

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Antler's Restaurant; 804 E. Portage Avenue; Sault Ste. Marie, MI**

Members Present:

Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private	Colleen Duflo, Luce Co. Private	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.	Don McLean, Chippewa Co.	Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.	Dean Reid, Mackinac Co. Private	Gary Reid, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private	Michele Walk, Chippewa Co.	John Waltman, Luce Co.

Staff:

Jeff Hagan	Ellen Benoit	Rebecca Bolen	Nathan Coon
Kim Wilcox	Alicia Williams	Eric Wedesky	

Guest:

Sue Bowlby—Anderson Tackman

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman McLean.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman McLean asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were two items recommended to be included—The RPI 2016 Grant Award Budget to be included under New Business and an update of the Recreation Plans under Old Business. K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda with the additions and support by G. Reid. It was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

R. Timmer made a motion to approve the October 28, 2015, meeting minutes as presented. It was supported by D. Reid. R. Timmer moved to approve the December 17, 2015, Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. It was supported by C. Duflo. Both meeting minutes passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was noted that the Dean Reid would serve as the Chair and Colleen Duflo would serve as the Vice Chair during the term of 2016-2018.

D. Patrick moved to nominate Richard Timmer as the Secretary with support from G. Reid. As there were no other nominations received from the floor, the nominations for Secretary closed and the appointment of R. Timmer as Secretary passed unanimously.

M. Walk moved to nominate Don McLean as Treasurer with support from J. Dobrowolski. As there were no other nominations received from the floor, the nominations for Treasurer closed and the appointment of D. McLean as Treasurer passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

R. Timmer moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates, and the Director's Report. This motion was seconded by J. Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue Bowlby from Anderson, Tackman & Company provided highlights of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. A graphical presentation of the financial statements was also reviewed. It was mentioned that there is a new audit requirement of noting the status of the pension plan and at this time, the EUPRPDC's pension is overfunded. Overall the audit report indicated that the financial statements and reports were in compliance with the government auditing standards and received an unmodified/clean opinion with no findings. M. Walk moved to approve the audit for year ending September 30, 2015. R. Timmer supported. The audit was then approved unanimously.

Director Hagan indicated that the RPI Grant Application was approved with a budget of \$185,000. He indicated that the funding amount was reduced and budget adjustments were distributed for review. J. Moore moved to accept the 2016 RPI Grant and Budget as presented. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously.

P.A. 152 Resolution to exempt employees for paying 20% of their health insurance premiums was described. The EUPRPDC can be exempt as the current health care plan premium falls below the maximum threshold. It was noted that Public Act 152 allows for this extension annually with a 2/3 vote of the Commission. R. Timmer moved to approve the resolution as written. C. Duflo supported and the motion passed unanimously.

The EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission meetings will be scheduled quarterly on the fourth Wednesday of the months of January, April, July, and October.

J. Hill inquired of the HD video equipment in Mackinac County as it appears to be not operable at this time. Director Hagan indicated that there was an issue with Charter Communications but thought it was resolved. He will follow up with the IT department. It was also noted that the video equipment at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum is still not working and that even with updated equipment it would not work at top quality due to internet capability in the area.

D. Reid mentioned that resolutions were requested from units of government supporting current bills to increase electric transmission capability between Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

The process of designating US-2 as a Pure Michigan Byway was described which includes the need of an Act 51 agency to nominate the highway.

R. Timmer described Public Act 269 which requires a 60-day gag order in discussing or distributing information on millages. A lawsuit has recently been brought forward against this Act.

J. Hagan described House Bill 5016 which is currently in discussion regarding internet utilization and right of way.

OLD BUSINESS

E. Wedesky provided an overview of the status of the recreation plans of the municipalities in the region.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.