WELCOME
Planning Regional Prosperity in the Eastern Upper Peninsula: Tourism and Natural Resources Focus Group
Michigan’s Regional Prosperity Initiative

• Voluntary, competitive grant process that was included in the governor’s FY 2014 and FY 2015 Executive Budget.
• Encourages local private, public and non-profit partners to pursue vibrant regional economies.
• State designated planning regions, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional economic development organizations are eligible applicants for funding.
• Numerous state departments and programs are, if they have not already, aligning themselves with the RPI.
• Regions are not required to participate in the RPI; moreover, grant awards vary depending the region and what round of funding is being applied for: tier-1 (collaborative) received up to $250,000, tier-2 (council) can receive up to $375,000, and tier-3 (board) can receive up to $500,000.
• At the tier-1 funding level, regions are required to engage groups and organizations within the region concerned with higher education, workforce development, natural resources and tourism, etc.
E.U.P.R.P.G.D.C. BOARD

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOCUS GROUPS
- ECONOMIC / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
- TOURISM / RECREATION / NATURAL RESOURCES

E.U.P.R.P.G.D.C. STAFF
- DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
- DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES
- STATE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
- DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES
- MI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- MI E.D.C. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM
- MI STATE POLICE
- U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
- U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- OTHER GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES

BOARD TO MAKE FINAL APPROVALS
RECOMMENDS ACTION TO E.U.P.R.P.G.D.C. BOARD BASED ON ADHERANCE TO CRITERIA ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND OVERALL SATISFACTION OF THE PLAN
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TO MEET QUARTERLY
TO MEET BI-MONTHLY
We are on our way!

- The Regional Stakeholder Committee on July 31st to “kick off” the planning process.
- The first Advisory Committee meeting was on September 16th. Our intention is to have this group meet more frequently than the Stakeholder Committee (next meeting November 18th).
- A memorandum of understanding has been finalized, fully defining the role and responsibilities of the shared-director position.
- High-definition videoconferencing at selected sites projected for implementation by the Fall of 2014.
- Prosperity website with dashboard will be developed sometime during this Winter.
- Community and economic development assistance strategy will be finalized by January of 2015.
- CEDS/RPI plan will be finalized by April 30, 2015.
So why are we here today?
Well...

• Our natural resources and tourism industry have been very important—often intertwined—components of the Eastern U.P.’s economy.

• The Stakeholder Committee identified natural resources and tourism as an important area that needed attention during the development of a Regional Prosperity Plan.

• Major tourist attractions in the Region: Soo Locks, Tahquamenon Falls, 3 Great Lakes, Mackinac Island; forests, trails, fishing and hunting spots; small villages and niche attractions.

• We need discuss the ways in which we can maximize the full potential of the flow of people who already know about our assets and want to see them.

• We need to discuss ways that we can present our assets in a way that overpowers existing conceptions about distance, remoteness and lack of things to do—for those not already desiring such.
Proposed meeting schedule:

Next Focus Group meeting:
Local Agriculture and Food Systems, November 18, 2014

Next Stakeholder Committee meeting:
January 15, 2015
Contact us:

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