

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

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021; 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Members Present

Allison Watkins—Newberry Village
Brad Neumann, MSU Extension
Dean Reid, Mackinac Co., Private
Hunter Nostrant, Luce Co., Private
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Mark Clymer, Clark Twp., Mack. Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co., Private

Bill Henry, Luce Co.
Darcy Long, City of St. Ignace
Erik Baron, Chippewa Co.
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Kimberly Muller, LSSU
Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.

Partners

Chris Olson, Chippewa County EDC

Guests

LSSU Students: James Long Melody Perrin Margot Zink

Staff

Jeff Hagan Kim Wilcox Mariah Goos

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair M. Patrick.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

A presentation from students from Lake Superior State University was added to the agenda and will be included prior to the approval of the minutes. K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda with the additional presentation. J. Holt supported. Motion passed.

LSSU PUBLIC RELATIONS CLASS—PROJECT PRESENTATION

Students from the LSSU Public Relations class were introduced—James Long, Melody Perrin, and Margot Zink. The students provided a presentation including infographics and suggested planned social media events which could be utilized to promote and increase awareness of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission. The students were commended for their efforts and contributions with this project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 27, 2021 Board Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the January 27, 2021, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented. K. Muller supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2021 Executive Committee Minutes

J. Holt moved to approve the December 14, 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Director’s Report

CEO Hagan provided an update of the programs highlighted in the Director’s Report which was included in the meeting packet. K. Muller moved to approve the Director’s Report as submitted. B. Neumann supported. Motion passed.

2021 CEDS Performance Report Resolution

CEO Hagan read the 2021 CEDS Performance Report Resolution. The 2021 CEDS Performance Report is an update of the 2020 5-Year Plan describing the goals, objects, and demographics. This report is available for review on the EUP Regional Planning website. The Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) reviewed the Report at their meeting on April 9; and although it is not required, the CEDS was available for public review and comment for a 30-day period. K. Freeman moved to approve the resolution for the adoption of the 2021 EUP Performance Report and continued designation of the EUP as an economic district. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins--Yes	B. Henry--Yes	B. Neumann--Yes	D. Long--Yes	D. Reid--Yes
E. Baron--Yes	H. Nostrant--Yes	J. Holt--Yes	K. Freeman--Yes	K. Muller--Yes
M. Clymer—Yes	M. Patrick—Yes	R. Timmer—Yes		

FY 2022 MCACA Resolution

The FY2022 MCACA resolution approving the application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Re-Granting Services Program was read to members. This resolution authorizes EUP Regional Planning to administer the contracts for the MCACA Minigrant and Professional and Organizations Development Program for Fiscal Year 2022. R. Timmer moved to approve the MCACA Program Resolution. H. Nostrant supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins--Yes	B. Henry--Yes	B. Neumann--Yes	D. Long--Yes	D. Reid--Yes
E. Baron--Yes	H. Nostrant--Yes	J. Holt--Yes	K. Freeman--Yes	K. Muller--Yes
M. Clymer—Yes	M. Patrick—Yes	R. Timmer—Yes		

Board Member Updates

B. Neumann described and provided links to upcoming trainings:

- County Café: Counties Supporting Regional Economic Development - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/countycafe21>
- Sign Regulation Training - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/signs>
- Citizen Planner Summer Series - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Summer21CPZoom>
- Cultivating Local Farm Economies: Planning, Zoning and Emerging Issues in Agritourism - https://events.anr.msu.edu/CLFE_Agritourism

D. Reid indicated that Meijer has reached out to Cloverland of the possibility of installing rapid charging stations. There is reluctance with the installation of the rapid charging units due to cost and commitment requirements. It was noted that installation of the rapid charging stations would be an asset to the region and that as the downstate use increases, it will eventually be a need for EUP tourism. Currently, the Hampton Inn in Sault Ste. Marie has charging stations.

R. Timmer noted that MDOT has an increase in their summer maintenance budget which will allow for additional road projects on State highways.

D. Long mentioned that housing is one main issue in the St. Ignace area. The St. Ignace Planning Commission is currently writing an ordinance to regulate AirBnB and short-term vacation rentals. Rentals of this type seem to create a challenge with permanent housing availability.

H. Nostrant indicated that housing for employees is also an issue in Luce County.

M. Clymer indicated that Clark Township is adopting a short-term rental ordinance and also is adjusting the medical/retail marijuana ordinance.

K. Muller indicated that the CFRE project is moving toward a target opening. She also described three potential programs LSSU is considering to be offered to students. LSSU has also completed a 1-Mile trail with the hope to connect to city trails. The trail can be located on the following link: <https://earth.google.com/web/@46.49346744,-84.36215287,209.10418128a,1000d,30y,0h,0t,0r/data=MicKJQojCiExRINvZzFDeDhNQjRWbk1keFFzdEpNOTIORHJHT3gxQW46AwoBMA?authuser=0>

J. Holt described a seminar open to businesses to learn how to improve business website and online presence. The meeting will be held on April 29 at the Sault Ste. Marie EDC at 11:00 a.m. He also mentioned that the housing market case study is in a draft format and the document will be forwarded to members when it is final.

Old Business

CEO Hagan indicated that EUPRPDC is collaborating with EGLE to host an Electronic Recycling Event in each of the three counties of the EUP in the fall.

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

- Executive Committee—June 11, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
- EUPRPDC Governing Board—July 28, 2021; Time/Location TBD

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m. following a motion by J. Holt and support by K. Freeman.