



MARQUETTE COUNTY
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE

CATF Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2023
2:00 p.m. Cohodas Rm. 604

Members in Attendance (* denotes attendance via Zoom):

Zosia Eppensteiner*, Jennifer Figler* (from Rep. Jenn Hill's office), Brian Hummel, Michael Larson, Emily Leach, Jerry Messana*, Brad Neumann, Tyler Penrod, Erik Powers, Karen Schmitt, Greg Seppanen, Dave Stensaas*, Ryan Stock*, Jes Thompson, Darlene Walch, Johanna Worley

Guests in Attendance: Abby Wallace

1. Outreach Committee Update

- Marquette 2050
 - The Marquette 2050 planning group has met twice with the goal of hosting learning circles to explore alternative futures for Marquette in the realms of economic, social, and environmental impacts of climate change in 2050.
 - Greg and Jes met with NMU President Brock Tessman who is supportive of the project and would like to see the learning circles held at NMU. He stressed the importance of keeping this objective and inclusive.
 - Greg and Jes also met with InvestUP who was very supportive and wanted to be associated with the project and would like to be kept updated as planning progresses.
 - Abby Wallace will act as facilitator for the Marquette 2050 project as her thesis project for her graduate program, under the supervision of Jes Thompson.
 - The planning group will establish a timeline and nail down other details in future planning meetings.
- CATF Website Launched
 - You can view our new website at: www.marquettecountycatf.org

2. Implementation Committee Update

- UP Clean Energy Coalition (UPCEC) development
 - The Governor Whitmer appointed UP Energy Task Force provided the state with sixteen (16) recommendations in 2021 that didn't result in much action. This coalition, among other goals, will advocate for the implementation of prioritized recommendations to improve the resiliency of the UP energy system. The UPCEC steering committee has met once and Michael Larson is chairing the group. Abby Wallace with the Michigan Environmental Coalition (MEC) is providing staff support.

3. Membership Committee Update

- Abby Wallace from MEC is interested in joining CATF. She'll be considered by the Membership Committee after this meeting.

- CATF members expressed interest in the Membership Committee exploring potential CATF representation from KBIC, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Marquette BLP.

4. Spring Flood Update

- Brian Hummel, Marquette County Emergency Management Coordinator, provided an overview. A pair of rapid snow melt events resulted in flood damage to more than 150 Marquette County homes and business. 23 structures experienced major damage or were destroyed. It's estimated that repairs to public infrastructure will cost \$7 million.
- It's unlikely this disaster will qualify for state or federal relief through traditional channels. Alternative mechanisms are being explored to fund the recovery.

5. Round Table Updates

- Northern Michigan University
 - Ryan is working with a group to improve the NMU Green Fund. The goal is to streamline the process for approvals of projects at all levels.
 - Ryan is creating the NCN Climate@Noon seminar schedule and is looking for someone to present in December 2023.
 - There will be more campus wide discussions on carbon neutrality at the request of NMU President Brock Tessman who is serious about accomplishing the University's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050. Since 2010, NMU has already reduced its carbon footprint by nearly 30% by "right-sizing" the campus footprint. NMU already has the lowest carbon footprint of all Michigan universities who publish their emissions.
- CFMC distributed \$120,000 in grant funding this cycle across the county and is right in the middle of the scholarship application review process.
- MEO is working with two Upper Peninsula tribes on energy policy planning and energy audits.
- Jes was appointed to the National Park Service Advisory Board to share her expertise and advise the Secretary of Interior.
- The Marquette LWV has 68 core members interested in environmental policy advocacy on several different fronts including storm water runoff, energy, single-use plastics, etc.
- Sands Township has funding from EGLE to recycle e-waste and launched with two days of collection. More than 250 vehicles contributed e-waste with more than 300 large screen items collected. The truck hauling the e-waste away was filled to capacity with 15 pallets of e-waste left at the township transfer station. Sands Township will be hosting e-waste collection events the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am-2pm for at least the next year. Volunteers would be appreciated.
- Marquette Township
 - Marquette Township currently requires a special use permit for residential solar. The planning department has recommended action to streamline the process and will be considered at a public hearing next week.
 - The Township Board will be voting on the Climate Resolution championed by Anni and CATF at their July 5th meeting.
- Marquette County was certified by MI Green Communities at the bronze level. Technical assistance will be provided by the state to progress on sustainability goals.
- Superior Watershed Partnership

- Buoys were deployed this spring providing real-time weather data including wind speed, water temperature, and wave height to recreational and commercial boaters. This data is used by NWS, NOAA, and Environment Canada for climate research. You can view this weather data on the GLOS Seagull website.
- GLCC is half way through their summer season. #0 seasonal staff have been hard at work this summer accomplishing conservation, restoration, and recreation projects across the UP.
- SWP received more than \$400,000 to make UP communities more resilient to wildfires. SWP is asking tribes and local units of government to submit sites/photos for GLCC to inventory and reduce hazardous fuel loads around public infrastructure. The link to the submission form will be shared with CATF members after the meeting.
- The legislative “Energy Task Force,” which Jenn Hill is part of, will be in Marquette for a listening session on July 14 at NMU. CATF members are encouraged to attend to share views on UP energy reliability.

6. Good of the Order

- Adjournment 4:06 p.m.

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