

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

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021; 9:00 a.m.
Smart Zone; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private	Erik Baron, Chippewa Co.
Hunter Nostrant, Luce Co., Private	Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Moore, Kinross Charter	Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie	Mark Clymer, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private	

Partners

Tammy Henry, Luce County EDC	Chris Olson, Chippewa County EDC
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Guests:

Bruce Moore, Highline Broadband (Video)

Staff:

Jeff Hagan	Kim Wilcox	Mariah Goos	Nathan Coon
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair J. Moore.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

It was noted that the agenda was amended to include action on a Resolution for Hendricks Township Sign Relocation. This item will be included under New Business. J. Holt moved to approve the revised agenda with this addition. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Board: April 28, 2021; Executive Committee: June 29,2021

R. Timmer moved to approve the April 28, 2021 EUPRPDC Board meeting minutes and the June 29, 2021, Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. D. Reid supported. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Bruce Moore, Highline Broadband RDOF

Bruce Moore (Highline) provided a brief overview of the broadband RDOF project in the Upper Peninsula. Due to connection issues, he was unable to provide the power point presentation of the project but did provide general highlights of this venture. He indicated that the project is moving at a fast pace in the Upper Peninsula beginning in Delta County. It is anticipated to begin in the designated areas in the Eastern Upper Peninsula in 2022. When questions were asked of the benefits of the proposed recommendation to have local units of government commit at least 3% of their American Rescue Plan allocations to broadband efforts, it was noted that extra funding opportunities provided through EUPconnect (EUPISD), could expand the project to serve more residences in the region.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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. R. Timmer moved to approve the Director’s Report as presented. D. Reid supported. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution—Hendricks Township Sign Relocation

A resolution approving Hendricks Township’s proposal to reinstall the Epoufette road sign on US-2 was reviewed. The Epoufette road sign was displaced due to MDOT’s relocation of the highway. EUP Regional Planning supports this sign relocation as it benefits the Top of the Lake US-2 Pure Michigan Scenic Byway and supports the community and economic development along the corridor. R. Timmer moved to approve the Hendricks Township Sign Relocation Resolution. B. Henry supported. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Henry—Yes	B. Neumann—Yes	D. Reid—Yes	E. Baron—Yes	H. Nostrant—Yes
J. Holt—Yes	J. Moore—Yes	J. Dobrowolski-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	M. Clymer-Yes
R. Timmer-Yes				

Board Member Updates

Members expressed the need of housing and employees in the Region. The need for available childcare services is also considered to be essential in the Region’s labor force demands.

Mark Clymer: Indicated that Clark Township plans to commit the American Rescue Plans funds to sewer updates and broadband. He also mentioned that the Township has decided to renew their efforts of RRC status.

Brad Neumann: Noted that MSU is creating an ARP training for Local Units of Government which should be available in the fall. Other training opportunities include:

- MSHDA training regarding zoning laws and incentives
- Land Division Training
- Citizen Planning Training

Jim Moore: Provided an update of the Sewer Plant upgrades in Kinross Charter Township, which will be utilizing food waste to generate electricity. An open house will be held when it is in operation.

Dean Reid: Described a recent event hosted by MEA to look at three potential projects near the St. Ignace shoreline.

Chris Olson: Indicated that the construction of the General Aviation Terminal is moving forward as bids were received and awarded. A kickoff event will be held in August.

Jeff Holt: Mentioned that he was recently interviewed by CMU Public Radio regarding the potential need of electric vehicle charging stations.

Erik Baron: Indicated that the County is considering utilizing the ARP funds on broadband efforts, Great Lakes Recovery, and Road Commission efforts if it is determined an allowable expense.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

- Executive Committee—September 17, 2021; 11:00 a.m. (Follows REDAC Meeting)
- EUPRPDC Governing Board—October 27, 2021; 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m. following a motion by D. Reid and support by J. Holt.