Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission  
Board Meeting  

Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  

Members Present  
Alex Iseri, City of St. Ignace  
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private  
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.  
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie  
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private  
Bill Henry, Luce Co.  
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.  
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private  
Kimberly Muller, LSSU  
Gary Reid, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co. Alternate  

Partners  
Josh Billington, SBDC  

Staff:  
Jeff Hagan  
Ellen Benoit  
Kim Wilcox  
Nathan Coon  
Rebecca Bolen  

CALL TO ORDER  
The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair B. Henry.  

PUBLIC COMMENT  
There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.  

AGENDA APPROVAL  
Upon review of the agenda, it was noted that an additional item be included under new business regarding MAP membership openings. K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda with the additional item. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.  

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  

January 30, 2019 Board Minutes  
D. McLean moved to approve the January 30, 2019, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.
March 6, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes
D. McLean moved to approve the March 6, 2019, Executive Committee minutes as presented. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

R. Timmer moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates, and the Director’s Report. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 CEDS Performance Report Resolution

Rebecca Bolen provided a brief summary of the 2019 CEDS Performance Report which is available for review on the EUP Regional Planning website. Staff were commended for their work toward completing the majority of the action items outlined in the strategy. The Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) recommended the approval of the submittal of the 2019 CEDS Performance Report to the EDA for continued designation of the EUP as an economic district. K. Freeman moved to approve the resolution for the adoption of the 2019 EUP CEDS Performance Report. D. Reid supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

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<tr>
<th>A. Iseri—Yes</th>
<th>B. Henry—Yes</th>
<th>D. Reid—Yes</th>
<th>D. McLean—Yes</th>
<th>J. Hill—Yes</th>
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<td>R. Timmer—Yes</td>
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MCACA Program Resolution

A resolution approving the application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Re-Granting Services Program was described. This resolution authorizes EUP Regional Planning to administer the contracts for the MCACA Minigrant and Professional and Organizations Development Program for Fiscal Year 2020. R. Timmer moved to approve the MCACA Program Resolution. K. Muller supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

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Board Member Updates

D. McLean provided an update of the Chippewa County EDC’s assistance to a company in their industrial park--EUP Shavings. This company manufactures wood shavings for horse bedding and had a recent building fire. The EDC has assisted the company in obtaining a grant to address some of their building needs but there are still some insurance obstacles before they can reopen.
R. Timmer indicated that the Road Commission recently received new maps and inquired about their accuracy. It was noted that those maps are very accurate.

G. Reid indicated that the harbor is scheduled to open in May. He also indicated that a permit has been issued to develop a mountain bike trail in Clark Township.

K. Freeman noted that the Soo Locks project should be starting soon with the hope that there will not be issues during the shipping season.

J. Hill described issues at the Mackinac County airport as well as with the security contract for the Mackinac County Courthouse.

K. Muller described some brownfield issues at the CFRE site. She also indicated that LSSU is renovating the dorms to entice students to stay on campus especially as housing in Sault Ste. Marie is difficult to obtain.

LSSU is also planning new certificate programs for manufacturing and welding. An “internship fair” is also in the planning stages to be held in August during Lakeapalooza.

A. Iseri provided an update of the Reconnect Grant.

B. Henry mentioned that Consolidated Community School Services is looking for building space for their Prometric Testing Center.

A Board Member requested that the Director Report be separate from the Consent Agenda.

**Regional Prosperity & Infrastructure Resilience Program**

As the Governor’s 2020 budget proposal reflects the elimination of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, it is important to be proactive in promoting RPI to get funds reinstated before the proposed budget is approved. The Michigan Association of Regions has been working on getting a revised version of RPI reinstated into the budget when the proposed budget is approved. The current program was reviewed, and adjustments are being considered so all regions would benefit. Support from the legislature is important; and currently, it appears that Senator Schmidt supports RPI. CEO Hagan will keep members updated.

**Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) Membership**

It was noted that there are currently two (2) slots available with our group membership with MAP. If any board member would like to be included with this membership, they were asked to contact Kim or Jeff.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. upon a motion by D. Timmer and support from K. Muller.