

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

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
Smart Zone; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private	Don McLean, 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	Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Gary Reid, Clark Twp., Mac. Co. Alt.	

Partners

Chris Olson, Chippewa County EDC

Guest Speaker

Brad Garmon, Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

Staff:

Jeff Hagan	Ellen Benoit	Kim Wilcox
Mariah Goos	Mary Ann Heidemann	Nathan Coon

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting. M. Patrick noted that a letter of appreciation was received from the Les Cheneaux Island Association expressing their appreciation and praise to the EUPRPDC GIS staff for their efforts in creating the Boating Waterways map for the Les Cheneaux Islands.

AGENDA APPROVAL

K. Freeman moved to approve the agenda as presented. D. McLean supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 27, 2022, Board Minutes

D. Reid moved to approve the April 27, 2022, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented. J. Moore supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 17, 2022, Executive Committee Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the June 17, 2022, Executive Committee minutes as presented. H. Nostrant supported. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION: BRAD GARMON, OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE

Outdoor Recreation Survey: Preliminary Regional Results for the Upper Peninsula

Brad Garmon, Director of the Outdoor Recreation Office provided a presentation of the preliminary regional results of the Outdoor Recreation Survey. The Michigan Outdoor Recreation Industry Office is a partnership between the MDNR and MEDC with a mission to develop, promote and enhance outdoor recreation. The data received from the Outdoor Recreation Survey will be utilized in writing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) plan for 2023-2027. Although the data is currently being processed, Brad was able to share the raw data to learn the needs and wants of the region in terms of outdoor recreation. Overall, the data reflects an increase in outdoor recreation utilization since the pandemic as well as the savings in health costs due to this increase. It was noted that there were many similarities in the types of outdoor recreation between the State and the UP Region. Brad indicated that the data and presentation will be available to be used as a platform for future planning projects in the region.

CONSENT AGENDA

J. Moore 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. G. Reid moved to approve the Director's Report as submitted. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

Board Member Updates

Jeff Holt: Described a Brownfield Land and Property Development Workshop being held at the Sault Ste. Marie Middle School on Thursday, July 28.

He also noted that Kokosing-Alberici has been awarded Phase 3 of the Lock Project and will have many job opportunities available.

Don McLean: Provided an update of the Chippewa County International Airport which had provided flights to approximately 4000 passengers last month. He also noted that Enterprise Rent A Car is now available at the Chippewa County International Airport which is an asset to the region.

Kelly Freeman: Mentioned that the vacant K-Mart Building will soon be used as a climate controlled, indoor self-storage for U-Haul vehicles.

Brad Neumann: Provided links for upcoming events:

- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference – <https://www.canr.msu.edu/cec/CECregister>
- 2022 New County Commissioner School – <https://events.anr.msu.edu/ncs>
- Sustainable Built Environment Initiative – <https://www.canr.msu.edu/spdc/research-outreach/sbei>

He also congratulated Betsy Daryl-Hart, St. Ignace Planning Commission Chair, for receiving the Helen S. Willis Award for Outstanding Commissioner. This award will be presented at the upcoming Michigan Association of Planners' Fall Conference.

Joe Dobrowolski: Described the need for skill-set employees in manufacturing including, but not limited to, machining, welding, and painting.

Hunter Nostrant: Provided an update of the Luce County EDC.

Gary Reid: Noted that the Peek-A-Boo Trail is open for hiking and has received a grant to make enhancements to allow for fat tire bikes. The Aldo Leopold Nature Preserve recently expanded to include a kayak dock and sanitary outhouse.

Jim Moore: Described a temporary living quarters project to provide housing to employees from the Soo Locks and Line 5 projects.

Dean Reid: Indicated that MEA is currently working on an application for a Marine Innovative Corridor Designation for the Straits Area.

Chris Olson: Described the \$2.7 million rail upgrade for propane distribution.

Staff Updates

Nathan Coon: Indicated that he will be participating in the EUPISD MiStem GIS Career Day on August 4.

Mariah Goos: Described an Eco-tourism brochure being designed to be distributed in the Pickford Area.

Mary Ann Heidemann: Highlighted that Brownfield opportunities can also be used for obsolete buildings as well as areas harboring contamination.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. following a motion by J. Timmer and support by J. Holt.