

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

Wednesday, November 7, 2019
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Members Present:

Alex Iseri, City of St. Ignace	Allison Watkins—Newberry Village
Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.	Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie	Kimberly Muller, LSSU
Mark Clymer, Clark Twp.- Mackinac Co.	Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private

Partners:

Tammy Henry, Luce County EDC

Guest:

Ashley Moerke

Staff:

Jeff Hagan Ellen Benoit Kim Wilcox Nathan Coon

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chair B. Henry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda as presented. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 24, 2019 Board Minutes

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

September 11, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the September 11, 2019, Executive Committee minutes as presented. D. McLean supported. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION: Ashley Moerke—CFRE—LSSU Center for Freshwater Research

Ashley Moerke, Director of the Lake Superior State University Center for Freshwater Research provided an update of the CFRE project which is now in the engineering stage to begin building following the required clean up work at the Brownfield site. The Brownfield grant/loan funding was via a successful collaboration between the Sault Ste. Marie EDC and LSSU. The mission of CFRE is to sustain Great Lakes resources through education, research, and community engagement. A PowerPoint of the floor plan was presented identifying key areas such as the visitor center, office space, conference rooms and classrooms. It is planned that the classrooms will be utilized by students of various grades as well as postsecondary LSSU students. Ashley also described other uses of the center and answered questions from Board Members.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report

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

- **Integrated Asset Management**: Staff attended a training session on Asset Management Assessments. This "train the trainer" session was held in Lansing by the Michigan Infrastructure Council to assist mandated communities with the self-assessments required for water, wastewater, and sewer systems. A Fall Integrated Asset Management Summit was held on October 31 and it was noted that the assessment tools will be available January 2020.
- **EUP Transportation Logistics Strategy (TLS)**: The Business Beyond Borders Conference was held on November 6 with approximately 90 attendees. This conference was hosted by Regional Planning, and the Economic Development Corporations of Sault, Michigan; Sault, Ontario, and Chippewa County. The conference included feature presentations from Mark Fischer (Council for the Great Lakes) and Robert Kavcic (BMO Financial Group) as well as business and border panel discussions. Overall, the conference was a success and it is anticipated to be an annual event.

- EDA: Staff is currently revising the CEDS 5-Year update which is due April 30, 2020. A different approach will be utilized to obtain input on the goals and objectives to be included in the strategy. Staff will be meeting with various groups to acquire feedback as well as issuing a series of surveys. The call for projects has been issued to the EDOs.
- Sault Tribe EDA Public Works Grant: The Sault Tribe was awarded funding for this \$2,000,000 EDA Public Works Grant and EUPRPDC will be assisting with the grant administration.
- Broadband: EDA has granted the ISD a 1-year extension to hire a consultant to assist with drafting the Broadband Plan.
- Shared GIS Position: The EUP Executive Committee and the Mackinac County Board approved the staffing agreement of a shared GIS position. Mackinac County will be the employer on record for this position which would be based in St. Ignace three days a week and at the EUP office two days a week. Interviews of potential candidates are scheduled at the end of the week.
- LSSU Computer Science Senior Project: A LSSU Computer Science Senior will be working with our office to appropriately library files and information on our server as a senior project.

MERS Plan Amendment

During a routine MERS payroll audit, it was discovered that one employee had elected to not participate in the MERS retirement plan upon full time employment which is not allowable unless the position was specifically exempted. It was determined at the Executive Committee meeting on September 11 that the position of Economic Development Specialist would not be eligible for the MERS retirement plan permanently. D. McLean moved to exempt the Economic Development Specialist from the MERS retirement plan. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A Iseri--Yes	B. Henry--Yes	D. McLean—Yes	J. Holt—Yes	K. Muller—Yes
M. Clymer—Yes	R. Timmer—Yes	A. Watkins—Yes		

Health Insurance Update

As the current employee health insurance plan is due for renewal soon and is estimated to be an 11% increase, Jeremy Peacock-Garceau of the Garceau Insurance Agency is in the process of compiling options for the employee health insurance plan. The options will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting on December 11.

RPI Update

RPI was not reauthorized in this year's State budget. A new boilerplate has been created with an emphasis on infrastructure and asset management. It is the hope that new state funding sources will be available in the next budget to fund this new initiative.

Board Member Updates

D. McLean described a Harbor Safety Committee which covers the St. Mary's River from Iroquois Point down to DeTour Lighthouse. This committee would seek conservation, safety, and environmental protections. It is anticipated to meet three times a year.

R. Timmer provided a brief road commission update. He indicated that there have been some compromises with the State budget for road funding. The main issue currently is the proposed gas tax increase.

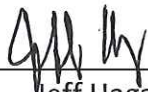
K. Muller mentioned that the LSSU Strategic Planning Committee will be hosting a townhall/listening session on Wednesday, November 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Smart Zone in Sault Ste. Marie.

M. Clymer brought forth issues regarding the GIS and parcel maintenance that EUP performs under the County GIS program. Further discussions will ensue with EUP, County Equalization and the Township to address the concerns raised.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jeff Hagan, CEO