

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

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
EUP Regional Planning & Development Office; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension
Chris Olson, Chippewa Co.	Dean Reid, Mackinac, Private
Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.	Jim Moore, Kinross Charter
Jim Traynor, Chippewa Co.	Mark Clymer, Clark Twp.-Mack. Co.
Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.	Tom Cronan, City of St. Ignace

Partners

Chris Byrnes, MEA

Staff

Jeff Hagan Ellen Benoit Katrina Harcourt Kim Wilcox Seth Harris

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

While the member sign in registration form was circulating, D. Reid moved to excuse the members not present with support from T. Cronan. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Byrnes, MEA, provided an update of infrastructure development in Mackinac County.

AGENDA APPROVAL

M. Clymer moved to approve the agenda as presented. T. Cronan supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 31, 2023, EUPRPDC Board and September 20, 2023, Executive Committee

J. Holt moved to approve the July 31, 2023, EUPRPDC Board minutes and the September 20, 2023, Executive Committee minutes as presented. C. Olson supported. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

J. Moore moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report and Program Updates. D. Reid supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Director’s Report

CEO Hagan provided an update of the programs highlighted in the Director’s Report. J. Moore moved to approve the Director’s Report as submitted. T. Cronan supported. Motion passed.

Resolution—House Bill 5120

J. Hagan noted that a Bill has been introduced in the House that would give the Michigan Public Service Commission the sole authority to permit solar and wind projects. This is concerning as it would relinquish local control for solar and wind facilities. It could also override any policy or ordinance currently in place. Following a brief discussion of this type of legislation, a resolution opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind siting and zoning was considered. M. Clymer moved to approve Resolution #2023-10 Opposing any Legislation Preempting Local Control for Solar and Wind Developments. T. Cronan supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

C. Olson-Yes	D. Reid-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Moore-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes
M. Clymer-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	T. Cronan-Yes		

Nominating Committee Appointments

According to the bylaws, a nominating committee consisting of three board members needs to be appointed to provide a slate of nominees of officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting. As each county needs to be represented, the following members indicated their willingness to be appointed to the Nominating Committee: Jeff Holt (Chippewa), Bill Henry (Luce), and Mark Clymer (Mackinac). Upon further discussion, J. Moore moved to appoint J. Holt, B. Henry, and M. Clymer to the nominating committee. Motion passed.

Board Member Updates

Chris Olson: Mentioned that the Chippewa County EDC has applied for a Small Business Support Hub Grant. This grant application request totals \$4 million and hope to receive notice of the award by November. This grant would allow for economic development funds in all three counties. If the CCEDC is awarded this grant, it is anticipated that EUPRPDC and Headwaters North would be contracted to administer this grant.

Jim Moore: Described the temporary housing units located in Kinross for the employees of the Sault Locks Projects.

Jim Traynor: Noted that the County will be hosting a workshop to discuss possible issues with Hospice and Health Care Workers in the region.

Tom Cronan: Noted that the City of St. Ignace has many new hires including a new City Manager, City Manager Assistant, Chief of Police, and Recreation Director. The City is also currently updating their zoning code and anticipate that the Master Plan will have to be updated.

Mark Clymer: Provided an update of grants recently being utilized in Clark Township.

Brad Neumann: Described an event being offered by MSU Extension:

- Critical Conversations in Michigan Tourism: Workforce Housing & Short-Term Rental - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023CriticalConvo>
- Citizen Planner Training will be available late winter/early spring. This training will be held in St. Ignace or Sault Ste. Marie.

He also mentioned that MSU Extension is working on a Strategic Direction Process and will be hosting talking/listening sessions along with targeted interviews to gather data.

Dean Reid: Noted that Mackinac County is considering purchasing land for future housing development.

Mike Patrick: Mentioned that Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is considering selling the Hessel Ridge Golf Course. It was noted that the Tribe has applied to retain this property in trust land.

OLD BUSINESS

The next EUPRPDC Board meeting will be held on February 7, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. following a motion by D. Reid and support by M. Clymer.