, with a project period of October 1, 2014-December 31, 2015.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

UPEDA Bi-National Conference – October 30-31, 2013 LSSU $25 to attend contact the office
Broadband Conference – October 24, 2013
Asset Management Conference – October 24, 2013
MSU Open House November 4, 2013 – LSSU 630-830pm
Food Summit, LSSU November 7, 2013

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

D. Reid mentioned that there will be a meeting at the Hudson Township Hall on November 12, 2013 with Greymont to discuss a potential limestone mining operation proposed in the Township, any interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.