

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

Wednesday, April 29, 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
Brad Neumann, MSU Extension*	Chris Olson, Chippewa Co.
Jill Eyre, City of St. Ignace*	Jim Traynor, Chippewa Co.
Kelly Freeman, Sault Ste. Marie	Mark Eitrem, Sugar Island Twp.-Chip. Co.
Matt Dost, Marquette Twp. – Mac. Co.	Michelle Walk – Mackinac Co.
Tammy Henry, Luce Co.	

*Attended meeting virtually.

Guests:

Ken Talsma, Anderson Tackman	Nikki Radke, Sault Ste. Marie EDC
------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Staff

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nikki Radke, Interim Director for the Sault Ste. Marie EDC, provided an update of current and upcoming economic development projects including a restaurant and housing.

AGENDA APPROVAL

M. Eitrem moved to approve the agenda as presented. K. Freeman supported. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES--EUP Regional Planning Board: February 4, 2026

J. Traynor moved to approve the February 4, 2026, EUPRPDC Board minutes as presented.
C. Olson supported. Motion passed.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Ken Talsma from Anderson, Tackman & Company provided a presentation of the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission’s audit and financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. He noted that the audit indicates that the financial statements and reports follow the government auditing standards and is classified as an unmodified, clean

audit. There were no findings. K. Freeman moved to accept the 2025 audit report as presented for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. M. Eitrem supported. Motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	A. Rubinstein-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes
M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	

CONSENT AGENDA

M. Walk moved to approve the consent agenda items which included the Financial Report and Program Updates. J. Traynor supported. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Director’s Report

CEO Hagan provided a 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—CEDS Annual Performance Report--2026

A resolution for the approval of the 2026 CEDS Annual Performance Report was provided to Board Members. This report is an update of the 2025 Five-Year Plan describing the goals, objectives, and demographics and is available for review on the EUP Regional Planning website. The Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) reviewed the Report at their meeting on April 8. As this report requires approval of the EUPRPDC Board, K. Freeman moved to approve the resolution for the adoption of the 2026 EUP Performance Report and continued designation of the EUP as an economic district. T. Henry supported. The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Rubinstein-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	A. Watkins-Yes
M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Dost-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	

Personnel Wage Adjustment

Staff members were excused from the meeting prior to the discussion of this agenda item. CEO Hagan was approached by the Assistant Planner with a request for a possible wage adjustment in salary. This is a reasonable request as this employee has been very proactive with the increase of projects, especially with housing and coastal resilience. Upon considering this request with the fiscal office, it was determined that a 10% increase in hourly wage would be feasible and is recommended that the Board consider the approval of a two-step wage adjustment (5% beginning on May 4 and 5% on November 2). Along with this adjustment, it is recommended that the job title be changed to Community Planner. C. Olson moved to approve the wage adjustment request for the Community Planner as recommended. T. Henry supported and the motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

A. Watkins-Yes	C. Olson-Yes	J. Traynor-Yes	K. Freeman-Yes	M. Dost-Yes
M. Eitrem-Yes	M. Walk-Yes	A. Rubinstein-Yes	T. Henry-Yes	

Board Member Updates

Kelly Freeman: Described potential projects for two vacant Sault elementary schools.

Chris Olson: Noted that flights to Chicago will resume for the season on May 23 with a round-trip fare of \$198. He also described a Go For Launch Event for students in grades 8-12 which will be held in June.

Andrew Rubinstein: Described a \$6 million renovation to the Taffy Abel Arena which was mostly donor funded.

Michelle Walk: Announced that tourism in the Mackinac Island Region officially begins this week.

Mark Eitrem: Expressed the need for utility management/tracking infrastructure needs for the region.

Jill Eyre: Indicated that the City of St. Ignace is currently revising the Zoning Ordinance.

Brad Neumann: Provided an update of future training opportunities and will provide additional details to Kim to forward to Members.

Allison Watkins: Described a Bicycle Safety Event being held on Saturday in Newberry.

Nikki Radke: Noted that the Office of Rural Prosperity will be hosting an event on capacity grants in Sault Ste. Marie on June 18.

Jeff Hagan: Indicated that the League of Women Voters asked if he would be available to talk to the group about zoning. He will be working with B. Neuman on a possible panel discussion in September.

OLD BUSINESS

The next EUPRPDC Board Meeting will be held on July 29, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. following a motion by K. Freeman and support by M. Eitrem.