

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

**Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian Street; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

**Members Present**

Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private	Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.	Eric Becks, LSSU
Gary Reid, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co.	Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.	Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private
John Waltman, Luce Co.	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Michelle Walk, MSU Extension	Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private

**Staff:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Dean Reid.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

It was noted that the agenda needs to be amended to include information of an energy study. This item will be included under New Business. E. Becks moved to approve the agenda with this addition. R. Timmer supported. The motion was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES--May 3, 2017 Board Minutes**

D. McLean moved to approve the May 3, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. J. Waltman supported. Motion passed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Upon review of the program updates, it was noted that Regional Planning may wish to contact the Forest Service to promote forest recreation projects in the EUP as it appears that the current projects listed are mainly focused in the West. The possibility of inviting representatives from the National Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources to the October meeting was discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Resolution Opposing EDA Cuts**

A resolution opposing proposed program cuts and agency elimination for fiscal year 2018 was reviewed. Agencies affected by these cuts include the Economic Development Administration and the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative. Elimination of the agencies and programs would affect local and regional economic and community development considerably. R. Timmer moved to approve the resolution opposing federal program cuts. K. Freeman supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

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

### **b. Presentation – Jeff Holt – Sault EDC**

Sault Ste. Marie EDC Director, Jeff Holt, provided an update of the economic development activities in Sault Ste. Marie. He mentioned that international economic development has been in the forefront with interested manufacturers looking to locate in the Sault, Michigan area. The EDC has been providing assistance with VISAs, office space, and other business start-up aspects.

Gwen Worley was recently appointed as the Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie EDC Board of Directors.

Updates to the Sanderson Field Airport runway are scheduled for the week of August 7.

The EDC participated in the Sault, Ontario and Sault, Michigan Joint Council/Commission meeting in June. International trade, manufacturing, transportation, energy and tourism were some of the many topics discussed at this meeting.

**c. Board Member Updates**

E. Becks mentioned that Peter Mitchell has been selected as the new Interim President of Lake Superior State University with a one-year contract.

D. Timmer mentioned that the road commission recently participated in an active shooter training. He found this training beneficial and recommends it to other agencies.

The Chippewa County Courthouse is upgrading their security with metal detectors and full-time security officers.

J. Hill discussed the upcoming millage request to fund a county veteran officer in Mackinac County.

G. Reid mentioned the upcoming Hill Island Road causeway project, estimated at \$1.0 million, will be undertaken in Fall 2018.

D. Reid mentioned the possibility of wind development for the Hiawatha Club property.

M. Walk discussed the recently completed Meat Processing Feasibility study and the subsequent data collection project on a produce processing facility in the Gwinn area.

**d. Energy Study**

Regional Planning has an opportunity to participate in an energy committee to create an integrated resource plan. The plan is to oversee the larger utilities in the State. As there would be staff time associated with providing a summary of the history and proposed projects to assist with the Integrated Resource Plan, Superior Watershed Partnership has indicated that there is funding available to offset these costs. R. Timmer moved to provide the staff support required for the Integrated Resource Plan. J. Waltman supported. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Michigan Planner News* Articles: “The Broadband Demand” and “It Takes a Village to Restore a River” were reviewed.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.