



FULL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Lake Superior State University Cisler Center – Crow's Nest
650 W. Easterday Avenue; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval, Additions or Corrections to the Agenda as Mailed **(ACTION ITEM)**
5. Approval of Minutes **(ACTION ITEMS)**
 - a. EUPRPDC Board—July 30, 2025
 - b. Executive Committee—September 9, 2025
6. Consent Agenda **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Program Updates
7. New Business
 - a. Director's Report
 - b. Audit Proposal—Years 2025, 2026, & 2027 **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - c. CSB Note/Line of Credit Proposal **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - d. Contract with WUPPDR on National Science Foundation Grant **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - e. Nominating Committee Appointments **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - f. Board Member Updates
8. Old Business
9. Adjournment

NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING: February 4, 2026

**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.

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission
Executive Committee Meeting**

**EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Office
2345 Meridian; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025; 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Allison Watkins
Mike Patrick

Jeff Holt

Jim Traynor

Kelly Freeman

Staff

Jeff Hagan

Kim Wilcox

Amber Pietrangelo

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted following a motion by M. Patrick with support by A. Watkins.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS—Financial Update & Program Report

CEO J. Hagan provided a review of the financial report along with a general overview of current program updates. Overall, there are no areas of concern with the Financial Report as presented. J. Holt moved to approve the Financial Update/Program Report as presented. M. Patrick supported. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS—FY2026 Draft Budget

A summary of the anticipated program budgets for FY 2026 was provided to members. There are no foreseeable issues with the FY 2026 budget. Potential upcoming projects that could be awarded in the future were also described. M. Patrick moved to approve the FY 2026 Budget as presented. A. Watkins supported. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS—IT Service Agreement

Members reviewed the IT Services Agreement with the EUP Intermediate School District. This agreement details the IT services provided to Regional Planning by the EUPISD with an ending date of June 30, 2026. M. Patrick moved to approve the IT Services Contract with the EUPISD. J. Holt supported. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

A. Watkins: Yes	J. Holt: Yes	J. Traynor: Yes	K. Freeman: Yes
M. Patrick: Yes			

NEW BUSINESS—CEO Update

CEO Hagan indicated that Staff Compensation Review would be an agenda item for consideration at the December Executive Committee meeting. There will be different factors to consider including cost of living increases and health care renewal costs. He also noted that upon review of the recent NADO Compensation Report, EUPRPDC staff are 25% below average with comparable positions.

Another item for discussion at the next meeting would be to review the formula used to determine the amount of the annual local share dues for each county in the region. The current level of local share funding is not comparable to that of similar organizations. Currently, local share funding received from the counties total \$50,000/yearly versus approximately \$125,000 other organizations. The last increase requested from the Counties was June 2022 which was phased in over the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years to allow for each county to adjust budgets. If additional funding is provided, EUPRPDC could pursue other funding opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS—Member Updates

Jeff Holt: Indicated that the Kewadin Hotel/Casino renovations should be completed by October 1 and that the construction of the Black Rock Restaurant is underway with plans for completion by November 14.

Mike Patrick: Provided an update Les Cheneaux Club which did not open this year and most likely will not open in the upcoming year due to the most recent ice storm which caused power outages, sewer issues, and an oil spill. This has affected tourism in the area.

Kelly Freeman: Noted that construction of Culvers has started.

Allison Watkins: Indicated that the Village of Newberry is working on a partnership with the Luce County Sheriff to provide a full-time resource officer at the Tahquamenon School. She also mentioned that the Village of Newberry's Recreation Plan is outdated and may need to be ready for an update.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

- *EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Board* Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29 at the Crow's Nest at the Walker Cisler Center at 9:00 a.m.
- *EUP Materials Management Committee* will meet following the EUPRPDC Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- *EUPRPDC Executive Committee* meeting will be held on December 2, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. following a motion by M. Patrick and support by J. Traynor.

6a.

	EDA		Transportation		RTF/Public Involvement		Asset Management		Scenic Byways	
	7/1/2025	6/30/2028	10/1/2024	9/30/2025	10/1/2024	9/30/2025	10/1/2024	9/30/2025	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
Projected Income 2024 Carry-Over Federal Money State Money Local Money/Match EUP Connect Local Share	210,000.00		41,000.00		23,373.00		36,500.00		11,300.00	
Total Projected Income	210,000.00		41,000.00		23,373.00		36,500.00		11,300.00	
Less: Funds Received/Invoiced			37,783.02		18,006.28		36,144.77		6,992.16	
Potential Receivables	210,000.00		3,216.98		5,366.72		355.23		4,307.84	
Actual Expenses										
Communications	767.66		1,279.36		434.09		483.11		247.52	
Contractual	1,310.19		4,544.71		2,576.57		6,849.19		2,110.65	
Equipment	296.55		920.17		524.56		862.74		253.60	
Other	34.92		119.56		68.13		106.46		32.99	
Salaries (incl. fringe)	3,889.66		28,903.27		14,045.83		27,012.44		3,976.48	
Supplies	525.21		40.85		23.29		121.62		11.26	
Travel	156.81		1,975.10		333.81		709.21		359.66	
Total Expenses	6,981.00		37,783.02		18,006.28		36,144.77		6,992.16	
Over-budget allocation										
Percent of Program Time	6%		100%		100%		100%		100%	
Percent of Expenses	3%		92%		77%		99%		62%	
Single-Fiscal Year										
Project Ends Current Fiscal Year										
Past Project End Date										
Over Budget YTD										
Over Budget Total										

	Local Share		GIS		MMP		Chippewa County EDC PW Admin		MSHDA Housing 25-	
	10/1/2024	9/30/2025	10/1/2024	9/30/2025	6/1/2025	12/7/2026	3/1/2021	6/30/2025	6/1/2025	5/31/2026
Projected Income										
2024 Carry-Over	(7,476.64)		(1,874.25)							
Federal Money										
State Money									75,000.00	
Local Money/Match			62,571.00		236,479.00		35,000.00			
EUP Connect										
Local Share	55,218.00									
Total Projected Income	47,741.36		60,696.75		236,479.00		35,000.00		75,000.00	
Less: Funds										
Received/Invoiced	78,328.04		29,332.50		10,603.06		34,944.05			
Potential Receivables	(30,586.68)		31,364.25				55.95		75,000.00	
Actual Expenses										
Communications	1,636.02		736.79		963.42		348.43		1,210.39	
Contractual	6,106.77		5,516.29		4,156.46		2,088.79		2,516.92	
Equipment	1,080.95		2,004.43		843.60		629.71		423.64	
Other	229.46		145.78		100.62		69.17		50.54	
Salaries (incl. fringe)	22,075.27		39,604.65		37,466.39		31,306.16		17,813.81	
Supplies	333.24		49.81		14.94		34.42		7.50	
Travel	203.45		1,147.54		1,402.68		467.37		467.58	
Total Expenses	31,665.16		49,205.29		44,948.11		34,944.05		22,490.38	
Over-budget allocation										
Percent of Program Time	100%		100%		17%		106%		27%	
Percent of Expenses	66%		81%		19%		100%		30%	
Single-Fiscal Year										
Project Ends Current Fiscal Year										
Past Project End Date										
Over Budget YTD										
Over Budget Total										

	Sault Tribe Crane Industrial Extension		Great Lakes Boat Building School EDA		City of SSM - I-500 EDA		MDOT Transit Study		DNR Sparks Grant	
	7/1/2023	6/30/2030	5/1/2022	1/31/2026	10/1/2022	1/31/2026	10/1/2023	9/30/2026	2/1/2024	12/31/2026
Projected Income	10,500.00		25,000.00		25,000.00		Consultant	Admin	35,905.00	
2024 Carry-Over										
Federal Money										
State Money							170,000.00	30,000.00		
Local Money/Match										
EUP Connect										
Local Share										
Total Projected Income	10,500.00		25,000.00		25,000.00		170,000.00	30,000.00	35,905.00	
Less: Funds										
Received/Invoiced	1,972.08		25,000.00		20,956.94		129,905.35	32,586.21	7,421.45	
Potential Receivables	8,527.92		0.00		4,043.06		40,094.65	(2,586.21)	28,483.55	
Actual Expenses										
Communications	23.83		283.45		427.01			324.53	446.68	
Contractual	113.56		1,637.69		2,368.96		129,905.35	1,859.97	2,834.82	
Equipment	36.32		393.38		554.89			450.37	576.44	
Other	4.37		48.20		72.58			132.58	89.92	
Salaries (incl. fringe)	1,634.39		18,697.11		17,327.37			23,165.48	6,944.34	
Supplies	3.16		24.47		37.62			31.14	52.70	
Travel	11.06		260.12		168.51			287.74	142.13	
Total Expenses	1,826.69		21,344.42		20,956.94		129,905.35	26,251.81	11,087.03	
Over-budget allocation										
Percent of Program Time	31%		91%		90%		66%		56%	
Percent of Expenses	17%		85%		84%		76%	88%	31%	
Single-Fiscal Year										
Project Ends Current Fiscal Year										
Past Project End Date										
Over Budget YTD										
Over Budget Total										

	HUBS Grant		Bruce Twp MP		Rudyard Twp HRG		EGLE BIL2		TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS
	3/5/2024	6/30/2027	6/1/2025	8/31/2026	6/1/2025	1/31/2027	4/1/2025	9/30/2026	
Projected Income									
2024 Carry-Over									(9,350.89)
Federal Money									545,935.00
State Money							75,000.00		663,405.00
Local Money/Match	150,000.00		15,750.00		43,000.00				566,429.61
EUP Connect									
Local Share									55,218.00
Total Projected Income	150,000.00		15,750.00		43,000.00		75,000.00		1,821,636.72
Less: Funds									
Received/Invoiced	112,500.00		5,250.00		6,450.00				772,624.42
Potential Receivables	37,500.00		10,500.00		36,550.00		75,000.00		823,136.36
Actual Expenses									
Communications	1,495.13		52.97		667.38		138.44		20,491.50
Contractual	4,481.96						1,184.92		216,185.19
Equipment	293.88						282.40		15,127.45
Other	908.87						33.66		3,020.41
Salaries (incl. fringe)	75,331.00		4,305.64		2,201.41		3,133.44		536,914.08
Supplies	13.16				50.16		5.02		1,812.46
Travel	6,768.29		311.40		305.80				20,027.00
Total Expenses	89,292.29		4,670.01		3,224.75		4,777.88		813,578.09
Over-budget allocation									
Percent of Program Time	46%		21%		16%		29%		2550%
Percent of Expenses	60%		30%		7%		6%		45%
Single-Fiscal Year									
Project Ends Current Fiscal Year									
Past Project End Date									
Over Budget YTD									
Over Budget Total									

PROGRAM UPDATES
July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025
for
October 29, 2025
Board of Commissioner's Meeting

➤ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

○ **EDA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING GRANT**

Our Partnership Planning Grant was submitted in late May for review and approval by EDA. There were a few edits that needed to be made to the proposal, those were completely and re-submitted to EDA on June 3, 2025. We continued to check in roughly every other week on the status of the award. No updates we provided between mid-June and mid-September, when we received correspondence from Senator Peters office on the award of the Partnership Planning Grant covering 2025 to 2028. While we do have an award in place, EDA accounting was not able to get us set up in ASAP prior to the end of year pause on 9/26/25 to 10/12/25; and now with the Federal Government shutdown, we do not have a date certain that we can expect to get paid for our Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 advances. We will continue to work with EDA Chicago Regional Office on this matter.

Due to the lapse in funding for our Partnership Planning grant, REDAC meetings were paused. We will pick back up with regular bi-monthly REDAC meetings, held virtually, starting in November 2025.

EUP staff continue to attend the UP Collaborative Development Council meetings, which are hosted by InvestUP virtually, with some in-person meetings at varying intervals across the calendar year.

UPEDA will be hosting their fall meeting at the Northern Center at the Holiday Inn in Marquette, on October 17, 2025. The focus of the meeting will be on Health Care in the UP. Our Region's own Karen Cheeseman, CEO of Mackinac Straits Hospital, will be presenting on a panel regarding Rural Non-Profit Hospitals.

In late September, CEO Hagan attended the MEDC Annual Corporate and Interlocal Partners meeting and the Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Summit in Lansing.

In mid-August, CCEDC hosted our partners from Sault Ontario EDC for a tour of the Maples Sawmill facility in Hessel MI, and the General Aviation Terminal in Kincheloe. These meetings will continue on a quarterly basis and provide the opportunity for the sharing of information and education on various economic development assets, programs and projects on both sides of the border.

CEO Hagan continues to participate in monthly meetings of the Headwaters North Executive Committee as a board member. Headwaters North recently hired its' first CEO, Nikki Storey.

The organization is relatively new, and the CEO is working to set up many processes and procedures both for the non-profit and the Board of Directors. Headwaters North continues to primarily focus on the Gatekeeper Grant from MEDC and SmartZone activities, and to lead up the implementation of the Small Business Support Hubs (SBSH) grant.

During the last quarter we assisted the Sault Tribe EDC with their annual required reporting on their completed EDA Public Works grant, Regional Planning has an ongoing contract to support the Tribe's EDC with the completion of various annual and semi-annual reports that are required on this closed and completed project investment.

CEO Hagan opted into the NADO Mentorship Program again this year, offering to mentor a director from Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission, this program pairs experienced EDD Executive Directors with new Executive Directors to facilitate knowledge and information sharing across the national network of EDDs. CEO Hagan held two meetings this quarter with the Executive Director SKRPC, the mentorship program will culminate with a final meeting at the NADO Annual Training Conference in October.

EDA has approved the current 5-year CEDS, and staff are now moving towards composing the first 1-year update of the CEDS. This 1-year update will include any necessary updates to the strategy, a report on economic development activities, an evaluation of the progress on the action plan and goals, and a schedule of goals for the next year.

- CHIPPEWA COUNTY EDC EDA PUBLIC WORKS GRANT ADMINISTRATION

The Chippewa County EDC hosted a formal ribbon cutting on this project on September 12, 2025; the project is substantially complete, but we are awaiting final mechanical inspection and the completion of any punch list items. We will continue to support the CCEDC as the EDA grant administrator on the project as we approach the grant closeout phase.



- **GLBBS EDA CARES ACT GRANT**

With the recent announcement of the resignation of the school's President, the GLBBS Board of Directors voted to officially pause this project, owing largely due to cost overruns, administrative issues and change orders which would push the costs even higher. We are working with the GLBBS's Interim Director and the Board to submit documentation to EDA to cancel the grant for convenience, in the hopes that the GLBBS would be able to be reimbursed for those pre-construction and administrative costs as determined to be eligible by EDA.

- **SSM CVB I-500 EDA ARPA GRANT**

The I-500 project team conducted several on-site meetings as the project proceeds. The pavilion foundation has been poured, and the contractors are awaiting the materials on site to construct the pavilion. Numerous change orders have been submitted to address on-site conditions and variations from the original design specifications. The first packet of change orders was approved in early July. A second change order packet will be developed in October; however, with the federal funding pause, there is no timetable for when that might be approved since EDA is entirely offline. Site work is ongoing on the hill areas for improved spectator viewing, and the area where the new pavilion will be constructed. The project is still on track for completion later in the fall.

- **PIDP GRANT PORT DRUMMOND**

EUP Regional Planning is assisting the Chippewa County EDC with its' MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program grant, this \$10.3M investment was awarded in partnership with Carmeuse to make much needed repairs and upgrades to their dock at Port Drummond.

During the past quarter, staff participated in monthly project progress meetings and several meetings with PIDP on the NEPA requirements, which must be completed prior to starting the final design engineering for the project. CCEDC also hosted a MARAD environmental representative for a site visit in late September to the project site. The project partners completed and submitted the SHPO Section 106 review and received clearance from the Michigan SHPO office. The project partners continue to work on the Title VI Pre Award Checklist. Carmeuse is working towards finalizing their vendor selection for the engineering team. Tri Media Consultants was selected as their environmental consultant and will be completing the NEPA.

- **MI OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY**

Staff are planning to attend an ORP convening in Petoskey, MI on November 12-13. This convening is an opportunity to learn about new opportunities, connect with future partners, and advocate for our rural communities.

- **CONFERENCE & TRAININGS**

CEO Hagan continues to attend meetings of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR), which meets monthly. During the past quarter, the July meeting featured discussions with EGLE on the MMP program, DNR on the SPARK program, MIC on the RICH HUBS grant opportunity and EDA on the Partnership Planning Program. Our September meeting featured a guest presentation from the Transportation Asset Management Council on the 2026 Work Plans and Budgets. MAR also

discussed a legislative priorities survey, ongoing discussions regarding the creation of a Statewide Planning Office and an upcoming presentation in collaboration with the Michigan Association of Planning and their Annual Michigan Planning conference in October in Kalamazoo.

In late July CEO Hagan attended the Office of Rural Prosperity Rural Futures Summit, held at the Northern Center, on the campus of NMU in Marquette. This Summit brought together, state, tribal, nonprofit and regional partners for a day of collaboration and shared vision. This event focused on building capacity, strengthening partnerships, and advancing rural resilience through interactive sessions and actionable strategies. The summit featured a presentation from staff at the Minnesota Office of Statewide Planning, who discussed how their office was re-established in 2022 after being dormant for decades.

In early July, CEO Hagan participated in a virtual meeting with representatives from the Michigan Infrastructure Office to discuss the creation of a new grant program aimed at assisting communities with pre-development costs on projects, such as grant writing, preliminary engineering, environmental due diligence, amongst others. MIO hopes to launch this new program during Q1 of 2026. This was an invaluable opportunity to provide input on what we see from our region's perspective as barriers to project development and implementation.

EUP staff participated in one meeting with several other Regional Planning Organizations across the state to discuss the MDOT Pure Michigan Byways and the future of the program, meetings occurred in July and early September, in preparation for a meeting with MDOT staff in late September.

CEO attended the August MSU Extension Master Citizen Planner webinar as part of the annual webinar series. The August session focused on Best Practices in Planning for Emergency Response and Hazard Mitigation in Your Community. This was particularly timely as we will be embarking on the update to the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation plan later in the first quarter of FY2026. There will be three more webinars in the series in October, November and December.

The CEO continues to serve on the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), the LDFA board met once, in early September during this quarter. The LDFA oversees the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) for the SmartZone operations in the Sault. The Board meets quarterly throughout the calendar year. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2025.

In late September CEO Hagan attended the MEDC Interlocal and Corporate Partners Annual Meeting in Lansing, the event also featured the 2nd annual Make it in Michigan Competitiveness summit. These meetings featured updates on MEDC activities and initiatives.

Staff have attended several in-person events this quarter, including a lunch and tour of Sault Ste. Marie and related projects with Lionbear Ventures on July 18, the Community Champions Summit with CEDAM on August 12-13, a meeting with Canadian economic development partners in Sault Ste. Marie on August 14, various recycling and materials management sites in the EUP on

September 11, and the SSRP – Power Capacity Meeting on September 18 in Marquette. Staff will be attending the NADO conference in Salt Lake City in October and will be presenting on our Regional Housing Partnership and its successes.

➤ **EGLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT COUNTY ENGAGEMENT GRANT (MMCE)**

EUP is the Designated Planning Agency (DPA) for the multicounty group: Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties. In order to better meet the requirements of Subpart 11 of Part 115, EUP staff regularly attended workshops with other designated planning agencies and staff from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Staff presented the Materials Management Planning Committee available waste and recycling data for the region and discussed public engagement efforts at their meeting on August 21, 2025. Staff continued outreach to stakeholders of the plan by completing site visits to facilities in Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. Information gathered from visits to sites in all three counties will be presented to the MMPC at the next meeting in October and be added to the plan.

Staff attended regular meetings hosted by EUP that convene statewide stakeholders from other regions. These meetings lead to informative conversations. Staff have also attended site visits to Reina Recycling, BMIC Waste Management, and Northern Transitions to ascertain how they operate now, and what they are looking to accomplish in the future.

CEO Hagan attended a meeting of the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners in late July, to discuss the MMP Grant and the timeline and progress of our efforts on the MMP for the Region.

Staff began drafting a survey for the Materials Management Plan to be distributed throughout the region to collect views on the current state of the materials management infrastructure. The survey is curated to collect input from the residential, business/institution, and local units of government sectors. This information will be helpful with prioritizing our efforts to plan for future materials management challenges. The survey will be presented at the upcoming Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) meeting for final comments and determine the distribution of the survey to the whole region.

EUP submitted the quarterly reports for financial status reports for Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. During the past quarter, we also worked with EGLE on follow-up information needed in order to process the payment requests.

➤ **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

○ **Program Management**

During the past quarter, staff submitted the 2026 Transportation Planning Work Program to MDOT, which was formally approved through project authorizations for Transportation Planning, RTF/Public Involvement and Scenic Byways during the last week of September. Funding was increased for RTF/Public Involvement to include Small Urban call for projects activities and Scenic Byways meeting facilitation efforts; Transportation Planning is level with

2025 funding and Scenic Byways was increased to include the update to the M134 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, which will start in the spring of 2026 and extend into the 2027 program year.

EUP staff members attended a meeting in Gaylord on September 30, 2025, between the Regional Planning Agency's and MDOT staff to discuss the future vision for the Byways program, as there has been considerable gaps in communication on the level of expectations from MDOT, the level of activity across the state from Byways Committees and the general plan for the future of the program and how funding is aligned or misaligned with those expectations. These conversations will continue to evolve with MDOT in the new fiscal year.

- TA to MDOT

During the past quarter, EUP staff provided feedback to MDOT on the signal study being conducted in Sault Ste. Marie at Ashmun and Ridge St., and Portage Ave. and Johnston St. The signals were being studied to determine whether they were warranted. The study period ended in September, and the conclusion is that the signals will both be removed at those locations; the Ashmun and Ridge intersection now becomes a 4-way stop controlled location, and the Portage Ave. and Johnston Street intersection becomes a two-way stop on Johnston only, MDOT will be installing signs indicating that cross-traffic does not stop on Portage Ave., and the signal will be removed in the coming months.

During this quarter, EUP staff continued research into Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way (ROW) data to evaluate the availability of digital GIS-based resources for planning and analysis. While no comprehensive GIS-based ROW dataset was located, staff identified several PDF-based documents containing ROW information. These findings highlight ongoing limitations in digital data availability and reinforce the importance of continued collaboration with MDOT to enhance access to statewide and regional geospatial resources.

Tahquamenon Trail Project: The EUP Regional Planning staff attended a meeting focused on the Tahquamenon Trail Project, which brought together a range of local, state, and federal partners to discuss the vision and next steps for this community initiative. MDOT transportation staff from the Newberry Transportation Area, MDOT staff representing the Safe Routes to School program, State Officials Representative Prestin and Senator McBroom, as well as representatives from Congressman Bergman's office were also in attendance. The meeting centered on advancing the development of a four-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail north of Newberry—part of the Walkability Action Institute (WAI) program designed to enhance health, safety, and community connectivity through walkable and bikeable infrastructure.

The proposed trail will begin at TORC Park and feature several key components, including a safe and accessible rail crossing, a pedestrian bridge over the Tahquamenon River, and design elements promoting health, wellness, and recreation. The project also aims to build on Newberry's growing reputation as a designated Trail Town by expanding its trail network and offering residents and visitors safe, scenic, and accessible outdoor experiences.

Discussions during the meeting highlighted the project's broader importance in supporting healthier lifestyles, improving connectivity between community spaces, boosting tourism and local economic development, and enhancing youth safety through integration with the Safe Routes to School initiative. The next steps include pursuing a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant to support major trail development and applying for a Safe Routes to School Grant to improve student access and safety. Overall, the meeting underscored that the Tahquamenon Trail Project is more than a recreational investment—it represents a long-term commitment to strengthening Newberry's identity, improving public health, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

State Level Coordination: EUP Staff continue to engage with State agencies by providing updated transportation layers to support broader initiatives in planning, emergency response, and integration with the State's GIS transportation framework.

On September 30, staff attended the Michigan 2020 Statewide National Functional Classification (NFC) Review. The 60-minute online session, hosted by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), provided an overview of the NFC system, outlined the revision procedures, and detailed upcoming project milestones. The training also introduced the tools and resources available to support participants throughout the review process. This session helped EUP staff prepare to actively contribute to the statewide update and ensure the accuracy of regional data within the national transportation framework.

EUP Regional Planning staff continue to play a key role in supporting transportation initiatives throughout the region. As part of these efforts, staff regularly participate in monthly Rural Task Force (RTF) meetings. These meetings provide valuable opportunities to stay up to date on state-level transportation policies, funding programs, and project developments. Ongoing participation ensures that local priorities and infrastructure needs are effectively represented in the broader state transportation planning process.

- TA to Members

EUP staff participated in a NADO Rural Transportation Peer Exchange webinar on Public Engagement Processes in Rural Area. This peer exchange session explored the significance of public engagement in transportation planning, examined how Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) incorporate public input in rural communities, and highlighted examples of public engagement practices across the country.

EUP staff received correspondence from CLM Community Action regarding the former EUPTA location that they are running transit services out of. As the building is in a significant state of dilapidation, CLM has completed a study with OHM on the structural and functional integrity of the building. CLM is seeking funding resources for a new facility and were encouraged to submit any project proposals through the RTF, or CEDS process to aid in prioritizing the project for potential funding.

EUP Regional Planning continued to disseminate information on upcoming projects and programs led by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other federal

transportation initiatives. During this quarter, staff shared key updates from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), including the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity for both Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants. Information was also distributed regarding the Rural Communities, Walkability, and Quality of Life webinar and several other upcoming transportation and infrastructure training opportunities relevant to local units of government and regional partners.

EUP Regional Planning continues to provide timely updates on transportation initiatives managed by MDOT, including new project announcements, policy developments, and available funding programs. Staff also supplied local stakeholders with information on federal transportation grants and other funding resources that can support roadway, infrastructure, and safety improvements across the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The EUP GIS team remained actively engaged in maintaining and enhancing key geospatial datasets, including road centerlines and address point layers. These datasets are regularly updated to ensure accuracy and are shared with local 911 dispatch centers, county offices, and municipal departments. This ongoing work directly supports public safety operations, emergency response, and long-term infrastructure planning. By maintaining high standards of data integrity, the GIS team continues to play a critical role in facilitating effective regional coordination and service delivery.

The EUP GIS team also provided ongoing technical support and maintenance for the 911 GIS transportation layers in Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. Key activities during this reporting period included:

- **Data Updating:** Integration of the latest road and attribute updates from County Road Commissions and Equalization Departments to ensure data accuracy and reliability.
- **Error Resolution:** Continuous monitoring and correction of data inconsistencies to maintain system integrity and performance.
- **Interdepartmental Collaboration:** Coordination with county departments to identify and resolve issues related to road closures, new construction, and other transportation-related changes impacting the datasets.

○ Public Involvement

EUP disseminated information on the following MDOT projects during the past quarter:

- MDOT 2026-2029 draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Pure Michigan Byways Annual Workshop November 3, 2025.
- M-48 Overpass project at I-75 detour lifted (effective September 10, 2025)
- I-75 payment repairs in St. Ignace from the Mackinac Bridge Plaza to US-2 (September 8, 2025 start date)
- M-80 resurfacing project from M-129 to Mackinac Trail/I-75 in Kinross Charter Township (July 28, 2025 start date)
- M-123 resurfacing from County Road 500 to Paradise, in McMillan and Whitefish Townships (July 15, 2025 start date)

- I-75 NB overpass at Cheeseman Road (July 16, 2025 start date)
- US-2 resurfacing on US-2 from Brevort Lake Road to Martin Lake Road in Mackinac County (July 17, 2025 start date)
- M-28 from east of M-123 to Borgstrom Road (County Road 393) in Luce County (July 7, 2025 start date)

○ Access Management

EUP received calls from two developers, both looking at the property between the Best Western and Burger King along the I-75 Business Spur in SSM/Soo Twp. There is an identified access management issue there with driveway access to the lot that is available for development. MDOT has indicated that a traffic impact study is required in order to determine the best geometry for a driveway, a frontage road could be an option, and is a best practice in Access Management. MDOT is open to reviewing any proposals that may come forward and will cross reference the Access Management Plan currently in place, along with a potential traffic impact study.

➤ SCENIC BYWAYS

During this quarter, we finalized the 2026 Work Program submission to the MDOT Scenic Byways Coordinator. The Work Program outlines the activities and initiatives to be undertaken during the new fiscal year, starting October 1, 2025.

EUP staff continue to manage Facebook pages for the three scenic byways under our purview: M-134 North Huron Scenic Byway (M134ScenicByway), M-123 Tahquamenon Scenic Byway (M123TahquamenonScenicByway), and US-2 Top of the Lake Scenic Byway (US2ScenicByway).

Social media impressions and insights for these pages can be found below:

- M-134: During the past quarter, our Facebook reach was 455. We saw 30 content interactions and 1,300 views. The page has 2,368 followers.
- M-123: During the past quarter, the Facebook reach was 36. We had 2 content interactions and 210 views. The page has a total of 66 followers.
- US-2: During the last quarter, the Facebook page for the Top of the Lakes Byway reached 182 people. There were 9 content interactions and 565 views this quarter. The page has 5,403 followers.

Staff recently attended an in-person meeting with various MDOT staff and other RPAs to discuss the past, present, and future of the scenic byways throughout Michigan. Staff are meeting with the RPAs that are in attendance, and other members of MAR, to discuss next steps. More information will be available soon.

Lastly, EUP will be holding three in-person meetings this program year; one for each byway. These meetings have yet to be scheduled but will take place before September 30, 2026.

➤ **RURAL TASK FORCE/SMALL URBAN/PUBLIC INPUT**

○ **Rural Task Force (RTF#11)**

During this quarter, staff attended the MDOT monthly meetings regarding State updates and other policy updates on July 22, August 26, and September 23. EUP staff submitted the monthly progress reports to MDOT and distributed program updates to the RTF#11 members. Staff reviewed updated RTF Guidelines. The RTF fiscal constraint sheet for FY2026-FY2029 projects was updated as recommended. There were no RTF#11 meetings this quarter. A doodle poll was sent to RTF members to determine the date/time for the fall meeting which has been scheduled to be held on October 28, 2025.

○ **Small Urban**

There were no meetings of the Small Urban committee during this quarter. The Call for Projects to prioritize FY 2026-2029 Small Urban projects was distributed early September and a meeting has been scheduled to be held on October 28, 2025.

○ **Public Involvement**

Staff maintains the list of committee members and interested stakeholders on an ongoing basis. The RTF email contact list of members, alternates, and other stakeholders was reviewed and updated for FY 2025.

➤ **ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

During the quarter, EUP staff ensured that all critical software systems remained current through routine maintenance and updates. Notably, the Local Data Collection (LDC) software was successfully upgraded to its latest version, improving performance, maintaining compatibility, and supporting continued data collection and reporting efforts throughout the region.

The EUP Asset Management Coordinator developed and distributed a comprehensive availability survey to local units of government and County Road Commissions in preparation for the upcoming Federal-Aid PASER data collection season. In addition to scheduling coordination, the survey gathered information on each agency's plans and interest in conducting Non-Federal-Aid PASER data collection. This effort streamlined scheduling, improved coordination, and provided a clearer overview of regional PASER data collection activities for the season. All data collection is to start in July and finish by September.

In preparation for upcoming software requirements, the Asset Management Coordinator identified the need to upgrade the Roadsoft server operating system to Windows 11. This upgrade is necessary to ensure continued compatibility with future Roadsoft and SQL database releases, enhancing performance and maintaining technical support. Planning for the system migration is currently underway to minimize operational disruptions and align with future software and security standards.

EUP Regional Planning staff have also been developing a comprehensive GIS layer that compiles both historical and current PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) data. This new dataset will replace the outdated PASER layer currently hosted on the Regional online map viewer (FETCH

GIS). Once published, the updated layer will provide local stakeholders and the public with accurate, up-to-date road surface condition ratings, supporting transportation planning, maintenance prioritization, and data-driven infrastructure decisions.

Additionally, EUP staff completed the development of a crash data layer for the EUP GIS online map. This new dataset helps identify high-risk roadway segments, informs transportation safety planning, and supports grant applications focused on safety improvements. The crash data layer will serve as a valuable analytical tool for data-driven decision-making and long-term roadway planning efforts across the region.

- Mackinac County

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025: James Cryderman (Mackinac County Road Commission), Kyle Martin (MODT), and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 50% of Mackinac County Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 382 miles, rating 274.823 miles of fed-aid roads that included unpaved roads.

Staff were also responsible for transferring the data collected to the local road commission's Roadsoft software then, to the region.

- City of Sault Ste. Marie

On Wednesday, July 23, 2025: Joe Miller and Morgan Kelly (City of Sault Ste. Marie, Engineering Department), Elizabeth Magnuson (MODT), and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 57 miles, rating 47.404 miles of fed-aid roads.

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Day 1 Part 1: Joe Miller and Morgan Kelly (City of Sault Ste. Marie, Engineering Department) and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Non-Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 29 miles, rating 10.50 miles of Non-Fed-Aid roads.

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Day 1 Part 2: Joe Miller and Morgan Kelly (City of Sault Ste. Marie, Engineering Department) and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Non-Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 43 miles, rating 20 miles of Non-Fed-Aid roads.

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, Day 2: Joe Miller and Morgan Kelly (City of Sault Ste. Marie, Engineering Department) and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Non-Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 40 miles, rating 22.512 miles of Non-Fed-Aid roads.

Staff were also responsible for transferring the data collected to the local road commissions' Roadsoft software as well as to the region.

- Chippewa County

On Wednesday, August 6, 2025: Marlee Lechner (Soil and Structures Intern for Chippewa County Road Commission/Vendor), Jake Mathieu (MODT), and Nathan Coon (EUP Regional Planning) rated 50% of Chippewa County Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 378 miles, rating 306.823 miles of fed-aid roads that included unpaved roads.

On Thursday, August 7, 2025: Marlee Lechner (Soil and Structures Intern for Chippewa County Road Commission/Vendor), Jake Mathieu (MODT), and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 50% of Chippewa County Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 108 miles, rating 306.823 miles of fed-aid roads that included unpaved roads.

Staff were also responsible for transferring the data collected to the local road commission's Roadsoft software then, to the region.

- Luce County

On Tuesday, July 29, 2025: Mike McTiver (Luce County Road Commission), Elizabeth Magnuson (MODT), and Nathan Coon (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of Luce County Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 266 miles, rating 188.962 miles of fed-aid roads that included unpaved roads.

On Tuesday, September 4, 2024: Mike McTiver (Luce County Road Commission) and Matt Sawle (EUP Regional Planning) rated 100% of Luce County Non-Fed-Aid roads. The team traveled 155 miles, rating 57.197 miles of Non-Fed-Aid roads that included unpaved roads.

➤ **REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)**

- **Chippewa County:**

During the last quarter, EUP GIS staff continued their collaboration with the Chippewa County Equalization Department to identify and address gaps or inconsistencies within the county's parcel dataset. This ongoing effort involved reviewing and documenting missing records and previously overlooked parcel splits. Once identified, staff communicated these findings to Amalgam LLC for correction as part of the parcel fabric development project. Maintaining accurate parcel data remains essential for tax mapping, land use planning, zoning enforcement, and emergency response services across the county.

In addition to parcel maintenance, GIS staff made significant progress in developing and enhancing several new data layers for the publicly accessible FETCH GIS system. These updates were designed to expand the availability of local geographic information related to recreation, public services, and general navigation. The newly added layers include:

- Water trails and designated bike routes
- Township halls and community centers
- Hiking trails and public campgrounds
- K–12 schools and libraries
- Hospitals, urgent care centers, and EMS/fire/rescue facilities
- General points of interest, such as historical landmarks and civic facilities

Each dataset was developed using a combination of local knowledge, partner input, and field verification where necessary. Once completed, the layers were published to FETCH GIS to enhance usability and support a wide range of users, including residents, tourists, emergency planners, and local officials.

The GIS Coordinator also continued to respond to data and mapping requests submitted by local governments, planning consultants, and partner organizations. These requests frequently involve parcel boundaries, zoning data, environmental features, and custom mapping products for use in grant applications, infrastructure development, and master planning efforts. By fulfilling these requests, staff ensure that decision-makers across the county have access to accurate and reliable spatial data.

Additionally, GIS staff completed the development of a user-friendly guide and brochure for Chippewa County's GIS Department. This resource provides step-by-step instructions for using ArcGIS Pro to manage file geodatabases, edit vector and raster features, and design map layouts. The guide serves as a practical reference to promote consistency and efficiency in GIS workflows and to support ongoing staff training and data management within the county.

- **Mackinac County:**

During the last quarter, GIS staff continued to provide a wide range of essential services to support county operations and ensure the integrity of spatial data. These services included assigning new addresses for residential and commercial developments, troubleshooting GIS software issues across various county departments, correcting parcel dimension discrepancies, and updating attribute data as needed. Staff also assisted with clerical and administrative tasks related to spatial data management, ensuring that county records remain accurate, consistent, and up to date.

Throughout the quarter, staff implemented significant updates to several key components of the county's enterprise geodatabase, including parcel boundaries, address points, and road centerlines. Each update underwent a thorough review process before being integrated into the centralized GIS database. Maintaining a unified and accurate spatial dataset helps ensure data consistency across departments and enhances accessibility for both internal users and external partners.

In addition to maintaining the core datasets, GIS staff continued to enhance the FETCH GIS public viewer by developing and publishing several new data layers. These include water and bike trails, township halls, community centers, hiking and camping locations, schools, libraries, hospitals, emergency response facilities, and other points of interest. These enhancements were designed to improve public access to key community and recreational information while supporting local tourism, emergency preparedness, and community planning efforts.

Earlier this year, GIS staff completed the annual parcel layer update for the new assessment year. This comprehensive update incorporated recorded land divisions, combinations, and corrections submitted by township assessors. Maintaining accurate and current parcel data

continues to be a vital component of property tax administration, land use planning, and public access to land ownership information.

- **Regional GIS:**

The Regional Planning GIS Coordinator continues to stay current with the latest ArcGIS software updates and emerging GIS technologies. This ongoing professional development enhances data management, workflow efficiency, and the adoption of new tools, while supporting the future development of GIS-related policies. These efforts contribute to building a more efficient, responsive, and well-structured GIS system for the region and its member counties.

On September 9, 2025, Representatives from state agencies, regional organizations, and local governments participated including: DTMB, Michigan State University, MDOT, SEMCOG, EGLE, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, DNR, Midwest Energy & Communications, Midland County, Berrien County, CMPASS, Charlevoix County, Muskegon County, EUPRPDC, OHM Advisors, and others.

The Michigan GIS Advisory Group met to discuss current statewide GIS initiatives, working group progress, and coordination on data management and federal program alignment. The meeting provided updates on several state and federal GIS initiatives, future data sharing frameworks, and planning for the November 2025 Remonumentation presentation.

The main discussion highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Welcome and Agenda Review: The group reviewed and approved the meeting agenda with no major changes.
- Standing Committee and Working Group Updates Nominating Committee: Discussed leadership rotations and upcoming vacancies.
- Remote Sensing Working Group: Provided updates on imagery collection projects and potential data access improvements.
- NG911 Working Group: Reviewed progress on statewide 911 GIS dataset maintenance and integration.
- GIS Clearinghouse Working Group (Proposed): Group explored establishing a new working group to oversee centralized data sharing, metadata standards, and statewide coordination.
- Planning for November Remonumentation Presentation: Discussion centered on preparing materials and suggested topics for the LARA Office of Land Survey (OLS) presentation.

Key proposed topics include:

- Integration between Remonumentation and statewide parcel datasets.
- Funding mechanisms and coordination with county-level programs.
- Benefits of cross-agency data alignment.

- Federal Program Updates
 - *NOAA Brennan Ocean Matching Fund Program*: Reviewed potential grant opportunities and eligibility.
 - *National Geodetic Survey (2022 Datum Change)*: Updates on new coordinate system implementation.
 - *US Census Bureau – 2030 Redistricting*: Early coordination on GIS data needs and preparation timelines.
 - *USGS DCA 3DHP Grant Award*: Overview of Michigan’s participation and data status.
 - *NTIA BEAD Program*: Update on broadband mapping and infrastructure funding efforts.
- GIS Survey Results and Data Sharing Discussion
 - Discussed results from the statewide GIS survey, focusing on participation rates and data-sharing barriers.
 - Strategies identified to increase survey response and data accessibility included:
 - Establishing MOAs for data sharing between agencies.
 - Supporting National Address Database pilot counties via DTMB.
 - Promoting data aggregation through ReGRID and other platforms.
 - Showcasing use cases demonstrate how addresses and parcels support emergency response, 911 coordination, and state planning.
- State of Michigan User Group – Future Format Options: Discussed transitioning user group meetings to more flexible formats—Hybrid or virtual attendance options; Regionalized or topic-specific meetings to improve participation.
- Next Meeting Agenda: The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 6, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in Lansing, Michigan. Tentative agenda items will include updates on Remonumentation efforts, GIS Clearinghouse framework, and federal program coordination.

During the reporting period, GIS staff continued actively compiling, refining, and enhancing a wide range of map layers within the FETCH GIS working map environment. Efforts focused on improving usability through dynamic pop-ups, custom symbology for clearer visual interpretation, and scale-dependent visibility to ensure layers display effectively at varying zoom levels.

Newly added layers provide detailed information on water and bike trails, township halls, community centers, hiking and camping areas, schools, libraries, hospitals, emergency services, and other regional points of interest. Staff also developed specialized layers highlighting regional transportation amenities, including rest stops, carpool lots, and island ferries along the east coast—as well as tourism-focused features, such as lighthouses, freighter viewing areas, swimming beaches, golf courses, boat launches, and museums. Additional layers include the locations of first responder services, school districts, and materials management facilities, such as landfills and waste drop-off sites. Each feature contains attribute information, including website links and other publicly available details, providing users with enriched context directly within the map.

Once finalized, these configured layers will be published to the public-facing FETCH GIS platform, offering a robust set of interactive tools that allow residents, planners, and visitors to explore spatial data more effectively. Users will also be able to perform basic spatial analyses, including proximity searches, buffer queries, and feature identification, tailored to their areas of interest. These enhancements are designed to create a more informative, intuitive, and user-friendly mapping experience, supporting access to recreational, civic, and essential services throughout the region.

During the reporting period, the GIS Coordinator has been exploring tools to support the potential development of accurate building footprints and a new regional land cover classification layer. One tool currently under evaluation is the Basic Land Cover Classification workflow using the Semi-Automatic Classification Plugin (SCP) in QGIS.

SCP is an open-source tool that integrates remote sensing and image classification capabilities directly within the QGIS environment. It allows users to process satellite or aerial imagery and classify land cover types using supervised classification techniques. However, the process is lengthy and experimental, as it requires identifying and acquiring imagery that is compatible with the tool, ensuring proper resolution, spectral quality, and temporal accuracy. This stage alone can take considerable time before meaningful testing can begin.

By training SCP on known land cover samples—such as vegetation, water, impervious surfaces, or bare earth—users can generate thematic maps. The plugin also supports pre-processing steps such as band alignment, atmospheric correction, and vegetation index calculations, all of which are critical for improving classification accuracy.

For building footprint extraction, SCP can isolate impervious surfaces or specific spectral signatures associated with manmade structures. While this method is not as precise as LiDAR-based approaches, it offers a cost-effective and scalable option for generating generalized building outlines—particularly in rural areas or communities lacking high-resolution vector data.

This project remains highly experimental, as staff are testing whether SCP and available imagery can reliably produce both building footprints and a land cover layer for the region. Initial testing indicates potential, but significant work remains to refine the workflow, overcome limitations of available imagery, and determine if these layers can be successfully developed at the regional scale. The effort reflects EUP's ongoing commitment to innovating GIS tools and methods to enhance regional land use data, support environmental planning, and improve resource management.

Staff created a layer for the FetchMap of the EUP Region that consists of several layers pertaining to places of interest, and any relevant information towards first responder services, schooling services, and more recreational opportunities such as boat launch locations and ideal freighter sighting spots. As of the writing of this report, the layer is currently being adjusted by Amalgam to be viewed on the webpage.

➤ **REGIONAL TRANSIT STUDY**

EUP staff continue to meet bi-weekly with the project consultant, OHM Advisors, and MDOT staff to review the progress on the study. During this quarter, we assisted OHM in hosting the first Public Meeting on the project to obtain feedback and input on rider needs and priorities, which was held at LSSU on July 30, 2025.

EUP assisted OHM in lining up the remaining local elected official interviews in mid to late July.

EUP continues to post information on the project to our Facebook account to build social media awareness about the project. We also assisted OHM in launching a Transit survey, which was live during July and August, with a total of 54 responses received.

OHM completed the Trends, Gaps, Needs and Best Practices Analysis, which is being formatted into a final version that can be distributed and posted on our website and social media.

EUP aided OHM in hosting a meeting of the TSC group on September 30, 2025, to review progress on the project to date and what to anticipate in the coming months.

EUP staff are reviewing the Best Practices/Case Studies analysis and will provide comments and feedback to OHM in early October.

As the consultant prepares materials for the efficiency study, EUP staff reviews and provides feedback. During this quarter, the project focused on milestones related to public engagement. The consultant organized a public open house which EUP staff were present. The public survey was also launched, and the consultant worked to gather interest for rider listening sessions. The status of the study as well as the public engagement efforts were presented to the project steering committee.

➤ **MSHDA REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP**

Staff presented at the Statewide Housing Partnership board meeting in late July to discuss the ways that we are utilizing our RHP Actions grant for the re-establishment of the Chippewa County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

EUP staff also participated in one quarterly check-in call with CEDAM to discuss various aspects of our RHP grant. These meetings are held quarterly to keep lines of communication open between the RHP and CEDAM. This partnership allows us to leverage additional resources from CEDAM as needed.

On August 11, 2025, EUP hosted MSHDA Executive Director Amy Hovey, and several members of her executive team including Josh Pugh, and Tonya Joy, amongst others, at the Chippewa County EDC in Kinross. We shared information on housing initiatives and Director Hovey updated us on MSDHA efforts statewide. We then toured the Soo Locks housing complex for KAT team workers in the Kinross--these housing units, provided by Disaster Relief Solutions, provide a solution to the influx of needed workforce housing to support the Locks project.

On Thursday, August 14, 2025, EUP staff participated in the NADO Research Foundation's webinar on Redevelopment and Revitalization: Land Bank 101. Land banks can be powerful tools for redevelopment and revitalization of distressed properties and communities. Economic Development Districts (EDD) can use these tools to help communities work towards addressing common issues like downtown revitalization, boosting housing supply, and reimagining vacant and/or abandoned properties. The webinar's featured speaker was Brian Larkin, Director of the National Land Bank Network, at the Center for Community Progress.

Staff have continued to market the MI Neighborhood funding through MSHDA. Unfortunately, as no local units of government applied for this funding, it was reallocated to other parts of the state for the last round of MI Neighborhood. It is yet to be seen how much funding will be available through MI Neighborhood when version 3.0 of the program begins on October 1, 2025.

Staff hosted a quarterly meeting for the EUP's Regional Housing Partnership on September 4. The virtual event was well attended. We invited Susan Wenzlick from Fishbeck to present on relevant topics such as Housing TIF and Brownfield development. The next quarterly meeting for the Regional Housing Partnership will take place on December 3.

Staff have applied for MSHDA's RHP Action Plan Support Grant, which is a \$25,000 award that can be used for housing activities outside of housing production. MSHDA has announced that EUP will be receiving the award. EUP will be using this funding to expand the footprint of the Brownfield Authority in Chippewa County, and to renew EUP's StateBook subscription. Both activities are in motion; StateBook has been paid, and Fishbeck, the consultant we chose for the Brownfield project, is working on expanding the Chippewa County Brownfield.

Staff have begun planning an in-person homelessness summit in Sault Ste. Marie, MI for November 2025. Staff have identified partners with CLMCAA, GLHS, and Room at the Inn (Marquette) to help coordinate the planning of the event. Meetings to plan said event have been taking place once per month with GLHS and CLMCAA. The event will be held in the Crow's Nest on LSSU's campus.

Staff have been marketing MSHDA's Employer-Assisted Housing program. The program, as it is stated on the website, "Offers direct support to employers willing to invest in housing for local workers. Employers that contribute matching funds—whether through cash investments, land donation, a below-market interest loan, or some combination thereof—may qualify for resources through the Fund to help develop new housing options."

Staff have distributed the Housing Readiness Checklist to LUGs throughout the EUP and have set up meetings with certain LUGs who are interested in learning more or working to complete the checklist to become more ready for housing development. From this initiative, EUP has begun working with individuals from Mackinac County to help them recruit a developer. They are seeking to turn a vacant 24.2-acre parcel that the Mackinac County BRA purchased into a variety of housing units. Currently, they are waiting for environmental testing. Once that testing is completed, they will send the results to an interested developer who has voiced their interest in supplying the BRA with a letter of intent.

EUP staff have helped MSHDA design their RFP for SHP 2.0, and EUP staff will serve on the RFP review team to help select the vendor that will create the guidance for SHP 2.0.

EUP staff are collaborating with the Sault Ste. Marie Career Center and Cinnaire to teach the Business Administration CTE students about a career in real estate development. Cinnaire employees will come to Sault Ste. Marie to do a day-long presentation about real estate and community development.

EUP staff are working to establish a talent and training pipeline for emerging developers in the EUP. To do this, staff created a survey and sent it to partners, professionals, and others within the development sphere. We are using these results to formulate an established pipeline for development prospects. It is our hope that having an established career path will lead to a more robust housing system in the EUP.

EUP staff are working with InvestUP to create a long-term, continuous educational program that will educate the LUGs in the UP about housing incentives, Brownfield programs, housing TIFs, and more. This education will increase the acceptance of these and other programs, which will help lead to more housing production.

➤ **RHP ACTIONS GRANT**

In early July, we met with our representative from Fishbeck to discuss the timeline and priority tasks on the re-establishment of the Chippewa County Brownfield Development Authority, which will be administered by the Chippewa County EDC; Fishbeck staff met with the Chippewa County EDC board, for a Brownfield 101 overview. A resolution was drafted and submitted to the Chippewa County Commissioners for their September meeting, which was unanimously approved. We will be working with the CCEDC and Fishbeck to hold a meeting of the BRA to review By-Laws and meeting procedures/operations, this will occur in December as we make our way toward implementing the BRA as a tool for the CCEDC.

➤ **CHIPPEWA COUNTY EDC MEDC HUBS SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT**

Staff continues to assist the Chippewa County EDC administer the Small Business Support Hub from the MEDC. In doing so, the second round of business support grants opened this quarter, with final review of the grants and notifications taking place in later September/early October. In the past quarter, staff have worked on the back end of the program by accepting applications and distributing the applications to the proper EDO. Staff have also been working with the Chippewa County EDC and Headwaters North to finalize the process regarding the awarding of direct grant funds to the top-rated applicants. Staff have also helped train EDOs on updated procedures to allow the program to run efficiently.

Headwaters North will continue with various webinars and virtual events for businesses and the EDO's throughout the rest of 2025 and into 2026.

➤ **EUP CONNECT**

Per the agreement between EUPRPDC and the EUPConnect Collaborative, staff continue to attend and contribute to EUP Connect Collaborative meetings, when necessary. Staff are also available to create and distribute EUPConnect newsletter when requested.

➤ **DNR SPARK GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

During this quarter, EUP staff met with DNR regarding repurposing our DNR Spark Grant funding to assist with local recreation plan developments or updates. We have been approved to move forward with McMillan Township, Village of Newberry, Bruce Township and Rudyard Township Plans. We will be kicking off that effort with McMillan Twp., in October, as well as the Village of Newberry; later in 2026, we will get started on the Bruce and Rudyard Township Plans.

➤ **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

EUP staff connected local units of government with Zoe Kuntze from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Zoe is moving forward with the participating communities, helping them prepare for future projects.

➤ **BRUCE TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN**

The Bruce Township Master Plan kickoff meeting with the Township's Planning Commission was held on July 15, 2025. The Planning Commission also met on September 16, 2025. During these meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed a copy of the community survey, the community history, and the socio-economic data for the township. Changes to the survey, methods for survey distribution, and additions to the community history were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for November.

Staff assisted in the planning efforts for the Bruce Township Master Plan by developing maps that pertain to specific details of the area, such as environmental features, parcel and land use information, transportation and local amenities, location maps, and a map of areas within the Township as requested by Bruce Township officials. These maps are in the final review phase and will later be published in the Master Plan.

➤ **RUDYARD TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE**

The Rudyard Township Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update kickoff meeting with the Township's Planning Commission was held on July 9, 2025. The Township Planning Commission also met again on September 18, 2025. During these meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed a copy of the community survey, the community history, and the socio-economic data for the township. We discussed changes to the survey and methods for survey distribution. At the request of the Township, Staff were able to acquire a list of addresses, print, and mail the surveys. The next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2025.

During this quarter, staff worked on developing the following maps for the Rudyard Township: Environmental features, parcel and land use information, transportation and local amenities, location maps, and a map of areas within the township that were requested by Rudyard Township officials. These maps are in the final review phase and will later be published with the Master Plan.

➤ **OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- *MEDC Assistance*: Staff contributed to a new job description for an Economic Developer/Planner position that was being created by the MEDC team. This guide will have testimonials, employment projects, career paths, and more. Staff contributed to this by collecting testimonials from economic development and planning professionals from around the state.
- *Sault Shares*: EUP have been collaborating with Headwaters North's contracted employees and the Sault EDC to develop guidelines for a new program called Sault Shares. In essence, Sault Shares will allow non-accredited citizens to invest in local businesses, and it will allow businesses to seek investments from their community to pay for up to \$20,000 in improvements to their business. Terms will be negotiable, and businesses will have to pay back investors with interest. This process will be facilitated through a tool called Honeycomb Capital. Headwaters sent a letter of intent to ORP and was asked by ORP to submit a full application. They will know soon if they will be awarded funding or not.
- *MAP Coastal Compendium Steering Committee*: Staff participated in meetings of the MAP Coastal Compendium Steering Committee for the development of a Compendium to guide development along the waterfront of the Great Lakes. The final version of the Compendium is nearly complete. The public and local units of government are welcome to view the compendium [here](#) and register for an in-person Coastal Clinic to explore shoreline protection tools.
- *Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*
The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners approved the funding for the update of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. We will work with the County Emergency Manager to set a date for the kickoff of the planning process.



ANDERSON, TACKMAN & COMPANY, PLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

7b.

KINROSS OFFICE

KENNETH A. TALSMA, CPA, PRINCIPAL

AMBER N. MACK, CPA, PRINCIPAL

TORI N. KRUISE, CPA

MEMBER AICPA

MEMBER MICPA

October 17, 2025

EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission
1118 E Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Dear Board of Directors:

We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with a quote for the financial audit of your organization as it's independent auditors.

The proposal is for a three-year engagement at the Commission's request

2025 Fee	\$	9,100
2026 Fee		9,600
2027 Fee		10,000

Our annual bid includes the GASB 34 presentation of the financial audit for the funds of the Commission as well as the required subsequent events review, governmental compliance letter, required management letter and GFOA Requirements.

The proposed fees anticipate the cooperation of your staff in pulling documents and preparing correspondence at our request. They also anticipate providing the items in our "Items needed from Client Listing". If these procedures/items are not provided, additional fees may be charged. Additionally, the Commission is required to provide complete infrastructure records, GASB 34 Accrual based entries and amount calculations, Management's Discussion and Analysis and a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (if applicable).

The information contained in this proposal is intended for the sole use of the Board of Director's and should not be used for any other purpose or be publicly disclosed or distributed to third parties without the written permission of Anderson, Tackman, and Company, CPA's, PLC.

We welcome any questions regarding our proposal and will respond as directed at your convenience. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our proposal with you at your convenience Kenneth A. Talsma, CPA is authorized to bind Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth A. Talsma

Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC
Certified Public Accountants
Kincheloe, Michigan



Western U.P.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

400 Quincy St, 8th Floor, Hancock, Michigan 49930
 906-482-7205 Fax: 906-482-9032 e-mail: info@wupldr.org

Confronting Coastal Hazards for Rural and Indigenous Communities in the Great Lakes Region – Regional Planning Organization Contract

This Agreement is made and entered into on _____ (**Date**) between **Western U.P. Planning and Development Region**, hereinafter referred to as "Grantor," and _____ (**Regional Planning Organization**), hereinafter referred to as "Grantee."

1. Grant Award

The Grantor agrees to provide the Grantee with funding by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (2438826).in the amount of **\$10,000 over three years** to support the coordination and partnership of the project including attending two meetings per year, and regional data coordination and assistance.

2. Use of Funds

The Grantee agrees to use the funds solely for the purpose outlined in the scope of work (Attachment 1). Funds shall be used for staff time and travel with indirect included. Any changes in expenditure shall be pre-approved in writing by the Grantor.

3. Disbursement of Funds

This grant operates on a reimbursement basis. The Grantee shall submit an invoice to the Grantor for reimbursement once per fiscal year. All reimbursement requests shall be submitted by **August 31, 2028**.

4. Reporting Requirements

The Grantee agrees to submit a **brief report by August 31, 2028**, detailing how the funds were used and the impact of the project. The report shall include:

- A paragraph on how the project supported coastal hazards in your region and how partnerships evolved from the project

5. Compliance & Record Keeping

The Grantee agrees to maintain financial records related to the grant for a period of at least **three years from grant financial closeout** and provide access to records upon request.

6. Termination & Repayment

If the Grantee fails to comply with the terms of this Agreement, the Grantor reserves the right to terminate the grant and require repayment of funds.

7. Acknowledgment

The Grantee agrees to acknowledge the Grantor's support in any public communications related to the funded project, where appropriate. More detail about acknowledgement is found in the scope of work.

8. Agreement Signatures

By signing below, both parties agree to the terms of this Agreement.

Grantor:

Jerald Wuorenmaa

Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

Executive Director

_____ [Date]

_____ [Signature]

Grantee:

_____ [Regional Planning Organization]

_____ [Executive Director Name]

_____ [Date]

_____ [Signature]

Attachment A: Scope of Work - Confronting Coastal Hazards for Rural and Indigenous Communities in the Great Lakes Region

Contacts from the respective Regional Planning Organization (RPO) will work with WUPPDR to help identify data gaps in flood, shoreline, and natural hazard information for their respective regions.

- The RPO will appoint a staff contact to work with Evan Lanese at WUPPDR.
- The staff contact will:
 - Help correspond between and acquire data from local partners, units of government, and other community sources of data;
 - meet with WUPPDR (virtually or in-person) two (2) times per year over the grant period to check in about progress of the data collection;
 - provide WUPPDR email correspondence updates at least every two (2) months through the grant period.

The RPO will acquire and share the datasets needed to interpret the impacts hydrological hazards have on the region. These data sets will be shared with project members at Michigan Technological University to develop hydrologic hazard tools.

The RPO shall comply with the data management plan (Attachment B).

National Science Foundation Requirements:

The RPO is responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including World Wide Web pages) based on or developed under this grant, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

"Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation."

The RPO is responsible for assuring that an acknowledgment of NSF support:

1. is made in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) of any material based on or developed under this project, in the following terms:

"This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (2438826)."

2. is orally acknowledged during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television and news magazines.

ATTACHMENT B:

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan outlines our approach for processing, storage, and dissemination of observational and modeling data sets used in our project. Our data preservation and sharing policy aims to coordinate storage, preservation, and metadata capture in a timely and user-friendly manner, with the goal of enhancing the reproducibility of our scientific results and making them more discoverable for maximum impact. By doing so, we comply with NSF requirements on data management and sharing policies while laying a foundation to facilitate data-model integration needed to accelerate our predictive understanding of climate impact on rural communities in the Great Lakes region. Our DMP draws upon lessons learned from our previous work as well as best practices established by the broader community. We will adopt the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) and CARE (collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility, and ethics) principles¹.

Oversight of Data Management: Project PI Pengfei Xue will head a data management committee of co-PIs, a funded project manager (PM), along with the staff in the Geospatial Research Facility (GRF) at Michigan Tech that will be responsible for implementing the overall data management plan (DMP) for the data and resources acquired as part this project. This team will meet at least quarterly throughout the length of the project to coordinate research project data policies and procedures and ensure that confidentiality and good data practices are being followed with regard to all data collection, storage, management, and sharing.

Standards:

Scientific Data Standards

- a. Climate Data: We will use the NetCDF (Network Common Data Form) format, a widely accepted standard for climate data. This format allows for efficient storage, retrieval, and sharing of large, multidimensional datasets, and is compatible with many climate data analysis tools.
- b. Geospatial Data: We will adhere to the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards for all geospatial data such as Geotiff, NetCDF, KML, Web Map Service . These standards ensure interoperability and easy integration with other geospatial tools and platforms.
- c. Tabular Data: We will follow the Frictionless Data's Data Package standard to ensure well-structured, self-contained, and self-describing tabular data packages, which will be accessible as CSV files.

Metadata Standards

- a. Geospatial Metadata: We will use the ISO 19115 standard for geospatial metadata, which provides a comprehensive framework for describing the lineage, quality, and content of geospatial datasets.
- b. Non-geospatial Metadata: For non-geospatial data, we will follow the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standard, a widely accepted metadata standard that support the FAIR data principle.

Data Collected, Generated or Used: This project aims to generate and incorporate data on a wide range of topics. Although the data will come in various formats, we will strive to store and share them in a common format whenever possible. The expected data include:

- Climate data: Climate modeling datasets with spatiotemporal (3D/2D in space) include atmospheric variables (e.g. wind, temperature, precipitation, and many more); hydrodynamic data (e.g. water level, wave, ice cover, water currents) and land surface data (e.g. surface hydrological data, energy and water fluxes, land type and cover) will be in NetCDF or GeoTIFF format, also shared as web map services.
- GIS and Hazards data: Bathymetry and topography obtained from USACE NCMP Topobathy Lidar and existing in-situ sampling will be in ASCII and GeoTiff format. Analyses of remote sensing images, data generated from geohazards, energy, economic models will be stored in a standard raster (GeoTiff), vector (SHP File) file or CSV formats. The data we utilize across existing monitoring repositories (such as ARM, NASA, USGS data, NOAA Great Lakes Observing System) will be archived in their original formats and re-processed in raster (GeoTiff), vector (SHP) file and CSV formats whenever needed.

¹ Carroll, S.R., et al. (2021). Operationalizing the CARE and FAIR Principles for Indigenous data futures. *Nature Scientific Data* 8, 108.

- **Crowdsourced Data:** The project team will use technology to collect crowdsourced data for infrastructure inventorying and remote sensing validation. The crowdsourced data will be collected using ArcGIS.
- **Community Data:** Publicly available community data, obtained from the US Census Bureau, describing population characteristics including population density, age & gender distribution, community characteristics, education attainment, income data, and infrastructure inventory and more, will be in FGDB and SHP formats.
- Recordings and written summaries of feedback collected during workshops, likely in mp4 and Microsoft Word format. IRB guidelines will govern how this data and its derivatives may be shared.
- Workshop material summarizing extreme climate scenarios, energy sector scenarios, and overviews of the use of remote sensing and AI in energy supply chains, likely in Microsoft PowerPoint and PDF format.

Data Sharing, Publishing, and Access: To ensure the validation of results, project data will be openly shared among all project partners and collaborators. This sharing and preservation of data will enable fast characterization and validation of models and simulations across the ECR-CCHRIC science effort. To share data and other information with team members, this project will use a web-based research data portal and project website managed by the Geospatial Research Facility (GRF) at Michigan Tech. The research data portal will facilitate the management, retention, organization, and dissemination of all project data, metadata, collections, products, materials, and resources. All geographic data will be served as web services and downloadable in various formats. This portal will also serve as a platform for creating new datasets, surveys, interactive applications, presentations, dashboards, and more. All data produced by this project will be retained for a minimum of 24 months following project completion and longer as required by NSF orders and policies. Items not hosted on the portal, such as project meeting or workshop notes, will be hosted on a secure cloud-based collaborative system such as Google Drive. Data containing personally identifiable information (PII) will require de-identification before sharing and will follow the process specified in our IRB human subjects review permits.

All project data will be organized into datasets in the data repositories. Datasets can include raw data, derived data products, algorithms and settings, and metadata. The data repositories we utilize will enable publicly available data with unique DOIs that can be properly cited and referenced. All published datasets are searchable, viewable, and accessible to the general public via URL. A URL is created for each dataset in the repository and can be used to browse the dataset with permission control prior to its publication. To ensure widespread availability and ease of use for diverse user groups, all models and visualization tools will be made accessible as open-source software with a publicly available repository hosted on a platform like GitHub for version control and Zenodo for DOI. By adopting an open-source approach, we encourage collaboration, transparency, and community-driven improvements.

Data Preservation: The GRF will ensure long-term access to the Portal beyond the project period, with funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research at Michigan Tech. Backups of the Portal and associated items and data will be made at least weekly. The data will be deposited into the Digital Commons @ Michigan Tech (<https://digitalcommons.mtu.edu>), where it will be publicly accessible. This institutional repository is an open-access platform for disseminating and sharing university research products in the long term. Additionally, Digital Commons @ Michigan provides long-term storage for data files and maintains persistent URLs for data sets, facilitating data citations. The data (de-identified, if applicable) will be accompanied by appropriate documentation, metadata, and code to facilitate reuse and potential interoperability with similar data sets, in accordance with Digital Commons @ Michigan Tech repository policies.

Data Protection: Security and Integrity: Our ECR-CCHRIC project is fully committed to:

- Protecting confidentiality, personal privacy, personally identifiable information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security
- Recognizing proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights
- Avoiding significant negative impact on innovation and U.S. competitiveness
- Otherwise being consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, NSF orders and policies, and University data policies where relevant.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

- A. Executive Committee: The membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of five members of the Commission which will include the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, the Minority Representative, and one member "at large" as specified in Article II, Section C. All minutes and proceedings of all meetings shall be subject to approval of the full Commission at the next regular meeting. The Executive Committee shall also serve as the By Laws Committee to update and review changes in the By Laws as needed. EUPRPDC staff will serve as the Secretary in a non-voting capacity.
- B. Nominating Committee: The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of three members of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission. Each county shall be represented by a member.

The Nominating Committee shall be elected not less than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission. The Nominations Committee shall offer a slate of officers to the Annual Meeting of the EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer. The apportionment of membership on the Executive Committee must include one representative from each of the three counties and one minority representative.

(Nominating Committee 2023: Jeff Holt (Chippewa), Bill Henry (Luce), Mark Clymer (Mackinac))

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

- A. The Commission shall, at its January/February meeting every two years, elect from the membership its officers for the succeeding years in accordance with the procedures as set forth in "Robert's Rules of Order." The Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer shall be elected each odd numbered year for a two-year term, unless the Board provides by resolution that the Officers shall be elected annually for a one-year term. The duties and responsibilities of each office shall be those normally associated with that office.
- B. The Chairmanship of the Regional Commission shall be a revolving elected position on a biennial basis. The Chairperson shall serve a two-year term only. The position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall rotate every two-years in a manner such that each county shall be represented by the Chairperson once every six years.

In the event the Chairperson is unable to fill the term of office, a member of the Commission from that respective county will fill the remainder of the term.