

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

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026; 9:00 a.m.  
EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Office  
2345 Meridian Street; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

**Members Present**

Allison Watkins—Newberry Village	Andrew Rubinstein, LSSU
Bill Henry, Luce Co.	Brad Neumann, MSU Extension (Virtual)
Chris Olson, Chippewa Co.	Jeff Holt, Minority Rep.
Jim Traynor, Chippewa Co.	Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie
Matt Dost, Marquette Twp. – Mac. Co.	Mark Eitrem, Sugar Island Twp.-Chip. Co.
Michelle Walk – Mackinac Co.	Mike Patrick, Mackinac Co.
Richard Timmer, Chippewa Co.	Tammy Henry, Luce Co.

**Guest:** Dave Schuberg, EGLE

**Staff**

Jeff Hagan      Kim Wilcox              Matt Sawle              Nathan Coon              Seth Harris

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment addressed at this meeting.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

A revised agenda was distributed prior to the start of the meeting. The agenda was amended to include a Resolution regarding a NADO Board Nomination which requires action by the Commission. The revised agenda was approved with the additional item following a motion by M. Patrick with support from R. Timmer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**EUP Regional Planning Board—October 29, 2025**

R. Timmer moved to approve the October 29, 2025, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented.  
M. Patrick supported. Motion passed.

**Executive Committee—December 2, 2025**

M. Patrick moved to approve the December 2, 2025, EUPRPDC Executive Committee minutes as presented. M. Eitrem supported. Motion passed.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS—2026-2028**

The Nominating Committee provided the following slate of nominees of officers for appointment to the EUPRPDC Board for the 2026-2028 term:

Chair:	Allison Watkins
Vice Chair:	Jim Traynor
Treasurer:	Mike Patrick
Tribal Representative:	Jeff Holt
Member At Large:	Kelly Freeman
Secretary:	Kim Wilcox (Non-Voting)

As there were no other nominations received from the floor, R. Timmer moved to close nominations and unanimously appoint the officers of the EUPRPDC Board as presented. T. Henry supported. Motion passed unanimously.

## **PRESENTATION: DAVE SCHUBERG, EGLE**

Dave Schuberg, EGLE, described the BIL2 Grant and Coastal Management Program. The main focus of the BIL2 Grant is to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance coastal communities with the following initiatives:

- Build capacity with coastal communities to develop projects;
- Increase knowledge of coastal hazards;
- Community engagement to develop concept plans; and
- Identify funding streams.

A training workshop is being planned to be held in April for local officials and stakeholders of coastal communities to provide additional information and work towards developing potential projects.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

J. Hagan asked if the Board would prefer to receive a high-level highlight version of the program updates rather than the current in-depth report. Board Members agreed that a highlighted version of the quarterly report would be sufficient.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Director's Report**

CEO Hagan provided a presentation of highlights and updates of current EUPRPDC projects including EDA, Materials Management, and Regional Housing. A brief description of a possible amendment to the Open Meetings Act, which would allow for virtual meetings, was also described. The presentation will be forwarded to members as it includes links to upcoming events/trainings.

**Resolution—P.A. 152--2026**

The P. A. 152 Resolution approves the exemption of employees paying 20% of their health insurance premiums. The EUPRPDC can be exempt as the health insurance premiums fall below the maximum threshold. Public Act 152 allows for an annual extension with a 2/3 vote of the Commission. R. Timmer moved to approve the 2026 P.A. 152 Resolution. M. Patrick supported. The resolution was declared adopted.

A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	C. Olson—Yes	J. Holt--Yes
J. Traynor-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Walk-Yes
M. Patrick-Yes	A. Rubinstein-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes		

**Resolution—NADO Board Nomination**

CEO Hagan described the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and how this organization aligns with the Commission’s mission and objectives. He indicated that he has been nominated to serve on the NADO Board of Directors which would require attendance at NADO Board meetings, conferences and other activities that would require time and travel expense commitments. Approval of this resolution confirms approval of the nomination and the required obligations upon appointment to the NADO Board. J. Holt moved to approve the NADO Board Nomination Resolution. M. Patrick supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

J. Traynor-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Walk-Yes
M. Patrick-Yes	A. Rubinstein-Yes	R. Timmer-Yes	C. Olson—Yes	J. Holt--Yes
A. Watkins-Yes	B. Henry-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes		

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Conflict-of-Interest Policy requires board members and alternates to sign the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form annually. Members are asked to review the policy, complete the disclosure form, and return the form to Kim Wilcox ([kwilcox@eup-planning.org](mailto:kwilcox@eup-planning.org)) at the EUPRPDC office.

**Board Member/Staff Updates**

Brad Neumann: Described an upcoming training regarding PA 58 of 2025 (the amendment to the Land Division Act) which may be beneficial to many local units of government.

Andrew Rubinstein: Provided an update of current projects at Lake Superior State University.

Kelly Freeman: Noted that Culvers is scheduled to open in approximately two weeks.

Chris Olson: Noted that the airport had a record year in 2025 with service provide to over 60,000 travelers. He also mentioned that the Delta Skywest contract has been renewed and United will be resuming the flights to Chicago in May.

Matt Dost: Mentioned that Marquette Township will be updating their Master Plan.

Michelle Walk: Provided an update of the H-2B visas for the upcoming season.

Mark Eitrem: Described issues with short term rentals along the Island Shoreline. Brad Neumann indicated that he would forward a recording of a recent training course on this issue.

Allison Watkins: Indicated that the Village of Newberry's Zoning Ordinance is officially on record. She also mentioned that Luce County is reviewing the possible creation of a land bank.

Seth Harris: Described the Upper Peninsula Shelter Network which was formed with shelter providers in the Upper Peninsula to share and identify gaps in homelessness services.

Nathan Coon: Indicated that the GIS Department is currently reviewing GIS Strategic Plans and will be scheduling meetings with Chippewa and Mackinac GIS Departments soon.

Jeff Hagan: Noted that a public meeting/watch party has been scheduled on Wednesday, February 25 from 6-7:30 p.m. to provide information of proposed changes to the bus transit network in the region.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 2026 EUPRPDC Board Meeting Schedule

- February 4, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
- April 29, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
- July 29, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
- October 28, 2026; 9:00 a.m. (May be scheduled to be held on October 21, 2026)

### 2026 EUPRPDC Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

- March 3, 2026; 9:00 a.m. (May be cancelled as the EUPRPDC met on February 4, 2026)
- June 2, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
- September 1, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
- December 1, 2026; 9:00 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. following a motion by K. Freeman and support by R. Timmer.