

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

**Wednesday, July 22, 2020; 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Members Present

Allison Watkins—Newberry Village
Chris Byrnes, City of St. Ignace
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.
Jim Hill, Mackinac Co. Alternate
Joe Dobrowolski, Chip. Co. Private
Kimberly Muller, LSSU
Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.

Bill Henry, Luce Co.
Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Mark Clymer, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip. Co. Private

Partners

Tammy Henry, Luce County EDC

Staff:

Jeff Hagan Kim Wilcox Nathan Coon

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair J. Moore.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

R. Timmer moved to approve the agenda as presented. D. McLean supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 27, 2020 Board & June 12, 2020 Executive Committee

D. McLean moved to approve the minutes of the EUPRPDC Board (May 27, 2020) and the Executive Committee (June 12, 2020) meetings as presented. D. Reid supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

D. McLean moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report and Program Updates. R. Timmer 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. Freeman moved to approve the Director’s Report as submitted. M. Patrick supported. Motion passed.

New Board Member—Chris Byrnes, City of St. Ignace Representative

Members welcomed new member Chris Byrnes, Director of the Mackinac Economic Alliance, to the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Governing Board.

Resolution—MDOT Master Planning Agreement 2021-0015

A resolution authorizing EUPRPDC Chair and CEO Jeff Hagan to sign all required forms for the Transportation Program with the Michigan Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2020 was reviewed. D. McLean moved to approve the MDOT Master Planning Agreement Resolution. M. Patrick supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Byrnes-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
J. Holt-Yes	J. Moore-Yes	J. Dobrowolski-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	K. Muller-Yes
M. Clymer-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes		

Resolution--MERS 457 New Division

Due to the potential short-term two-year nature of positions, particularly under the EDA CARES Act grant, CEO J. Hagan pursued the possibility of retirement options for short-term employees. MERS suggested the agency open a separate division for a 457 supplemental account rather than the defined benefit account for this type of situation. As the defined benefit plan is only available to permanent staff, the MERS 457 supplemental account can be offered to all staff as a retirement benefit. He indicated that MERS requires Board approval for opening this division. Following a brief discussion, D. McLean moved to approve a resolution supporting the MERS 457 supplemental account. J. Holt supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Byrnes-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	D. McLean-Yes
J. Holt-Yes	J. Moore-Yes	J. Dobrowolski-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	K. Muller-Yes
M. Clymer-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes		

Staffing Update

CEO Hagan noted that Mariah Goos was recently hired to fill the Associate Planner position with the EUPRPDC. Some of the responsibilities for this position would include overseeing the CARES Act activities, CEDS updates, and REDAC. As Mariah has experience with social media, she will be an asset with creating a social media presence for the Scenic Byways. She will begin employment on August 3, 2020.

Board Member Updates

A Watkins described a few job openings with the Village of Newberry.

R. Timmer asked for an update of the Asset Management PASER program as discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on June 12. CEO Hagan indicated that there are still issues with the requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as availability of eligible raters to complete the ratings prior to the end of the fiscal year on September 30. The possibility of rating non-federal assets and/or extending the funding into the next fiscal year are being considered.

J. Holt noted that the clean up at CFRE has been progressing well and it is anticipated that the building of walls should begin the middle of August.

He also indicated that an investor has expressed interest in the vacant K-Mart building and that the Quality Inn has recently been listed with a realtor.

J. Moore described a temporary housing project for the workers of the Soo Locks project and Line 5.

K. Freeman noted that KFC will be opening this Fall in Sault Ste. Marie.

K. Muller indicated that LSSU is preparing to reopen for the Fall Semester. Classes will begin in August and end before Thanksgiving.

M. Clymer asked if there was any funding for the Scenic Byways. J. Hagan noted that although there is not additional funding at this time, the Great Outdoors Act may reinstate byways funding in the future.

C. Byrnes mentioned that the co-working space is open in St. Ignace. He also mentioned that there has been some discussion of a development of a port in Mackinac County.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

- Executive Committee—September 11, 2020—11:00 a.m. (Following the REDAC meeting)
- EUPRPDC Governing Board—October 28, 2020—Time to be determined

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. following a motion by M. Patrick and support by M. Clymer.