The Regional Prosperity Initiative needs you!

Since its inception in 1968, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission has been dedicated to serving and assisting the counties of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac in efforts pertaining to economic development, master planning, land use and zoning, mapping and much more. In 2014, the Commission applied for and received a grant which has given us the means to develop a plan to guide our region towards a more prosperous future. Though the physical plan itself will be written by Regional Planning staff, the concepts, goals and strategies—the crux of what we intend to put forth—must be derived from interaction and discussion amongst those holding stake in the region. With that said, the time is upon us to bring together regional leaders working in agriculture and food systems, natural resources and tourism, infrastructure, private industry, healthcare, education, and economic and workforce development together to cultivate this essential element of the plan.

With the help of Michigan State University Extension, we here at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission believe that your work in economic and workforce development in the Eastern Upper Peninsula makes you an obvious choice to participate in our Economic and Workforce Development Focus Group on the 20th of January, 2015, at the SmartZone in Sault Ste. Marie. The meeting will commence at 1:15 p.m. and end by 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Please contact our office if you need directions to the SmartZone.

In each of the seven focus areas, steps can be taken and means of improvement can be pursued while working to realize prosperity in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. In order to provide proper direction and give validity to what we inevitably state the Eastern Upper Peninsula needs to do, we will need your guidance.

The desired outcome of this focus group meeting is the production of one goal—possibly more, depending on what transpires—by those immersed in the happenings of economic and workforce development here which speaks to the overarching needs of this specific area within the Eastern Upper Peninsula. This goal will be considerate of the Eastern Upper Peninsula’s strengths and weaknesses, opportunities for improvements and threats against the like, as well as from analysis of what has been proposed and attempted in the past. We want a goal that can be achieved over the next five years and measured along the way. Furthermore, we also want this focus group to identify and outline necessary strategies (projects, collaborations, efficiencies, partnerships, initiatives and innovations) that address the more individual and sub-group needs required to achieve the goal set forth.

Again, we would truly appreciate your participation. If you are able to bring your knowledge and passion to the table, it will only further strengthen an already promising planning process.

Please RSVP to Eric Wedesky at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission on or before January 18th, 2015, by email to ewedesky@eup-planning.org or phone at 906-635-1581 x 5.