



August 11, 2016  
Michigan Works! Service Center  
1498 Odovero Dr., Marquette, MI

## Regional Prosperity Initiative Advisory Committee August Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Alan Barr (Schoolcraft EDC), Vince Bevins (MDOT), Corrie Bodeman (TV6), Emma DeGan (CUPPAD), Nathan Fazer (CUPPAD), Tiina Harris (City of Marquette), Jenn Hill (SWP), Julee Kaurala (MDHHS), Donna LaCourt (MDARD), John Madigan (PRC), Susan Roll (Bonifas), Joel Schultz (Upward), Caralee Swanberg (LSCP) Pasqua Warstler (Bonifas), Eric Wedesky (EUPDRC), Jerry Wuorenmaa (WUPPDR)

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

### 2. SET REVIEW

Stronger Economies Together (SET) is data driven economic development program that has been a successful tool in gaining a broader stakeholder perspective for regional planning efforts, especially the RPI. SET sessions, facilitated by MSUE and USDA Rural Development, began in November and the last meeting will take place in on August 3. The information gained from SET will be utilized in the upcoming RPI plan and potential projects that arose through SET will be introduced to the RPI Council.

### 3. ARTS AND CULTURE IN RPI

A presentation was given by Pasqua Warstler and Susan Roll from the Bonifas Arts Center and by Tiina Harris the City of Marquette Arts & Culture Center Director on how arts and culture can be included in regional planning efforts such as the RPI. A Regional Arts & Cultural Alliance has been recently created. One of the focuses of the group is the UP Pavilion at the popular ArtPrize in Grand Rapids which offers a unique platform to showcase UP artists to a larger audience. To promote the arts and cultural assets of the Upper Peninsula a website has been created and can be visited at [www.upartandculture.com](http://www.upartandculture.com). The Arts and Cultural Alliance shows great promise for uniting voices from across the UP. The Advisory Committee looks forward to hearing updates from the group and is interested in seeing how the RPI can help support such an effort.

### 4. UP TALENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION REPORT

Sarah Wycoff McCauley gave an update on the progress of the Talent Attraction and Retention Report. The goals of the study include: determining current state of talent in the UP, identifying existing talent efforts, spotlight best practices for talent, and recommendations and next steps. Wycoff reviewed data on population, age, education, income/cost of living, and employment in the region. Conclusions from this data include: talent pipeline for employers in the UP is in jeopardy given the decline in labor force and to compete for world-class jobs, the UP must first work on developing, retaining, and attracting talent for those jobs. Employer surveys have been distributed and roughly 100 have been collected thus far, although Wycoff noted that some surveys were not fully completed. Early survey findings were reviewed. Once the survey period ends, the surveys will



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be analyzed to provide a clearer picture of talent demand, need, and current practices in the region and next steps and recommendations will be identified.

## 5. REVIEW OF RPI PROJECTS

A review of ongoing RPI projects was given:

- **Regional GIS:** Outreach efforts continue in educating County Commissions and City Councils on investing in long-term GIS programs. CUPPAD staff have gone through numerous trainings on various new technologies, software, etc. (parcel fabric, SQL Workgroup Database, ArcGIS Server), setting CUPPAD up for future growth with GIS.
- **Regional Recreation Plan:** CUPPAD has been meeting with communities across the region to collect information for the draft plan. 13 communities are included in the joint plan. The draft plan will be complete by October and will then be followed by a 30 day review period before communities can adopt the plan.
- **Placemaking Mini-Grant:** Mini-grants were awarded to 17 communities to complete projects that enhance public spaces within their communities.
- **EDO Professional Development Reimbursement:** EDOs from across the region have used these funds for professional development opportunities, to build capacity, and support the goals of RPI
- **Sawyer Airport Study:** Joel Schultz gave a brief summary and overview of the intent and findings of the study, and he encouraged RPI members to review. The study is available on the RPI website at [www.centralupdashboard.org](http://www.centralupdashboard.org), under the 2016 RPI Projects.
- **Target Market Analysis (TMA):** The TMA is complete and available on the RPI website. The report assessed housing markets within communities throughout the region. The reports include data on each market segments, sites for redevelopment, and the gaps in existing housing stock.

6. With the meeting running over the scheduled time, the review of RPI Strategies will be done during the September meeting. Also during the September meeting, will be an introduction of initial 2017 project concepts. If anyone has any project ideas please be prepared to introduce them at the next meeting.

Next meeting: September 8, 2016 in Escanaba (Advisory Committee)