

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

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018
SmartZone; 2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co.
John Waltman, Luce Co.
Michelle Walk, MSU Extension

Diane Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Allison Watkins—Newberry Village Alt.

Partners

Alex Iseri, Mackinac Economic Alliance

Tammy Henry, Luce County EDC

Guest Presenters

Brad Neumann—MSU Extension
Parker Jones—MSU Extension

Thyra Karlstrom—Marquette County

Staff:

Jeff Hagan
Nathan Coon

Alicia Williams

Ellen Benoit

Kim Wilcox

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman John Waltman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda as presented. M. Walk supported. Motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

UP Food Exchange Survey of Local Governments

Brad Neumann—MSU Extension

Thyra Karlstrom—Marquette County

Brad and Thyra described the results of a 2017 survey of local government of the community food system policy. The survey was created by the Upper Peninsula Food Exchange Policy Committee to determine the needs of communities in understanding the food system policies especially regarding updating master plans and zoning regulations. The results indicate that many local governments would benefit from additional education and technical assistance to develop community food system policies which the UPFE Policy Committee could provide. The survey results can be obtained on their website (www.upfoodexchange.com). Additional data could be provided to review regional responses.

MSU Product Center—Introduction & Highlights

Parker Jones—MSU Extension

Parker Jones, Innovative Counselor for the MSU Product Center, provided a summary describing the services provided to entrepreneurs of food, agricultural, natural resources, and forestry industries. He indicated that the MSU Product Center is always looking for referrals to provide this type of assistance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **April 25, 2018 Board Minutes**

M. Walk moved to approve the April 25, 2018, minutes of the Regional Planning & Development Commission. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

- **June 6, 2018 Executive Committee Minutes**

The June 6, 2018, Executive Committee minutes were approved as submitted following a motion by D. Reid and support by J. Holt.

CONSENT AGENDA

K. Freeman moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates, and the Director's Report. D. Reid supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SAM.gov Letter**

It was noted that there is a new verification requirement to register with the System Award Management website (SAM.gov) for federal grants. This requirement entails a notarized letter verifying CEO Jeff Hagan as the authorized signatory of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission. J. Holt moved to complete the process of submitting the required SAM.gov notarized letter.

J. Dobrowolski supported. Motion passed.

- **2019 Budget Update**

A brief review of the upcoming 2019 budget was described. CEO J. Hagan indicated that there is a positive outlook for the 2019 budget for funding for current and future projects.

- **Board Member Updates**

J. Holt noted some upcoming events:

- August 13; 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; SmartZone—Osprey Technologies Open House
- September 28; 6:00 p.m.; Sault Airport (Sanderson Field)—Open House & Movie in a Hanger (*Disney's Planes Fire and Rescue*)
- October 3; 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Sault County Club—Manufacturing Excellence Summit

K. Freeman indicated that the Sault Ste. Marie Master Plan has been adopted. The city is now working on the development of a Form Based Code in the downtown area.

D. Reid described the recent expansion of the of Maple Sawmill in Hessel which may provide additional job opportunities. Mr. Reid also mentioned the potential brownfield development project with the State of Michigan in St. Ignace for the DHHS and SOS offices.

J. Waltman discussed a Federal Highway grant proposal that has been submitted for construction of a road connection between northern Luce County and Grand Marias, will have a huge economic impact if funded. Mr. Waltman also mentioned the Marine Sanctuary initiative out of Whitefish Point and the potential economic impact (Thunder Bay in Alpena discussed as an example).

J. Dobrowolski mentioned the ramping up of the Regional CTE program, very encouraging and will be a huge asset to them in their efforts to maintain and retain staff.

M. Walk indicated that a new District Coordinator has been hired and will begin employment on August 1.

D. Patrick described several new business ventures in the Les Cheneaux area.

A. Iseri described a MEA Trap Shoot Fundraiser to be held on August 25 at the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. MEA is also bringing on a VISTA program worker to handle their workforce development efforts and to assist Mr. Iseri.

T. Henry mentioned that the phase I of the Luce County Industrial Park is now at full occupancy.

A. Watkins mentioned that Newberry's Master Plan has been adopted.

J. Hill noted that a Veterans Service Officer has recently been hired for Mackinac County and will start on August 14.

J. Hagan mentioned that MDOT will be holding a meeting regarding the US-2 Brevort River Bridge Project on August 9.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.