

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission  
Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 26, 2022; 9:00 a.m.  
Smart Zone; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

**Members Present**

Brad Neumann, MSU Extension  
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private  
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.  
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie

Darcy Long, City of St. Ignace  
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.  
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private  
Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.

**Partners**

Chris Olson, Chippewa County EDC

**Staff:**

Jeff Hagan  
Kim Wilcox

Ellen Benoit  
Mary Ann Heidemann

Katrina Harcourt

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by M. Patrick.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

A revised agenda was distributed prior to the meeting to include a CARES ACT: Recovery & Resiliency Plan Presentation (Item 6) and the review of the IT Contract with the EUPISD (Item 7e. Action Item). D. Reid moved to approve the revised agenda with support from K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 27, 2022, Board Minutes**

J. Holt moved to approve the July 27, 2022, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented. D. Mclean supported. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

D. McLean moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report and Program Updates. D. Long supported. Motion passed.

**PRESENTATION: CARES ACT: Recovery & Resiliency Plan**

CEO J. Hagan and staff provided a PowerPoint presentation of the CARES Act Recovery & Resiliency Plan. This plan documents the impacts, recovery progress, and long-term resilience recommendations of Covid-19 pandemic. A focus on impacts to businesses, government, education, tourism, and community organizations, etc., throughout the region are thoroughly described in the first section of the plan. It also includes a feature section—EUP Champions of Change—to highlight how some businesses throughout the region adapted their business plans to maintain and/or thrive during the pandemic. The Recovery section describes some of the assistance programs available to businesses, local government, and individuals. There were also many infrastructure projects approved for funding to aid in the recovery. Some of the recommendations for resilience include housing, broadband implementation, increase workforce, etc., and are highlighted in the final section. CEO Hagan indicated that the plan is in the final stages of completion and will be submitted to EDA in the upcoming month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Director’s Report**

CEO Hagan provided an update of the programs highlighted in the Director’s Report which was included in the meeting packet. D. Reid moved to approve the Director’s Report as submitted. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

**County Local Share Update**

The formula used to determine the amount of the annual local share dues for each county in the region was described. With this formula, based on the 2020 Census population and the 2021 SEV by County, Chippewa and Luce Counties would have a slight reduction and Mackinac County would foresee a slight increase. At the Executive Committee meeting on June 17, 2022, the overall local share was increased to \$50,000. The overall local share total would be used with this formula to determine the amount due by each county. The overall increase to \$50,000 would be phased in over the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years to allow for each county to adjust budgets. D. McLean moved to approve the county local share formula adjustment for dues as proposed. D. Reid supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

**Audit Proposal—Years 2022, 2023, & 2024**

A three-year proposal for audit services from Anderson, Tackman & Company was reviewed. The proposal reflects a slight increase from the previous three-year contract but is within a reasonable range. The proposed three-year engagement would be \$8,700 (2022), \$8,800 (2023), and \$8,900 (2024). D. Reid moved to accept the proposal from Anderson, Tackman for the EUPRPDC audit. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

## **Resolutions**

### **EPA Brownfields Grant**

A resolution for an EPA Brownfields Grant application was read to members. This grant would allow for the development of an inventory, plan, and conduct community engagement. This application is not to exceed \$500,000 and has no match requirement. This resolution authorizes EUP Regional Planning to be the designated planning agency for the Eastern Upper Peninsula and CEO Jeffrey S. Hagan to be the authorized signatory of the grant award. D. McLean moved to approve the EPA Brownfields Grant Resolution as presented. K. Freeman supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

### **EGLE High Water Infrastructure Grant**

The EGLE High Water Infrastructure Grant resolution was described to members. This grant would directly address the impacts and vulnerabilities caused by severe weather events with an emphasis of flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, and storm water management along the coastal areas. This grant application is not to exceed \$125,000 and has a 20% match requirement (\$25,000). The resolution authorizes EUP Regional Planning to be the designated planning agency for the Eastern Upper Peninsula and CEO Jeffrey S. Hagan as the authorized signatory of any documentation associated with the grant. K. Freeman moved to approve the resolution for the EGLE High Water Infrastructure Grant as presented. J. Dobrowolski supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

### **CZM Planning Grant**

The resolution for a CZM Planning Grant program with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) was described to members. This program will allow for an inventory of plans, assist coastal community planning, and implement best practices. This grant application is not to exceed \$50,000 and has a 50% match requirement (\$25,000). This resolution authorizes CEO Jeffrey S. Hagan to be the authorized signatory on all documentation associated with this grant and the authorized administrator of the grant award. J. Holt moved to approve the resolution for the CZM Planning Grant as presented. D. Long supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

**IT Contract—EUPISD**

Members reviewed the IT Services Agreement with the EUP Intermediate School District. This agreement details the IT services provided to Regional Planning by the EUPISD. It was highlighted that there is an additional fee for any additional technical services not noted in the contract. The contract totals \$7,050. The EUPISD has previously provided the IT services to the EUPRPDC and it has been very satisfactory and professional. D. McLean moved to approve the IT Services Contract with the EUPISD. D. Reid supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

B. Neumann: Yes	D. Long: Yes	D. Reid: Yes	D. McLean: Yes
J. Holt: Yes	J. Dobrowolski: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes	M. Patrick: Yes

**Board Member Updates**

Jeff Holt: Described the upcoming “Return North” events being held to encourage job seekers and businesses to return to the area. There are two events being planned—November 10 (Virtual) and November 17 (In-Person).

Don McLean: Noted his frustration that Chippewa County has yet to commit to utilizing a portion of their ARPA funding to EUP Connect’s broadband efforts.

Darcy Long: The City of St. Ignace is in the process of reviewing zoning areas in the city to make it more building friendly.

Dean Reid: Indicated that Starline Ferry has applied for a grant through EGLE to convert a diesel ferry to electric. The charging station will be located in Mackinaw City due to power issues.

Joe Dobrowolski: Mentioned that the outlook for manufacturing opportunities is very favorable and the need for a skilled labor force is a nationwide need.

Brad Neuman: Provided links for information from MSU Extension:

- Public comment period is open through 10/31 on the MSHDA Housing and Community Development Fund - <https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/developers/housing-and-community-development-fund-hcdf>. Email comments to [MSHDA-MISHP@michigan.gov](mailto:MSHDA-MISHP@michigan.gov)
- MSUE Ballot Proposal Summaries: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan-ballot-proposal-forum/>
- New Commissioner School: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/ncs/>
- Zoning Administrator Certificate Program: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/ZAC2023/>
- StoryMap: Dynamic water levels and how to plan for the highs and lows - <https://arcg.is/1yfPHa>
- StoryMap: Where the water flows - <https://arcg.is/0e15eL>

Kelly Freeman: Mentioned that developers are planning to renovate the vacant Garfield School in Sault Ste. Marie into a 36-unit affordable housing complex.

Mike Patrick: Noted that the MSU UP Forestry Innovative Center was highlighted at a recent UPCAP meeting. This school is located in the Western Upper Peninsula and provides instruction in the logging industry.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- Executive Committee—December 9, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
- Governing Board—January 25, 2023; Time/Location TBD

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. following a motion by D. Reid and support by J. Dobrowolski.