



MARQUETTE COUNTY
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE

CATF Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 8, 2022
2:30 p.m. Cohodas Rm. 604/Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Karen Alholm, Andie Balenger, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Emily Leach, Jerry Messana, Brad Neumann, Tyler Penrod, Erik Powers, Anni Skillicorn, Dave Stensaas, Jes Thompson, Johanna Worley

Guests in Attendance: Kathleen Duffy

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome to Andie and Johanna who are present on behalf of the League of Women Voters.

2. Approved 2023 Meeting Dates (2:00-3:30 p.m.)

- March 16
- June 22
- September 14
- December 14

3. CATF Website Progress Report

- Tyler is exploring the creation of new domain such as www.mqtccatf.org
- The current webpage has a new layout for meeting dates, minutes, and agendas and the new domain will have user friendly and interactive pages for recorded presentations and resources for stakeholders.

4. Presentation: City of Marquette Resiliency Planning by MEDC and Smith Group

- Kathleen Duffy from the Smith Group described the resiliency process that is occurring with the City of Marquette and stakeholders and led a discussion:
 - Is the Superior Watershed Partnership's Marquette County Climate Plan and the NMU Coastlines and People plan being utilized?
 1. Much of the value came from the process of creating the plans which involved extensive stakeholder engagement.
 - Is there anything missing from the plans that if included would open doors to additional funding?
 1. Language regarding weatherization is key to address the City of Marquette's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 and to help open the door to imminent funding that is available to retrofit and improve efficiency of existing structures.
 - What are the barriers to success that CATF partners face in accomplishing goals?
 1. CATF has engaged well with academics, NGO's, and local units of government, but not private businesses and developers. Dave suggested that he is a key link between CATF and developers during the pre-application phase of development.

5. Climate Resolutions Update

- Marquette County
 - The draft has been revised and is nearing completion.
 - If approved, the Marquette County resolution and a letter that describes CATF and how CATF can support local initiatives will be shared with all units of government within the county encouraging action within local units of government to address climate change.
- Marquette Township
 - The draft went before commission on November 9th and they expressed a need for clarification on what they'd be committing to if adopted. This resolution prioritizes higher capacity development (ADU's, multi-family homes, etc.) and streamlining the permitting process for residential solar. A work session is being planned for commissioners to gain a better understanding of the proposed resolution and to make revisions.

6. Round Table Updates

- City of Marquette Master Plan
 - Dave Stensaas encouraged CATF members to sign up for updates on the planning process by visiting the master plan website: <https://marquette-master-plan-bria2.hub.arcgis.com/>
- League of Women's Voters is focused on climate action in the local community with the 2022 midterm election in the rearview mirror.
- Marquette Township is focused on updating codes throughout the winter to make them more friendly to higher capacity development (ADU's, multi-family homes, etc.) and streamlining the permitting process for residential solar which currently requires a special use permit and a public hearing.
- Marquette County's Local Emergency Planning Committee is looking for up to 8 additional members. The State of Michigan is responsible for appointing committee members who act in an emergency planning and preparation capacity. Contact Brian Hummel for more information.
- NMU's Sustainability Hub is now fully powered by a solar unit paid for by students through the Green Fund.
- The CATF Membership Committee sent membership renewal invitations to those whose terms were expiring. Tom Tourville will be stepping down as he enjoys retirement from the Marquette Board of Light and Power.
- MSU Extension is hosting a webinar series called Critical Conversations on Sustainable Tourism. The final webinar of the series titled Land Use and Local Government will be December 14 at noon. Recorded webinars from this series can be viewed here: https://mediaspace.msu.edu/playlist/dedicated/1_9vqnpjbj/1_q6v8oewn
- Negaunee Township is the pilot community for a discussion around renewable energy led by University of Michigan graduate students.
- Jenn Hill is being inducted into state legislature today and intends to remain involved in CATF as a State Representative.
- The State of Michigan passed a solid waste management law with a new holistic approach to materials management. It's anticipated that funding will be available to update Marquette County's solid waste management plan.
- SWP has \$288,000 of funding available to remove hazardous fuel loads (tree and brush removal) around community infrastructure to reduce the impact and risk of wildfire.

- SWP received a service award from the Michigan Public Service Commission recognizing their contributions during the beginning of the pandemic including manning contract tracing phones, hosting food distribution events, and opening campgrounds and trails to allow people to recreate safely outdoors weeks before they would've been able to otherwise.
- SWP is partnering with the DNR Forest to Faucet program to plant trees in the Dead River Basin in Marquette County.
- Adjournment 4:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.