



MARQUETTE COUNTY
**CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE**

CATF Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2023
2:00 p.m. Cohodas Rm 604 / Zoom

Members in Attendance (* denotes attendance via Zoom):

Pri Burnham, *Zosia Eppensteiner, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Michael Larson, Emily Leach, *Jerry Messana, Tyler Penrod, *Erik Powers, Amy Stephens, Jes Thompson, *Dale Throenle, Abby Wallace

Guests in Attendance: Julie Staveland and Jessie Crawford (EGLE)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentation: EGLE Materials Management Division Community Program Opportunities

- Existing programs already align with the MI Healthy Climate Plan, but a flood of new federal and state funding will help communities implement climate adaptation and mitigation advancements.
- The Renewable Ready Communities program will reward communities who develop at least 20MW of solar with \$5,000/MW. Communities who've already adopted at least 50MW of solar will receive \$5,000/MW.
- Charge Up Michigan is funded by the VW settlement to develop Michigan's rapid EV charging network.
- Blackrocks Brewery was an early recipient of a Small Manufacturer Retooling grant to install solar at their brewing facility.
- The RESTART program engages retired professionals to perform energy assessments and report energy efficiency improvement opportunities.
- EGLE is focusing on pollution prevention with programs addressing food waste, diesel emissions, sustainability assessments, and fuel transformation as well as recycling quality improvement, education/outreach, and recycling infrastructure market development.
- In addition to EGLE's existing programs, the federal Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will add more than two dozen programs/sources of funding.
- EGLE's funding for its programs has grown quickly from \$15 million to an anticipated \$500 million over the next 5 years.

3. Membership Committee Update

- Abby Wallace was approved for CATF membership.
- The membership committee is considering reaching out to local tribes, MarqTran, west end, and/or utilities to see if there's a good fit for representation on CATF.

4. Outreach Committee Update

- Northern Climate Network
 - The Climate@Noon seminar series kicked off last week with future presentations taking place in Jamrich 1313. A poster with all presentation topics and dates will be shared shortly.
- Factsheets
 - Emily will distribute these via email for review prior to the next full CATF meeting.
- Marquette 2050

- We will host a kick-off lunch meeting in January with participants invited to lay the groundwork for future learning circles and scenario planning tackling challenging issues facing Marquette in the decades ahead leading to 2050. Superior Watershed Partnership and Northern Michigan University will provide funding to support this series that in many ways will parallel the Michigan Growing Together Council's work.

5. Implementation Committee Update

- UP Clean Energy Coalition
 - The coalition has met with CEDS to discuss how to encourage the state to reengage on the UP Energy Task Force's recommendations.

6. Roundtable Updates

- Community Foundation of Marquette
 - CFMC celebrated their 35th Anniversary and Emily Leach was appointed to the CFMC Board of Trustees!
- Marquette Township
 - Residential solar in the township will no longer require a special use permit beginning in just a few days.
- Chocoday Township
 - The township removed a boardwalk that was damaged by flooding with the help of the GLCC.
 - Rotary Clubs of Marquette is sponsoring a Lithium-ion battery recycling event on September 30th.
- Northern Michigan University
 - NMU is releasing its draft Carbon Neutrality Plan for public/campus comment through October.
 - Northern Initiatives is providing \$5,000 to local businesses who work with NMU students to receive a sustainability audit and B Corp certification.
- Michigan Environmental Council
 - A rally will be held in Lansing to support strong energy bills currently before the state senate.
 - MEC received the DOE Energizing Rural Communities Prize focused on siting renewable energy installations and creating a home energy efficiency retrofit program in Alger County, which is a Justice40 community. The first phase is intended to serve as a community engagement period where they will host a series of community education events in coordination with Alger County Renewable Energy Solutions, doing energy auditing and generally building support and excitement for clean energy. The second phase if funded would include boots on the ground project implementation. MEC is working on the project with Michigan Energy Options, the UP Environmental Coalition, and Michigan Saves.
- Michigan Energy Options
 - MEO will engage three tribes to participate in energy planning.
- Superior Watershed Partnership
 - The GLCC wrapped up another successful summer field season. A total of 40 seasonal staff were hired in 2023 completing a variety of conservation, restoration, and recreation projects all across the Upper Peninsula. Our fall crew picked up where the summer crew left off and will continue working on projects including KBIC NRD/forestry work, Hiawatha National Forest native species planting/seed collection, and a variety of tree planting projects until they wrap up in early November.

- SWP received funding through EGLE’s Charge Up Michigan grant program to install two rapid EV charging stations in Marquette near the Ore Dock in downtown Marquette. Thanks to the SmartZone, Marquette DDA, and City of Marquette for partnering on this project as well as Jessie and Julie for all of their assistance. Munising will receive three rapid EV chargers as well through the same Charge Up Michigan grant program.
 - SWP’s Climate and Energy Office installed their 25th low-income solar system, our first in the City of Marquette. These solar installations are funded through local, state and private grant funding
 - Marquette County
 - Congratulations to Greg Seppanen for being inducted into the UP Labor Hall of Fame!
 - Michigan Climate Action Network (MiCAN): CATF was asked to be on the MiCAN Steering Committee. This was discussed at the Steering Committee meeting and approved by its members.
 - Please review the Regional Housing Action Plan and provide your comments by September 29th. This will directly support funding projects in our region!
 - The passing up the updated to Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act- Solid Waste Act.
 1. The Marquette County Board will receive a letter from EGLE in the coming weeks requesting a letter of intent to plan for a Materials Management Plan. The Counties response will define if we are writing a single county plan or a multi-county plan.
 - Marquette County was denied a flood assistance request by the federal government. A small amount of money from the state is available, but doesn’t address the vast majority of damage sustained from this spring’s flooding.

7. Good of the Order

- Adjournment 3:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.