



**CATF Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**Members in Attendance:** Bob Kulisheck, Brad Neumann, Dave Stensaas, Emily Leach, Greg Seppanen, Jerry Messana, Jes Thompson, Martha Gerig, Tyler Penrod, Zosia Eppensteiner

**Guests in Attendance:** Courtney Timmons & Rich VanderVeen

**1. Guest Presentation: Superior Solar Project**

- Courtney Timmons & Rich VanderVeen
  - This project will help the U.P. transition away from Wisconsin natural gas to fixed price solar energy. Marquette's closed coal plants have created an opportunity for clean energy to meet demand from a local source.
  - The site location in Sands Township is adjacent to the U.P.'s largest transmission line.
  - The 1,500 acre project is planned to be 150MW which could power 35,000-40,000 U.P. homes.
  - The capital investment of \$100-\$150 million will produce \$15-\$20 million in tax revenue for the area.
  - The panels are specially designed for U.P. winters; they are bi-facial to collect light reflecting off the ground.
  - Savion working with community to protect outdoor recreational opportunities.
  - Construction planned for 2022/2023, pending power purchase agreement.
  - 200 temporary construction jobs and 1-2 full time jobs will be created.
  - The proposed project area is on Cliff's property which is part of the CFA program.
- Letter of Support
  - CATF unanimously approves the draft letter of support for the Superior Solar Project to be sent to Marquette County, Sands Township Planning Commission, UPPCO, MBLP, and other utilities.

**2. Marquette County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Review**

- Seeking CATF Input
  - The plan is currently seeking Michigan State Police approval before being submitted to FEMA for approval. The accelerated update of this plan will allow non-profits and municipalities to apply for FEMA grant funding for mitigation projects included in the plan, including climate change mitigation projects.
  - Jes questioned areas where there is 2010 data; Emily explained the NOAA data is released every 10 years and has not been released yet.
  - Greg has minor edits to the Chocolay Twp Analysis section noting lake levels.
  - CATF support of the broad goals and mitigation actions listed.
  - Other suggestions can be directed to Emily within the next two weeks.

**3. Marquette County Master Plan 2040 – Climate Adaptation**

- Unanimous approval to send the proposed Climate Adaptation Goals letter to the County Planning Commission.
- Creation of a sub-committee to refine the County Master Plan's climate section.

- The sub-committee will be composed of Emily Leach, Brad Neumann, Martha Gerig, Jes Thompson, and Tyler Penrod.

#### 4. Round Table Updates

- Jes Thompson
  - NMU Prof. Ryan Stock is arranging speakers for the winter semester Climate@Noon seminar series. Contact Jes or Ryan with suggestions.
  - The NCN website is currently under construction by an NMU Grad Student.
  - NSF Coastlines & People project booklet is nearly complete and will be available to the public soon.
- Brad Neumann
  - The MICHAP booklet is available online. It can be viewed at: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339--541175--,00.html>
  - MSUE is seeking to restore \$11,000 in funding for the 4H program that was recently cut from the County's 2021 budget. Contact Brad if you have contacts that may help MSUE restore that funding.
  - Negaunee City and Marquette Township were successful in their community planning and were invited to apply for the second phase of project implementation funding from MDHHS.
- Zosia Eppensteiner
  - Four rain gardens were installed by the GLCC this summer in Marquette at two residential homes, Bothwell Middle School, and at the corner of Washington St. and Lakeshore Blvd, as part of the GLOW project. Great Lakes funders have diverted funds to Covid-relief and the CFMC is no longer a part of GLOW.
  - The clean energy fund will allow non-profits to apply for grants to complete clean energy work in the County. Grants will be distributed in 2021.
  - The Covid Community Support Fund is shifting to its second phase: operational support of non-profits. The application window will be open through December.
- Tyler Penrod
  - The ECC served about 2,000 U.P. families this year and completed all 10 of their planned 2020 solar installations for low income families. The ECC crew is postponing in-home services until the covid-19 infection rate slows in the U.P.
  - The GLCC accomplished significant conservation and climate adaptation objectives across the U.P. this summer and fall. GLCC accomplishments include 2 volunteer events, 7 historic restorations, 119 miles of built/maintained trail, 5,843 scrap tires recycled, 103 tons of waste removed from environment, 65 acres treated for invasive species, 4,100lbs of wild rice planted, 7,300 trees planted, 17,700 native plants planted, and 0 GLCC covid-19 cases.
  - GLCC is still on track to naturalize the Lakeshore Boulevard project by planting beach grass as well as native trees and plants.

#### 5. Good of the Order

- 2021 Meeting Dates
  - February 18th @10:00am
  - May 20th @10:00am
  - August 19th @10:00am
  - November 18th @10:00am
- Adjournment 2:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting: February 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**