

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Studebaker's Restaurant, 3583 I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste. Marie, MI**

Members Present:

Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
Colleen Duflo, Luce Co.
Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.

Kelly Freeman, City of SSM –
Chippewa Co.
Dean Reid, Mackinac Co.
Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Twp. - Chippewa Co.

Joe Drobowski, Chippewa Co.
Gary Reid, Clark Twp. Mack. Co.
Michelle Walk, MSU Ext.
John Waltman, Luce Co.

Staff:

Jeff Hagan
Nathan Coon

Eric Wedesky
Alicia Williams

Ellen Benoit

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman McLean. Introductions were made.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman McLean asked if there were any changes to the agenda. G. Reid requested an update about the wetland mitigation bank presentation that was presented after the last meeting – would like to discuss it a little more – it was added under the comments. D. Hagan also wanted to add the CC Service Agreement with parcel mapping under New Business. A motion was made to approve the agenda with changes by J. Moore and supported by C. Duflo. It was unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Chairman McLean asked if there were any corrections or comments to the minutes of the last meeting of July 22, 2015. M. Walk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, it was supported by J. Moore. Chairman McLean asked the same of the Executive Committee meeting of September 2, 2015. Motion made by D. Reid and supported by C. Duflo to approve the minutes as presented. Both passed with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

A request was made by D. Reid to discuss the HD Video Equipment and Broadband Initiative. A motion was made to pull those two items out of the staff reports for more discussion by J. Moore and supported by J. Drobowski. Motion carried unanimously.

The video equipment installed at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum for unknown reasons does not work any longer. Options are to 1) get estimates for repair costs 2) get estimates costs for new equipment – issue is the lack of good I-Net accessibility at the Museum or 3) do nothing. The St. Ignace site is not yet operating due to equipment issues but should be by the end of November or earlier.

D. Reid also wondered about the status of the broadband initiative after learning that Bois Blanc Island got a stimulus grant and wondered if this were available for Chippewa and Mackinac. There was the Connect America program two years ago where providers applied for funds. Century Tel owns infrastructure on east side of I-75 and ATT were awarded some funding. At the next REDAC meeting there will be a speaker to present on the issue, E. W. encouraged Board Members to draft their questions to ask.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Hagan included information on Senate Bill 282 and Resolution in support of SB282 for review and discussion. The bill was proposed by Casperson regarding electric transmission, setting up an oversight committee and increasing

capability between Michigan’s peninsulas. D. Reid moved to support the Resolution in Support of SB 282 as presented. K. Freeman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

D. Mclean – Yes	D. Reid – Yes	D. Patrick – Yes	M. Walk - Yes	G. Reid - Yes
K. Freeman – Yes	J. Moore – Yes	J. Drobowski - Yes	C. Duflo - Yes	J. Waltman - Yes

Director Hagan presented the Resolution for grant application to RPI 2016 funding. A collaborative meeting will be held November 5th and is open to develop ideas for projects and priorities. A motion to adopt the resolution for application to the 2016 RPI funding was made by J. Moore and seconded by C. Duflo. A roll call vote was taken:

K. Freeman – Yes	J. Moore – Yes	J. Drobowski - Yes	C. Duflo - Yes	J. Waltman - Yes
D. Mclean – Yes	D. Reid – Yes	D. Patrick – Yes	M. Walk - Yes	G. Reid - Yes

EUPRP&DC was asked to act as fiduciary for Chippewa County which has decided to move forward with the company Amalgam in the conversion of parcel maps to a format that is compatible with the ESRI GIS software. Once the parcels are converted EUPRP&DC will maintain updates and work with the Equalization Department as done for Mackinac County. K. Freeman made the motion to authorize Executive Director to move forward, with a second from M. Walk. It was passed unanimous.

Guest Speaker Dr. Thomas Pleger, LSSU President presented to the board on Lake Superior State University - campus overview, renovation projects, goals, and challenges.

OLD BUSINESS

M. Walk reported on the upcoming Local Foods Summit next week.

D. Reid reported changes in fishing trout in Lake Michigan by Feds. Waste Management will no longer do recycling in St. Ignace although Governor is pushing for 30%. Executive Director willing to go to Recycling Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman McLean opened the floor for public comments. Some discussion was held regarding the need for the wetlands mitigation bank so that more projects could be done, the question was raised if Nature Preserves land could be potentially be used. Road Commissions were viewed as the best agency to co-op per county acquiring tax auction property. D. Hagan to follow up and report back.

ADJOURNMENT –

The next meeting date was scheduled for January 27, 2016. It will be a noon meeting, location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by G. Reid and supported by J. Moore. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.