

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission  
Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 30, 2019  
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

**Members Present**

Alex Iseri, City of St. Ignace	Bill Henry, Luce Co.
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private	Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.	Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Kimberly Muller, LSSU	Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private	
Gary Reid, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co. Alternate	

**Staff:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Vice Chair J. Dobrowolski.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

D. McLean moved to approve the agenda with an addition to New Business to include a discussion about broadband. G. Reid supported. Motion passed.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

As John Waltman did not seek reelection as a Luce County Commissioner during the recent election, his position as Chair on the Regional Planning Board is now vacant. It was noted that there is one year remaining of the Chair's two-year term. CEO Hagan indicated that the current rotation indicates that the Chair be from Luce County. If the Luce County members decline the position, the next rotation would be a member from Chippewa County. Upon further discussion, J. Holt moved to nominate Luce County Commissioner Bill Henry as Chairperson for the remaining term. D. Reid supported. As there were no other nominations, B. Henry was appointed Chairman unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

• **October 24, 2018 Board Minutes**

Upon review of the October 24, 2018, Board Minutes, it was noted that a correction was needed to indicate that the bill described by R. Timmer under Board Member Updates was to release weight limits for “logging trucks” not “natural gas trucks”. J. Holt moved to approve the October 24, 2018, EUPRPDC Board minutes with this correction. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

• **December 5, 2018 Executive Committee Minutes**

The December 5, 2018, Executive Committee minutes were reviewed, and a clarification of wording was suggested in reference to a statement to “procure a competitive bid” for next year’s BCBS insurance plan. D. Reid moved to approve the December 5, 2018, Executive Committee minutes with the clarification of wording included. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

R. Timmer moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates, and the Director’s Report. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Resolution—EDA Partnership Planning 2019**

A resolution authorizing the application to the Economic Development Administration for a continuation of a Partnership Planning Assistance Grant was reviewed. This grant totals \$210,000 with a match of \$52,500 for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022. The resolution also designates CEO J. Hagan as the signatory and grant recipient to implement the EDA Partnership Award. D. McLean moved to approve the 2019 EDA Partnership Planning Resolution. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

A. Iseri—Yes	B. Henry—Yes	D. Reid—Yes	D. McLean—Yes	J. Holt—Yes
J. Moore—Yes	J. Dobrowolski—Yes	K. Freeman—Yes	K. Muller—Yes	M. Patrick—Yes
R. Timmer--Yes	G. Reid--Yes			

- **Resolution—EDA Local Share 2019**

Members also reviewed a resolution noting the terms for local share documentation and its availability for the 2019 EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Grant. D. McLean moved to approve the EDA 2019 Local Share Resolution. K. Freeman supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

A. Iseri—Yes	B. Henry—Yes	D. Reid—Yes	D. McLean—Yes	J. Holt—Yes
J. Moore—Yes	J. Dobrowolski—Yes	K. Freeman—Yes	K. Muller—Yes	M. Patrick—Yes
R. Timmer--Yes	G. Reid--Yes			

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

As a requirement of the new OMB Super Circular, a Conflict of Interest Policy was recently approved by the Executive Committee. This policy will require board members to sign the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form annually. Members are asked to review the policy, complete the disclosure form, and return the form to the EUPRPDC office. R. Timmer moved to concur with the Executive Committee and accept the Conflict of Interest Policy. D. McLean supported. Motion passed.

**2019 Meeting Dates**

- January 30 – SmartZone; Sault Ste. Marie—12:00 p.m.
- April 24—SmartZone; Sault Ste. Marie—9:00 a.m.
- July 24—SmartZone; Sault Ste. Marie—9:00 a.m.
- October 23—SmartZone; Sault Ste. Marie—9:00 a.m.

**Board Member Updates**

D. Reid mentioned that in anticipation of Mackinac County benefitting from two upcoming projects, (Line 5 Tunnel and Soo Locks Project), MEA is being proactive in focusing on the demand of the need of skilled trade workers. A meeting has been scheduled with LaSalle High School of the possibility of utilizing the metal and wood shops for training. These rooms are currently not being used and could be beneficial in providing CTE vocational training for certification to adults and students. The demand for skilled workers is a nationwide issue and this type of program could benefit many in the region.

K. Freeman described a recent Build Grant the city has received to reconstruct a portion of Easterday Avenue and the Carbide Dock.

J. Holt indicated that many developers have been contacting EDC with an interest in this area because of the upcoming Soo Locks project.

G. Reid indicated that the Clark Township Harbor Project should be opening in the Spring. He also described recent updates along the M-134 Scenic Byway.

J. Moore described recent updates to Kinross Charter Township's water and sewer system.

R. Timmer noted that the Road Commissions are currently in need of CDL truck drivers with the closest truck driving school for certification testing being in Escanaba.

A. Iseri expressed appreciation to Regional Planning staff for their assistance with the St. Ignace Master Plan and Recreation Plan.

### **Broadband Update**

A status update of the broadband project was provided. CEO Hagan indicated that the EUP Intermediate School District was awarded an EDA Planning Grant to focus on developing the structure of a broadband consortium. Staff from Regional Planning, MEA and EUPISD have been meeting to determine future steps including drafting a communication packet for community stakeholders. It was noted that there are multiple layers to this planning grant. Regional Planning's responsibility with this plan include communication and GIS input.

### **OLD BUSINESS—RPI 2019 Grant Award**

It was noted that the 2019 RPI Grant Application was recently awarded an allocation totaling \$306,810, which includes \$70,000 for integrated asset management. This grant will provide funding to continue regional projects such as broadband, transportation logistics, and UP north trails, etc. and begin new projects such as regional internships, health care recruitment, and E911 mapping.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. following a motion by R. Timmer and support by J. Moore.