

EUP REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2006
6:30 PM
MAPLE RIDGE RESTAURANT, ECKERMAN, MI

Present: Rodney Richards-Chair, Brenda Cooper, Jim Hendricks-Secretary, Bill Ferguson, John Campbell, Ellen Benoit, Jeff Hagan, Nathan Fazer.

Meeting of the EUP Regional Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Richards at 6:33p.m.

Minutes of the August 30th, EUPRPDC meeting were presented, motion by Commissioner Hendricks to approve the minutes with corrections as noted, supported by Commissioner Ferguson, approved unanimously.

Financial Report – E.Benoit

Financial report was given by E. Benoit, regarding the various programs and grants that the Region is currently working under. Motion by Commissioner Hendricks to adopt the budget as presented for the '07 fiscal year, supported by Commissioner Ferguson, approved unanimously.

Michigan Council for the Arts – E.Benoit

Transportation Reports:

Bike Map Project – E. Benoit

The consultant on this project is very near to completing the final draft of the EUP Bicycle Map, copies have been sent out to various local agencies for review and comment. Once finalized, the map will be going out for printing; MDOT allocated an additional amount into our budget for this project to pay for the printing. Commissioner Hendricks suggested staff contact Linda Hoath of the SSM Chamber to discuss portrait art for the cover pages.

Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route – J. Hagan

After meeting with the Heritage Route committee in September, staff recognized the need to set up a meeting with the Newberry contingent on this committee to discuss the 1st draft of maps produced for the Management Plan. As expected, there was a considerable amount of input provided and thus, more field work will need to be completed in order to finalize the inventory maps for the plan. The next meeting will be scheduled for early December to review the draft maps, staff will then continue on with finalizing the narrative portion of the management plan, which is expected to be completed by spring.

Asset Management – N. Fazer

Data Collection for 2006 started August 1, 2006 in Luce County. The team was in the field 1 day with a total of 132.9 miles of road rated.

In Mackinac County, data collection began on Monday, September 11, 2006 at 8 a.m. The team was in the field 2 days performing the data collection. A total of 353.8 miles of road were rated.

In Chippewa County, data collection began on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 8 a.m. The team was in the field 3 days performing data collection, with a total of 544.8 miles rated.

The city of SSM was completed on October 25, 2006, taking the majority of the morning to complete.

Total miles of road rated in the region was 1065.348.

Maps of ratings are available on our website, under transportation and then asset management.

Bridge Studies – J. Hagan/Director Campbell

URS has submitted the 1st Draft of the 3 Mile/Easterday Avenue Interstate Bridge Crossing study, as noted also by Commission Hendricks and Director Campbell, there are many questions surrounding this study, it is very confusing and difficult to read and does not appear to contain several important components for which the Study was initially intended to address. Staff have set up a meeting with the consultant to discuss the draft, the meeting will be held on November 8th at 11 a.m. at the Avery Square, in the 2nd floor conference room.

North Huron Scenic Pathway – J. Hagan

To date the NHSP Committee has selected a vendor to perform the Preliminary Engineering study, but is still attempting to raise the necessary funds to pay for the study. Mackinac County has pledged \$10,000, City of St. Ignace DDA up to \$5,000, St. Ignace Twp. \$2,500, and the group is awaiting word from the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation on potential funding and at what level from this entity. At the current time the group is proceeding with only the Mackinac County portion, but is still leaving the door open the possibility for financial participation from the communities in Chippewa County. Initially the group had hoped that the consultant would be able to get some of the early field work completed prior to December, but, at this point, we are not anticipating any work starting on this project until Spring, which gives us the benefit of additional time to raise the remaining funds.

Other Transportation – J. Hagan

We assisted MDOT is setting up the 2nd Annual Rural Elected Officials Meeting which was held on October 26th, at the Cisler Center at LSSU, we have about 10 people turn out for the event, MDOT Newberry TSC and Superior Region officials discussed the various projects completed by MDOT during this past construction year and talked about projects for 2007 through 2011.

Economic Development – J. Hagan

The 2005-06 CEDS Annual Update has been completed, and was sent out to each County EDC for resolutions of support, at this time I would like to request a resolution of support from the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2005-06. Moved by Commissioner Ferguson, supported by Commissioner Cooper.

YEAS: 4 _____

NAYS: 0 _____

Other economic development projects in the region:

DeTour Area EDC Industrial Park – we have met with the EDC and local businesses in DeTour twice in the past three months to discuss this project, we have been involved with the EDC since 2003 on this project and it appears as though it might now be coming to fruition, they received an \$85,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA-Rural Development, which was used to clear the 33 acre parcel of land they acquired from Cloverland Electric approximately 1 ½ years ago. They are currently working with us on researching potential grant opportunities to development the water, sewer and road

infrastructure necessary to open the park. Four to Five local businesses have expressed an interest in locating into the park. There will not be the level of job creation necessary to apply for a CDBG but EDA remains a possibility.

We also continue to work with the County EDC on another potential building rehab project at the Industrial Park, and with Bay Mills on their EDA grant for the Composites Institute at Bay Mills.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J.Campbell

Director Campbell reported to the Commission on a potential grant opportunity that the Region has been presented with, through MSU-Extension, on the Michigan Wildlife Action Plan, initial consideration is being given to updating a Regional Environmental Report, produced in 1976 or the Regional Land Use Analysis, and both ideas have been well received by MSU-E officials. Funding will come into the state and then be awarded to three regions in Michigan, it is expected that the EUP Region will be the grant award recipient for the Upper Peninsula for this program year.

Director Campbell updated the Commission on the Solid Waste Management plan and the desire of Mackinac County to have Republic Waste included in the Management Plan as a designated hauler. A meeting is in the process of being scheduled to discuss this matter as it would require an amendment to the current Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Solid Waste Management Planning Grant – J. Hagan

Mr. Hagan reported to the Commission on a grant opportunity through Rural Development for Solid Waste Management Planning, currently the Region is in the process of putting together an application to submit for a grant, this funding would assist us in the development of the Eastern UP Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. A resolution of support was requested for the Regional Planning Commission's application to Rural Development for Planning grant funds at this time.

YEAS 4

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OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hendricks discussed the Alternative Fuels grants available through the Michigan Department of Agriculture, he will forward along the information he has uncovered regarding the grants. Director Campbell indicated discussions he had with Michael Doyle, Dick Timmer and Jim Lucas and it was widely felt that MSU-Extension is the "lead" on this project. Commissioner Hendricks reiterated his sentiment that there is a role for the Region to play and he would like to continue to pursue that through the Regional Planning Commission.

Director Campbell moved to call the meeting to a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion by Commissioner Ferguson, supported by Commission Hendricks.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.