

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

Present: Dawn Nelson; Bernard LaJoie; Jim Farero; Nathan Fazer; James Hendricks; John Campbell; Jeff Hagan; Dr. Richard Conboy; Renee' Robinson; Ellen Benoit; Sharon Brown.

Meeting of the EUP Regional Planning Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Farero at 6:45p.m.

Minutes of the June 1st, EUPRPDC meeting were presented, motion by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the minutes as presented, supported by Commissioner Conboy, approved unanimously.

Financial report was given by E.Benoit, regarding the various programs and grants that the Region is currently working under. No action required.

Michigan Council for the Arts – E.Benoit

Region was allocated an additional \$3,000 for this program year for administration. E.Benoit provided an update on the due dates for the upcoming round. Motion by Commissioner Hendricks, supported by Commissioner LaJoie for the Region to continue on with its' participation in administering the MCACA program for fiscal year 2007. Motion by Commissioner Conboy, supported by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the MCACA Funding Plan for FY2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Reports:

Asset Management – J.Hagan/N.Fazer

MDOT's Transportation Asset Management Council held their regular business meeting in the Sault on June 7th, at the Ojibway Hotel. EUPRPDC and MDOT Newberry TSC staff made a formal presentation to the Council during the morning session, on our experiences in performing the PASER ratings over the course of the past 3 years, we also focused on a several segments in Chippewa County where there were some discrepancies in our rating versus what the MDOT quality control person came up with. This was followed by an overview of the Asset Management program. Director Campbell suggested that we discuss the scheduling process as it currently stands with Council Member Spencer Nebel, because we typically have waited several months for software/framework maps/etc. before we are allowed to go out and perform ratings, given the short season we have with which to complete this program, we should be allowed to go out and do PASER beginning in May. Motion by the Board to pursue a conversation with Mr. Nebel regarding this scheduling issue.

Bridge Studies – J. Hagan

Staff assisted URS, the consultant on this project in completing a second round of traffic counting at various locations within the study area for the 3 Mile Road/Easterday Avenue Interstate Bridge Crossing Study. We are currently working with URS in providing crash data for intersections throughout the study area. Director Campbell also reported that we have been granted an extension until March of 2007 to complete this project.

Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route – J.Hagan

We are currently completing the remainder of the GPS fieldwork, for the inventory portion of the maps for the Heritage Study. Once this component is completed the Committee will review the draft maps, and make any recommendations or changes, we will then work on completing the narrative and finalize the maps. The Committee will meet in mid-September to review the draft maps. We have request and been granted an extension on completing the Management Plan, this will allow us to complete the necessary remaining work items next fiscal year.

North Huron Scenic Pathway – J.Hagan

The Steering Committee is preparing to put out an RFP for a preliminary engineering study which will determine the most feasible location for the proposed pathway. Regional Planning has assisted the committee in drafting the RFP and will receive proposals from interested firms. At this time the Committee is soliciting financial contributions from Mackinac and Chippewa Counties to assist in funding this study. Clark Township has also expressed a desire to contribute financially. In addition, the group might consider pursuing grant funding through the MDOT Enhancement program to help defray the cost of this portion of the project. Copies of the presentation that Michelle Walk had intended to make to the Chippewa County board were distributed to the Regional Planning Commissioners, Commissioner LaJoie recommended that M.Walk meet with the finance committee at Chippewa County to discuss the request to Chippewa County for a financial contribution.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J.Campbell

Director Campbell updated the Commission on the new regulations forthcoming for the Solid Waste 5 Year Plan. Some of these changes include a streamlining of the approval procedures, wherein if a unit of government does not respond within 60 days that is to be considered approval of the plan. There are several environmental concerns still lingering, such as host agreements between landfill and the local unit of government.

Regional Planning Commissioners suggested that Director Campbell author a letter to our legislators, MAR and MAC for funding to produce the Solid Waste Plan.

Director Campbell updated the Commission on EDA's funding plan for the upcoming fiscal year, their allocation is currently \$43 million for ED Planning (\$327 million total). Same amount for planning as last year. \$257 million for grants for economic development, however, there are severe restrictions being proposed (high private investment match, etc). These provisions are so complex and difficult to understand, it is going to be very this to become a pork-barrel.

CDBG Funding – decrease proposed by \$1 billion for next year. Proposing to eliminate the other 16 programs that fund community and economic development.

SOS proposal – Sink Our State (Stop OverSpending)

Discussion ensued regarding this relatively new initiative that has begun to gain support, group from outside Michigan is pushing this forward, they have the requisite number of signatures to place this on the ballot in November. Commission Robinson indicated that there is a defensive effort underway, information will be forwarded to Director Campbell.

Equipment purchase for the Region was discussed at length, the Region needs to replace its plotter which is used to produce all of their mapping products. Quote was received from Traverse Bay Reproductions, motion by Commissioner Hendricks, Supported by Commission LaJoie to allow the

Region up to \$10,000 to purchase an adequate plotter at the quoted rate and any required accessories.
Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hendricks – Alternative fuels grants (20-25%) match, in the process of identifying stakeholders and grant opportunities for applications. Switchgrass – perennial, harvested, made into pellets for fuel, heating, etc. Regional Planning Commission is the ideal entity to get the ball rolling on this within our Region. This is a Region-Wide issue. Grants are still available. Motion to ask RPC staff to look into pursuing this initiative. Moved by Commissioner Hendricks, Supported by Commissioner Conboy. Motion passed unanimously.

UPRC&D Annual Meeting in the Sault in December.

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Commissioner Hendricks, supported by Commissioner Conboy.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.