

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

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension (Video)
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.	Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.	Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Kimberly Muller, LSSU	Mark Clymer, Clark Twp.- Mackinac Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private	
Allison Watkins—Newberry Village Alternate	

Guest

Bob Kittle, Munetrix

Staff:

Jeff Hagan Kim Wilcox Nathan Coon Rebecca Bolen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by B. Henry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon review of the agenda, it was noted that Staff Updates be added as Item E under new business. R. Timmer moved to approve the agenda with the additional item. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 24, 2019 Board Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the April 24, 2019, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented. D. McLean supported. Motion passed.

June 5, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the June 5, 2019, Executive Committee minutes as presented. J. Dobrowolski supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report

CEO Hagan provided an update of the programs highlighted in the Director's Report:

- **Regional Prosperity Initiative:** There is currently no update of the status of RPI funding in the upcoming State budget as the legislators are not in session. The committees will meet to reach a budget agreement following break. In the meantime, letters of support and resolutions are being forwarded to legislators and the Governor's UP Representative Mike Prusi.
- **Integrated Asset Management:** An Integrated Asset Management Summit was held on June 28 and was well attended with representatives from water and sewer, roads, broadband and utilities. This summit introduced representatives from the Michigan Infrastructure Council, Water Asset Management Council and the Transportation Asset Management Council and also had an emphasis of project collaboration as well as asset assessment. Another summit is planned to be held in the fall.
- **Transportation Logistics Strategy:** A Bi-National Conference is scheduled to be held on November 6. Regional Planning will be hosting the event along with the Economic Development Corporations of Chippewa County, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Canada.
- **EDA:** The three-year Partnership Planning Grant was awarded in June.
- **Great Lakes Economic Forum:** CEO Hagan attend this year's event in Cleveland along with representatives from Chippewa County EDC, Sault Ste. Marie EDC and Sault Ontario EDC. This three-day conference was very informative with speakers from United States and Canada.
- **Sault Tribe EDA Public Works Grant:** The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians were recently awarded an EDA Public Works Grant to build an industrial park building for tribally-owned businesses. Regional Planning may be assisting in administering the grant.

- MEDC RRC Technical Assistance: The SSM Economic Development Strategy final draft is complete and CEO Hagan will be presenting it to SSM EDC on August 20 and then to the SSM City Commission in September for final approval.
- Broadband: Regional Planning is continuing collaboration with the EUPISD on their EDA planning grant for broadband. GIS staff is working on the required maps and GIS data collection. It was noted that the EUPISD may have to request an extension on the planning grant in order to meet the grant requirements.
- Soo Locks: Presentations of the Soo Locks are ongoing as the project is moving forward. The top two issues in the expansion appear to be meeting housing and labor needs.
- MAR Annual Meeting: EUPRPDC hosted this year’s MAR Annual Meeting in June. The meeting included speakers about the Soo Locks and the CFRE projects. MAR directors also enjoyed seeing the locks up close on the Soo Locks Boat tour.
- Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy Board: CEO Hagan was recently appointed to the LSWC board and will be attending a strategic planning meeting of this bi-national board in August.
- Shared GIS Position: A proposed position in GIS is under consideration, to be shared between Regional Planning and Mackinac County. Mackinac County would be the employer of record and the employee will be housed at the Mackinac County Equalization Office three days a week and at Regional Planning two days.

Bylaw Amendment

Members reviewed a proposed revision to the EUPRPDC Board Bylaws. This revision would reflect an adjustment to the number of commissioners from each county as EUPRPDC board members. At this time, two commissioners from each county are appointed as members to the Board; and the proposed revision would reduce the number of commissioner representatives to one from each county. Each commissioner would then appoint an alternate commissioner representative. The Executive Committee reviewed and recommended the approval of the proposed bylaw membership revision at their meeting on June 5, 2019. D. McLean moved to concur with the Executive Committee and approve the proposed EUPRPDC Board bylaw membership revision. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

B. Henry—Yes	B. Neumann—Yes	D. McLean—Yes	J. Holt—Yes	J. Hill--Yes
J. Moore—Yes	J. Dobrowolski---Yes	K. Freeman—Yes	K. Muller—Yes	M. Clymer--Yes
R. Timmer--Yes	A. Watkins--Yes			

Presentation: Bob Kittle, Munetrix

Bob Kittle, CEO/President of Munetrix, described the importance of easy access of data for schools and local municipalities. Munetrix currently provides services to NEMCOG, Networks Northwest, and SEMCOG as well as the Village of Newberry. This service provides easy access to useable data for analytic transparency to create financial presentations, dashboards, and benchmarks for performance. He also noted that the data available could be utilized to protect institutional knowledge especially as many public sector employees will soon be retiring. A sample of how the Village of Newberry could utilize their data and how it can be compared with other similar state municipalities was also provided. The data can be converted into easy to read tables. Regional Planning could sponsor the 39 municipalities in the Eastern UP for a cost of \$3,900. A grant could be available to offset half of the total. Following the overview, D. McLean moved to contract with Munetrix for the 39 municipalities. M. Clymer supported. Motion passed.

Board Member Updates

K. Muller provided an update of Lake Superior State University; including:

- EUP Internship Fair is scheduled to be held on August 27 at the Cisler Center between 2:00-4:00 p.m. Employers are encouraged to register for this event.
- LSSU is partnering with the Manufacturing Alliance to host a Manufacturing Day for students in the 9th grade.
- A certificate program for manufacturing is being finalized.
- LSSU will be partnering with the Les Cheneaux Culinary School for a culinary certificate.
- LSSU is considering a satellite university near St. Helen, Michigan.

M. Clymer indicated that the Les Cheneaux Marina should be completed by the second week of August.

J. Hill mentioned that Mackinac County now has a full-time Veteran Services Representative available to assist Veterans.

K. Freeman noted that there are three candidates to consider for interviews for the recently vacant Sault Ste. Marie city manager position.

J. Holt described how the SSM EDC and LSSU collaborated to complete the requirements to obtain a brownfield grant for the CFRE project.

J. Holt also noted that a subcontracting training is scheduled on August 7 at the Smart Zone for subcontractors interested in the Soo Locks expansion project.

J. Dobrowolski described how his company is utilizing cross border collaboration with Canada.

A Watkins mentioned that the Public Participation Plan was approved by the Village Council.

J. Moore indicated that NASCAR veteran Kenny Wallace will be at the Kinross Speedpark on August 9. He also mentioned that the Chippewa County Fair will be held on August 24-September 2.

R. Timmer described the need of a central agency repository of identification and funding for eradication of invasive species. B. Neumann mentioned that there is an app in place with the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (<https://www.misin.msu.edu/>) to include invasive species identification of invasive species in the region.

B. Neumann mentioned that a Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference will be held on October 1-2 in Ludington. He also described an upcoming webinar series regarding marijuana use and regulation in Michigan. Information regarding these events will be forwarded to board members for their information.

Staff Updates

GIS Coordinator Nate Coon described the MiSAIL Program with the State of Michigan which can provide new imagery access. Mackinac County is currently utilizing this program and it is anticipated that Chippewa County would also benefit from this program.

Adjournment

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. following a motion by K. Freeman and support by M. Clymer.