

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

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

Members Present

Allison Watkins—Newberry Village	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension*
Chris Olson, Chippewa Co.	Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Traynor, Chippewa Co.	Matt Dost, Marquette Twp. – Mac. Co.
Mark Eitrem, Sugar Island Twp.-Chip. Co.	Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Richard Timmer, Chippewa Co.	Scott Smith, LSSU
David Travis, LSSU—Alternate	

*Attended Virtually

Guests Present

Jonathan Deroo, Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority
Karen Gagnon, Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Staff

Jeff Hagan	Kim Wilcox	Matt Sawle	Jennifer Neal
Nathan Coon	Seth Harris	Amber Pietrangelo	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by A. Watkins.

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: April 30, 2025, Board Minutes

J. Traynor moved to approve the April 30, 2025, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented.
M. Patrick supported. Motion passed.

PRESENTATION—Karen Gagnon, Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

Karen Gagnon, MSHDA, provided an update of the Statewide Housing Plan. She noted the progress EUP has made in housing gap improvements in the region and indicated that Jeff and the EUP staff should be commended for their efforts to complete housing goals. The first Statewide Housing Plan launched in June 2022 and will end in June 2027. MSHDA is currently beginning the process of drafting an RFP for a contractor for the next RHP plan. She also mentioned that representatives from EUPRPDC may be invited to be on the steering committee to assist in this process.

CONSENT AGENDA

R. Timmer moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report, and Program Updates. M. Patrick supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Director’s Report

CEO Hagan provided a PowerPoint presentation of highlights and updates of current EUPRPDC projects. The presentation will be forwarded to members as it includes links to upcoming events/trainings.

Resolution—Chippewa County SORVA

A resolution of support for the Chippewa County Sportsmen Off-Road Vehicle Association (SORVA) was reviewed. As EUP supports promoting economic development through tourism activities such as off-road vehicle recreation trails, it is recommended that the EUPRPDC Governing Board approve the resolution of support of SORVA proposals to have the Michigan DNR designate the ORV Routes/Trails and Snowmobile Trails as official DNR-sponsored and maintained trails for off-road vehicles. Upon further discussion of the location of the trails, M. Patrick moved that the Resolution should note that the ORV Routes/Trails and Snowmobile Trails supported with this Resolution are to be located on State Land. M. Eitrem supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Traynor-Y	M. Dost-Yes
M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	

M. Patrick moved to approve the resolution of support for the Chippewa County SORVA with the amended verbiage. M. Eitrem supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

C. Olson-Yes	J. Holt-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Eitrem-Yes
A. Watkins-Yes	M. Patrick-Yes	S. Smith-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	

Member Updates

Jeff Holt: Indicated that the Kewadin Casino renovations should be completed by October 1 and that the construction of the Black Rock Restaurant is underway with plans of completion Mid-November.

Richard Timmer: Noted that the Bay Mills Indian Community has plans for the construction of 12 new housing units soon.

Matt Dost: Described a millage request on the ballot for Marquette Township to support an EMS/Emergency Services Authority.

Scott Smith: Noted that fundraising for LSSU totaled \$3.6 million in the last year.

Dr. Travis: Mentioned that LSSU is looking into adding a bachelor's degree in aviation management in the next year or two. He also noted the approval of a new master's program in fish and wildlife.

Jim Traynor: Described a recent tour of the quarry on Drummond Island.

Mark Eitrem: Indicated that there is some positive insight into additional funding for additional service of the Neebish Island Ferry.

Mike Patrick: Indicated that a developer has expressed interest in the construction of 160 units for mid/low-income housing in Mackinac County.

Brad Neumann: Described upcoming MSU Trainings/Events and will provide additional details to Kim to forward to Members.

Chris Olson: Noted that the flights to Chicago will be ending on September 28. As this has been a successful contract, the flights to Chicago will restart in May.

Adjournment

As there was no old business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. following a motion by M. Patrick and support by M. Eitrem.