



MARQUETTE COUNTY  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION  
TASK FORCE

CATF Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 16, 2023  
2:00 p.m. Cohodas Hall Rm. 604

**Members in Attendance:**

Karen Alholm, Zosia Eppensteiner, Jenn Hill, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Emily Leach, Jerry Messana, Brad Neumann, Tyler Penrod, Karen Schmitt, Greg Seppanen, Anni Skillicorn, Dave Stensaas, Jes Thompson, Darlene Walch

**Guests in Attendance: Amy Stevens**

**1. Steering Committee Elections**

- Chairperson
  - Jes Thompson nominates Emily Leach for Chairperson.
  - Emily accepts nomination.
  - Bob Kulishek seconds.
  - Unanimously approved.
- Vice Chairperson
  - Greg Seppanen nominates Zosia Eppensteiner for Vice Chairperson.
  - Zosia accepts nomination.
  - Jes seconds.
  - Unanimously approved.
- Coordinator
  - Jes nominates Tyler Penrod for Coordinator.
  - Tyler accepts nomination.
  - Dave seconds.
  - Unanimously approved.
- Member at Large
  - Bob nominates Dave Stensaas for Steering Committee Member at Large.
  - Dave accepts nomination.
  - Tyler seconds.
  - Unanimously approved.
- Member at Large
  - Darlene nominates Bob, Jes, and Brad for Steering Committee Member at Large.
  - Bob, Jes, and Brad accept nomination.
  - Michael seconds.
  - Unanimously approved.

**2. 2022 Year-End Report**

- The 2022 Year-End Report was approved.

**3. 2023 Work Plan**

- Update the 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point under the Climate Resiliency Education and Outreach section to read, "Support the implementation of recommendations from the Coastlines and People project for regional sustainable coastal development along Lake Superior's south shore." Consider adding scenario planning to this line or making it its own bullet point.

- Add support local organizations in pursuing IRA funding to the External Funding section
- Remove “Michigan Sea Grant/ Michigan State University Extension (MSUE)” from the last bullet of the Climate Resiliency, Education and Outreach
- Karen Alholm moves to approve the 2023 Work Plan with the edits listed above. Jes seconds. Unanimously approved.

#### **4. Subcommittees Appointments**

- Membership Committee
  - Michael Larson, Greg Seppanen, and Brad Neumann appointed to the Membership Committee
- Implementation Committee
  - Greg motions to create this subcommittee. Jes seconds. Unanimously approved.
  - Michael Larson (chair), Dale Throenle, Karen Schmitt, and Tyler Penrod joined the subcommittee.
- Outreach Committee
  - Greg motions to create this subcommittee. Jes seconds. Unanimously approved.
  - Jes Thompson (chair) Johanna Worley, and Greg Seppanen joined the committee.
  - Marquette Futures 2050 Proposal
    1. See the attached “Marquette Futures 2050” document for a description of the proposed climate planning workshop series.
    2. Cost and time efficiency should be considered when determining the number of workshops and staff time required to implement this planning activity.
    3. The Superior Watershed Partnership has offered to fund the venue and provide staff support on a limited basis to help support CATF in planning the workshop.
    4. Scenario planning creates the relationships and pathways for policy and implementation to take place. Data to support alternative scenarios needs to be gathered and outcomes/deliverables need to be determined before workshops begin. This proposal would begin with internal workshop sessions with invited stakeholders before bringing this to the general public.

#### **5. Membership Committee Update**

- A poll will be sent to CATF members after the meeting to vote on membership recommendations from the membership committee.

#### **6. Climate Resolutions Updates**

- Both made it past the planning commission but haven’t been voted upon by the Township Board or Marquette County Board yet. CATF members are encouraged to attend Marquette County’s upcoming board meeting on Tuesday, March 21 in room 231 at 3 p.m. (234 W Baraga Ave. Marquette, MI 49855).

#### **7. Round Table Updates**

- City of Marquette
  - Master Plan process is underway with many opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement/input. Visit <https://marquette-master-plan-bria2.hub.arcgis.com/> for more information about the master planning process and updates as it progresses.
  - The City of Marquette was selected as a pilot community for resiliency planning by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

- This will be incorporated into the master planning process and could act as the catalyst for the development of a city climate action plan.
- Community Foundation of Marquette County
    - Applications are open for grant funding until April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon.
    - Statewide community housing meeting March 23<sup>rd</sup> at NMU <https://members-cedam.wildapricot.org/event-5181405> Brad and MSUE will be assisting in facilitating.
    - Childcare Spark provides small business support to new in-home daycare and early childhood education providers.
  - NMU Sustainability Audit
    - Northern Michigan University was one of only 12 institutions to achieve a silver rating on the STARS framework for evaluating sustainability. The administration is supportive of increasing the STARS rating of NMU in the future.
  - Michigan Energy Options
    - Continued work on implementation of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and appliance recycling programs.
    - Currently consulting with several western Upper Peninsula and Lower Peninsula groups on renewable energy and energy conservation projects/policy initiatives.
  - League of Women Voters
    - Michigan is the only state that doesn't regulate septic systems. LWV is supporting research with more details to come soon.
    - The local chapter's environmental committee has restarted with substantial interest from Marquette's more than 100 members.
  - Superior Watershed Partnership
    - SWP has received a grant for the installation of 6 electric vehicle rapid charging stations: 3 each for the cities of Marquette and Munising. Once installed, they will bring the total number of rapid EV charging stations in the Upper Peninsula to 14 from the 8 existing stations. Other Lake Superior coastal communities have reached out to SWP expressing interest in assistance to apply for funding to install rapid EV charging stations in their communities.
    - The Great Lakes Climate Corps summer field season kicks off May 9<sup>th</sup> and hiring is underway for 30 seasonal corpsmembers. GLCC will continue to grow its relationships with dozens of tribal, federal, state, and local partners to implement hands-on conservation, restoration, and recreation work with a special focus on projects that help adapt the region to a changing climate.
    - SWP has funding available to mitigate increasing risk of wildfire posed by climate change. SWP is seeking recommended project sites from partners to reduce hazardous fuel loads from around public and private infrastructure.

## 8. Good of the Order

- Adjournment 4:01 p.m.

**Next Meeting: June 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**