

Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian Street; Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Members Present:

Eric Becks, LSSU	Colleen Duflo, Luce Co. Private	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.	Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.	Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
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	Eric Wedesky
Kim Wilcox	Alicia Williams			

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Dean Reid.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was requested that two additional resolutions be added to New Business regarding the EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Grant. R. Timmer moved to approve the agenda with the additions and supported by M. Walk. This motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. January 27, 2016 Board Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the January 27, 2016, meeting minutes as presented. C. Duflo supported. Motion passed.

b. March 2, 2016 Executive Committee Minutes

Upon review of the minutes of the March 2 Executive Committee, it was noted that there was a spelling error on page 3 and that a correction was required notating Colleen Duflo's attendance rather than Connie Duflo. R. Timmer moved to approve the March 2, 2016, Executive Committee meeting minutes with the noted corrections. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

E. Becks moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates, and the Director's Report. C. Duflo supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Regional GIS Presentation

N. Coon and A. Williams provided a presentation of GIS activities completed along with planned projects. It was noted that the interactive projects can be accessed on the Regional Planning website (<http://eup->

planning.org/). A press release will be created to promote the projects and maps. Board members commended the staff of their efforts and accomplishments within the regions.

b. 2016 CEDS Performance Report Resolution

The 2016 CEDS Performance Report was recently completed and is available for review on the EUP Regional Planning website. At their meeting on April 14, 2016, the Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) recommended that the Regional Planning Board approve the submittal of the 2016 CEDS Performance Report to the EDA for continued designation of the EUP as an economic development district. R. Timmer moved to approve the resolution for concurrence of the 2016 EUP CEDS Performance Report. M. Walk supported. Motion passed unanimously.

c. MCACA Program Resolution

A resolution approving the application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Re-granting Services Program was reviewed. This resolution authorizes EUP Regional Planning to administer the contracts for the MCACA Minigrant and Professional and Organizational Development Program for Fiscal Year 2017. G. Reid moved to approve the MCACA Program Resolution. K. Freeman supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

E. Becks-Yes	C. Duflo-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Hill-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
D. Patrick-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	G. Reid-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	J. Waltman-Yes

d. Staff Member Credit Cards

D. McLean moved to authorize A. Williams and R. Bolen use of the EUP Regional Planning credit card. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

E. Becks-Yes	C. Duflo-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Hill-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
D. Patrick-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	G. Reid-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	J. Waltman-Yes

R. Timmer moved that the Board may want to consider allowing a majority vote versus a roll call vote for action on items above a threshold amount such as \$5,000. K. Freeman supported. Following a discussion of this motion and a suggestion to only have a roll call vote if opposition is noted, the motion was tabled for further review.

e. 2016 EDA Partnership Planning and Local Share Resolutions

As the EDA has awarded the Partnership Planning Assistance Grant for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019 totaling \$163,884 with a match of \$109,256, a resolution was reviewed to designate CEO J. Hagan as the signatory and grant recipient to implement the EDA Partnership Grant Award. D. McLean moved to approve the 2016 EDA Partnership Planning Resolution. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

E. Becks-Yes	C. Duflo-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Hill-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
D. Patrick-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	G. Reid-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	J. Waltman-Yes

Members also reviewed a resolution noting the terms for local share documentation and its availability for the EDA Economic Development District Partnership Planning Grant. E. Becks moved to approve the EDA 2016 Local Share Resolution. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

E. Becks-Yes	C. Duflo-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Hill-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
D. Patrick-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	G. Reid-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	J. Waltman-Yes

f. **Board Member Updates**

M. Walk described an upcoming USDA multi-species feasibility study.

D. McLean mentioned that he recently attended a meeting regarding the electrical needs in the region. The importance of addressing power needs in terms of economic development was discussed. Further discussion ensued regarding the meeting regarding a long range plan for electricity in the UP and the potential economic impacts of the mines closing in Marquette and that being the sole source for much of the UP's power. Several Board members, along with the EUP CEO are involved in this committee that will look to develop a plan for the entire UP.

R. Timmer mentioned the importance of Regional Planning as an entity that could assist with Regional Economic Development Efforts through the various programs and funding sources currently available, and the lack of additional staff in the area of Economic Development to serve the EUP Region.

It was stated that a few new businesses are in the process of opening in Mackinac County which can lead to future job opportunities in the region. One being a new distillery and a series of boutique shops in the old hardware in Cedarville.

C. Duflo mentioned that Northern Initiatives has micro loan funds available and has been very busy with existing loans and the demand for new funding for small businesses across the Region.

Board member discussed the issues that western Mackinac and various other parts of the Region are having with volunteer ambulance and fire services.

J. Hill mentioned that the Naubinway area is seeing some positive signs from recent economic developments at the Snowmobile Museum, which also includes the marina project.

D. McLean alerted the Commission that Senator Peters is visiting the Sault on May 4, 2016 to tour the Locks. Board members were encouraged to meet with the Senator while he is here.

E. Becks mentioned that the SmartZone has Business Accelerator Funds available to small businesses that fall within the SmartZone service area.

The upcoming ballot proposal for a Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Millage was mentioned. This regional millage will allow potential CTE curriculums throughout the entire region. The proposed millage would be for 1 mil for 10 years and will be on the ballot on May 3, 2016.

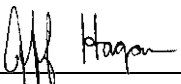
OLD BUSINESS

E. Wedesky distributed a broadband survey which will be circulated to residences and businesses located in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac County to access the current needs and demands of broadband services in the area. It was noted that MEA is also distributing a separate broadband survey in Clark, Brevort, and Portage Townships.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 _____, Jeff Hagan, CEO