

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

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025; 9:00 a.m.
EUP Regional Planning & Development Office; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Members Present

Allison Watkins—Newberry Village
Chris Olson, Chippewa Co.
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Scott Smith, LSSU

Bill Henry, Luce Co.
Jim Traynor, Chippewa Co.
Matt Dost, Marquette Twp. – Mac. Co.
Richard Timmer, Chip
Tammy Henry, Luce Co.

Guests Present

Ken Talsma, Anderson Tackman
Kerry Murphy, Nearmap

Ken Talsma, Anderson Tackman
Kelly Vatter, Nearmap

Staff

Jeff Hagan
Nathan Coon

Kim Wilcox
Seth Harris

Matt Sawle

Jennifer Neal

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by K. Freeman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

M. Patrick moved to approve the agenda as presented. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 5, 2025, Board Minutes

R. Timmer moved to approve the February 5, 2025, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented.
M. Patrick supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 4, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

M. Dost moved to approve the March 4, 2025, EUPRPDC Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. J. Traynor supported. Motion passed.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ken Talsma and Ariana Wolf from Anderson, Tackman & Company provided a presentation of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission’s audit and financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. He noted that the audit indicates that the financial statements and reports follow the government auditing standards and is classified as an

unmodified, clean audit. There were no findings. R. Timmer moved to accept the 2024 audit report as presented for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. M. Patrick supported. Motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes
M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	T. Henry-Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

R. Timmer moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, Program Updates and the Director’s Report. C. Olson supported. Motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution—CEDS Annual Performance Report 2025

A resolution for the approval of the 2025 CEDS Annual Performance Report was provided to Board Members. This performance report describes the goals, objectives, and demographics and 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, 2025. As this report requires approval of the EUPRPDC Board, M. Patrick moved to approve the resolution for the adoption of the 2025 EUP Performance Report and continued designation of the EUP as an economic district. A. Watkins supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

K. Freeman-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes
T. Henry-Yes	A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes

Resolution—EDA Grant Application 2025

A resolution authorizing the application to the Economic Development Administration for a continuation of a Partnership Planning Assistance Grant was reviewed. This grant totals \$210,000 with a match, at maximum, of \$140,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. The resolution also designates CEO J. Hagan as the signatory and grant recipient to implement the EDA Partnership Award. R. Timmer moved to approve the 2025 EDA Partnership Planning Resolution. C. Olson supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

R. Timmer-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes
J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes

Resolution—EDA Local Share 2025

Members also reviewed a resolution noting the terms for local share documentation and its availability for the 2025 EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Grant. R. Timmer moved to approve the EDA 2025 Local Share Resolution. M. Patrick supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes
M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	T. Henry-Yes

Resolution—MSHDA Regional Housing Partnership Grant

CEO Hagan described the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Regional Housing Partnership grant resolution. This grant totals \$75,000 with no local match to work to coordinate the Regional Housing Partnership and its goals and objectives. EUPRPDC will serve as the fiduciary for this grant. This resolution designates CEO J. Hagan as the authorized signatory and grant recipient of the MSHDA Regional Housing Partnership. M. Patrick moved to approve the MSHDA Regional Housing Partnership Resolution. T. Henry supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

K. Freeman-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes
T. Henry-Yes	A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes

Resolution—Special Recognition: John Campbell

With the recent passing of John Campbell (former Director of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission), a resolution in recognition of the numerous accomplishments of John Campbell’s service and leadership to the economic growth in the region. This resolution provided highlights of these accomplishments during his tenure beginning in 1969 as an economic planner until his retirement as the Director in 2007. It was also noted that Chippewa County, Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, and Michigan State Legislators (Senator John Damoose & Representative Parker Fairbairn) have also provided special recognition to John’s many achievements and leadership in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. M. Patrick moved to officially approve the resolution honoring the service of John Campbell. R. Timmer supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

R. Timmer-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes
J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Nearmap Presentation

Kerry Murphy and Kelly Vatter from Nearmap provided an overview of the history of the agency in providing imagery for a statewide capture project. They also detailed other imagery tools that could be utilized across the region.

Personnel Discussion

R. Timmer moved to enter executive session with support from M. Patrick to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried.

CEO Hagan requested approval for the GIS Tech/Planner I part-time position become a full-time position. With the onset of the Materials Management Plan, there will be a need for an increase in hours to assist with this project as well as additional GIS projects. C. Olson moved to approve the request for GIS Tech/Planner I full-time position. R. Timmer supported. Motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes
M. Dost-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	T. Henry-Yes

Motion by M. Patrick with support from B. Henry to exit Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Updates

Chris Olson: Provided an update for the airport and the CCEDC:

- The airport is now offering flights to Chicago beginning in May until October
- CCEDC EDA Project has scheduled a ribbon cutting event on September 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
- Drummond Island Carmeuse Project has been awarded to construct necessary upgrades to be able to accept larger freighters.
- Small Business HUBS will be starting the 2nd round of direct grant applications later this summer

Matt Dost: Indicated that Marquette Township approved a special land use permit for a 4-megawatt solar system.

Scott Smith: Provided an overview of Lake Superior State University:

- Graduation Weekend; Sault Tribal Chair Austin Lowes will be giving the commencement address
- LSSU has recently received a donation of \$1.5 million annually to be used for the hockey program exclusively
- Great Lake State Weekend will be held in October, featuring distinguished alumni.

Allison Watkins: Mentioned that the Village of Newberry has adopted a zoning ordinance.

Tammy Henry: Described the senior housing development that is being planned to be built in Newberry.

Mike Patick: Noted that the Mackinac County Courthouse is renovating the third floor to be more barrier free.

Kelly Freeman: Mentioned that the City of Sault Ste. Marie is reviewing accessory dwelling units to offset housing needs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. following a motion by M. Patrick and support by R. Timmer.