

**EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting**

April 25, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Maple Ridge Restaurant, Eckerman

Present: Dawn Nelson, Mackinac County; Mike Patrick, Mackinac County; Greg Zimmerman, LSSU; Earl Kay, Chippewa County; Bill Ferguson, Whitefish Twp.; Rodney Richards, Luce County.

Staff present: John Campbell, Jeff Hagan, Ellen Benoit, Nathan Fazer.

Chairman Richards called this meeting of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission board to order at 6:37p.m.

Minutes of the February 1, 2007 meeting were presented, motion by Commissioner LaJoie to approve the minutes as is, supported by Commissioner Nelson, motion carried unanimously.

Ellen Benoit presented the financial report to the Commission.

MCACA Mini-Grant Program – Ellen Benoit

Resolution to apply for grant funds for the MCACA Minigrant program

Moved by Commissioner Kay, supported by Commissioner Nelson, motion carried unanimously.

BIKE MAP PROJECT – Ellen Benoit

TAHQUAMENON SCENIC HERITAGE ROUTE – Jeff Hagan

The Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route Committee continues to move forward with completion of the Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan for M-123. The GIS maps have been finalized, and the narrative portions of the plan are undergoing revisions to incorporate many comments from the committee and concerned citizens. A 30 day review and comment period will begin in late May.

We have also submitted a proposal for grant funding to create 3 informational turn off points throughout the corridor and an extensive marketing plan for the Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route with funding through the Federal Scenic ByWays program. We collaborated with the EUP Nature Tourism Alliance on this proposal, funding for this proposal if awarded will not be known until March of 2008.

ASSET MANAGEMENT – Nathan Fazer

Due to the State's current financial situation all activities related to this program are currently on hold.

BRIDGE STUDY – Jeff Hagan

The consultant on this study URS, Inc. submitted final copies of the Bridge Studies in March, copies were mailed out to stakeholders and steering committee members. A copy of the final plan is available for review as well as a few of the selected alternative options at each crossing, and the proposed "round-a-bout" for the 3 Mile/Mack Trail/Business Spur

intersection. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of each of the options for the 3 Mile/Mack Trail/Business Spur intersection, however, this information was not a part of the copy of the final plan available at this meeting, only the costs options related to the overpasses.

RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT – Ellen Benoit

Resolution to allow the Regional Planning Commission to make application for funding for the Resource Inventory, moved by Commissioner Kay, supported by Commissioner Patrick. Motion carried unanimously.

NORTH HURON SCENIC PATHWAY – John Campbell/Jeff Hagan

Director Campbell started by giving the board a brief background of this project and our involvement to date, indicating that it is a good project if gone about the right way, he is not convinced that a preliminary engineering study is the best method with which to pursue funding to construct the 60+ mile pathway. He recommended pursuing a Heritage Route designation for the entire stretch of M-134 which would allow for grants to be pursued from any number of agencies. It was noted by Commissioner Patrick that the Les Cheneaux Bike Path group is prepared to move forward with the 3 mile segment between Hessel and Cedarville, the board recognized their advanced level of project readiness and agreed to encourage them to move forward if they are ready, there are simply too many areas that are not as project ready at the current time and Director Campbell indicated that this would ultimately lead to a situation where you have the “Have’s” and the “Have nots” and animosity could develop between communities.

Commissioner Kay expressed concerns regarding the legal ability of the Regional Planning Commission to accept tax dollars for this purpose, furthermore it was discussed that the Regional Planning Commission Board did not pass resolution or otherwise authorize the RPC to enter into an agreement or to act as the fiscal agent for the North Huron Scenic Pathway Steering Committee.

At the current time Regional Planning has put an immediate 60-day suspension on all project activities due to discrepancies in the billings we have received. These billings do not provide any narrative or supporting documentation as to what activities have been completed to date, furthermore they indicate that a Kickoff Meeting was held, which is simply not the case. To date we have received the financial commitments from 6 of the 8 entities that agreed to put forth money to complete this study.

Commissioner Kay instructed Directors Campbell and Hagan to set up a meeting of all the funding entities, along with Dick Timmer and Scott Shackelton of the Chippewa County Board, on this project to discuss the current situation and how we move forward on this project.

Commissioner Nelson instructed the Regional Planning Commission to hold onto their financial commitment until these issues are resolved.

Director Campbell offered that perhaps the Regional Planning Commission could assist the group in establishing a Recreational Authority or some type of non-profit entity that would have legal status to administer and take on this project.

Run Landfill in Presque Isle County only charges \$17.25 per ton, furthermore the Waters Landfill, also operated by Waste Management, Inc. charges \$37 per ton. Commissioner Ferguson inquired as to what the pending legislation to add \$7.50 to the tonnage fee will do to the landfill rates.

Director Campbell presented the Commission with a resolution for support on the signatory on grant applications and contracts:

Motion by Commissioner LaJoie, supported by Commissioner Nelson, motion carried unanimously.

MEETING OF THE EASTERN U.P. REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

A meeting of the Planning Commission was held on April 25, 2007 whereby a resolution was passed authorizing a member of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Executive Board by his or her signature, to enter into any and all contractual obligations on behalf of the Commission.

Rodney Richards, Chairman

Date

Dawn Nelson, Vice-Chair

Date

MEMEBERSHIP – John Campbell

A letter was sent to Alice Zdebski with the Mackinac County MTA Chapter to obtain a representative of the townships in Mackinac County, to date no action has been taken. Commissioner Nelson agreed to take the letter and attempt to make contact with Ms. Zdebski regarding this matter. It was also discussed that the Village of Newberry had been sent a letter requesting a new appointment to the Commission from the Village, to date no action has been taken by the Village Council.

Director Campbell discussed the issue that has been brought to our attention, most recently at our last board meeting by the auditor regarding signatories on all purchase orders or expenditures by the Commission. The commission's operations policy already states that a board member must be a signatory on all checks, and at the time of signature it was felt that the board member(s) do review the expenditures, however, there is nothing in writing that currently satisfies the auditor. Commissioner Kay instructed staff to develop the appropriate wording for this policy for the next board meeting in order to satisfy this requirement.

Motion to adjourn this meeting by Commissioner Kay, supported by Commissioner Nelson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.