WELCOME

A joint meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula’s Regional Prosperity Initiative Stakeholder Committee and the Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee
Today’s Agenda

- Regional Prosperity Initiative update:
  - Call for projects
  - Planning process
  - Draft goals
  - Upcoming timeline
- 10 minute networking break
- Panel discussion on how State departments are incorporating and adhering to the Regional Prosperity Initiative.
- Discussion concerning broadband in the Eastern Upper Peninsula led by Tom Stephenson of Connect MI.
Call for Projects

• We will be extending our deadline on the call for projects until February 6th, 2015.

• Eligible entities:
  • Nonprofits
  • Private institutions of higher learning
  • County governments
  • City or township governments
  • Native American tribal governments
  • State governments

Sault Ste. Marie SmartZone: an EDA funded project.
The Planning Process

- Stakeholder Committee agreed upon the seven areas for the Regional Prosperity Collaborative to focus on after assessing assets and goals from past plans.

- The Advisory Committee has met twice prior to today.
  - Reviewed and added to top assets, weaknesses, threats and challenges in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.
  - Developed an idea of what prosperity means for the Eastern Upper Peninsula.
  - Suggested indicators to examine when determining success of this plan.

- Five of seven focus groups have met to discuss in detail strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the focus areas within our region. Developed an overarching goal for the focus area and laid groundwork for strategies.
Local Agriculture & Food Systems

Goal

Grow the agriculture and food sector in the Eastern Upper Peninsula by collaborating, developing infrastructure, promoting, and educating residents on the benefits of increased local production, processing, markets, and value-added products.
Tourism & Natural Resources

**Goal**

*Increase engagement of local residents around tourism and recreation resources as means of promoting quality of life and desirability of our region for families and businesses.*
Health Care

Goal

Have a healthcare system model built and predicated on community; collaboration amongst providers, agencies and coalitions; and retained independent control of currently independent institutions.
Education

Goal
Make significant strides towards a P-20 education model where educational resources are maximized and institutions collaborate amongst one another to build capacity and prepare students to grasp opportunity.
Economic & Workforce Development

Goal

Have a commercial environment where one can create, grow, or relocate a business knowing that they will be able to access the necessary labor and desired amenities to assimilate into the region.
Panel discussion
A PLAN FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY IN THE EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA
Remaining Timeline

• February 17th: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. REDAC meeting to rank projects and review goals; **11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Private Industry Focus Group; 1:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. Infrastructure Focus Group.**

• March 17th: REDAC meeting to review and assess strategies.

• March 31st: Second-to-last draft out to Stakeholders and REDAC for a review period.

• April 14th: Joint meeting between the Stakeholder Committee and REDAC for final presentation of the Regional Prosperity Plan.
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