



MARQUETTE COUNTY
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE

CATF Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2024
2:00 p.m. Cohodas Rm. 604

Members in Attendance: (Due to weather this meeting was conducted on Zoom)

Pri Burnham, Zosia Eppensteiner, Jane Fitkin, Isabelle Honkomp, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Michael Larson, Emily Leach, Brad Neumann, Tyler Penrod, Erik Powers, Karen Schmitt, Greg Seppanen, Dave Stensaas, Jes Thompson, Dale Throenle, Abby Wallace, Darlene Walch, Johanna Worley

Guests in Attendance: Tori Arnsparger, Krystle Baecker, Christy Foye, Paola Rivera Gonzalez, Sara Kelso, Taylor Mikal, Anna Solberg, Nico Vermaat, Kelsey Wermager

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Committee Updates

- Steering Committee
 - Discussion of elections and committee appointments at the next meeting
- Membership Committee
 - Welcome our newest member: Ali O'Neal!
 - Influx of interest! We'll be inviting folks to join us at meetings in 2025 to experience CATF and present to the group what they do as it related to climate change.
- Outreach Committee
 - Marquette 2049 Learning Circles Series: In summary, 114 people participated in our 6 learning circles representing 65 different organizations. We sent out a survey to learning circle participants to guide our next steps and gather feedback on this series. The outreach committee will meet in January to start planning where to go from here. Summaries of each learning circle can be found here: <https://marquettecountycatf.org/marquette-2049/>
 - Northern Climate Network has organized monthly Climate@Noon seminars for next semester. Attendance varies but the most recent Climate@Noon was standing room only! The upcoming lineup can be found here: <https://nmu.edu/northernclimatenetwork/home>

3. Marquette County Climate Action Plan

- The Marquette County board commissioned an energy audit, vehicle fleet review, and GHG emission audit which were recently finished. The County will be reviewing those audits to inform the Climate Action Plan. The plan will be presented to the County Board for approval in the first quarter of 2025. You can learn more and complete a survey at: www.mgtcoplan.org/climateactionplan

4. Select 2025 Meeting Dates (all meetings 2:00-3:30 p.m.)

- Q1: Feb 27
- Q2: May 15
- Q3: Sept 18
- Q4: Dec 4



5. Round Table Updates

- Marquette County has income qualified home improvement and emergency repair grants that they are working to spend down before the grant funding ends. Another lead abatement contractor training is scheduled to increase the number of approved contractors who can be hired to work under these grants.
- The Marquette County Planning Commission has an open seat. The County Planning Commission does not administer zoning, but per state statute, reviews and advises municipalities on proposed zoning ordinance or map changes. You can find the application here:
https://www.co.marquette.mi.us/departments/county_clerk/application_for_boards_commissions.php
- Greg will present the following description of CATF for approval at our next meeting for use in future press releases and outreach documents: “The Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF) was established in 2013 by representatives from Marquette County, Northern Michigan University (NMU) and the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP). CATF membership continues to grow each year and currently includes over 20 representatives from local government, educational institutions and community organizations.”
- SWP is opening a new office space between Lakeshore Bike and Lakeshore Depot. This will be SWP’s Climate office home to their GLCC, Climate Emergency Response, and e-waste collection programs.
- SWP’s in-home energy efficiency services program is expanding with the planned addition of two new energy efficiency technicians in the coming months. These technicians will continue offering income qualified households free energy efficiency improvements and limited solar installations to lower bills and reduce energy consumption.
- MEO is working with three tribes within the region on carbon counting to prepare them to pursue federal funding in the future.
- The Marquette City Commission is considering how to move forward with climate action planning. You can learn more here:
<https://www.marquettemi.gov/departments/community-development/planning/>
- NMU has a number of events coming up this winter and spring including Climate@Noon seminars, a Zero Waste Hockey Game vs. MTU on January 25, a Sustainability Summit on February 18, a free [PEAK25](#) community conference February 20 & 21, NMU is hosting the [EGLE Northern Michigan Environmental Conference](#) on March 12 & 13 and the [EGLE Climate & Renewable Energy Academy](#) on March 13, and the 2025 UNITED Conference on March 17 & 18.
- CSCLS is continuing their wetland education campaign while pushing for wetland protections in the county. They’ve hosted two Superior On Tap events at the Ore Dock to engage and inform the community on the topic of wetlands.



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- CSCLS started a public drop off location to collect vapes which are considered hazardous waste because of the lithium batteries and liquid nicotine.
- SWP, CFMC, and KBIC are working to extend the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) to include environmental monitoring of new Eagle Mine operations in battery recycling and tailings processing.
- SWP presented at the Council of Michigan Foundations annual conference and this could be an opportunity for CATF to reach this audience in the future.
- Chocoley Township is using the national zoning atlas model to create an interactive mapping tool.
- The LWV is hosting a tour of the Humbolt Mill. Contact Johanna Worley for more information and to RSVP: johannaworley@gmail.com

6. Good of the Order

- Funding Opportunities:
 - The Minneapolis Foundation and their partners at the Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN), NDN Collective, and RE-AMP Network are accepting applications for funding through the [Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities grantmaking program](#). This three-year program will distribute \$40 million for environmental and public health projects to communities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 36 federally recognized tribal nations. Nonprofit organizations, local and tribal governments, and institutions of higher education that work in the Great Lakes region are all welcome to apply for funding.
 - [The Funders Network \(TFN\)](#), in partnership with the [Urban Sustainability Directors Network \(USDN\)](#), is thrilled to announce the opening of the latest round of the Partners for Places grant program. The deadline to submit proposals is February 28, 2025. The [Partners for Places](#) matching grant program supports equitable sustainability projects and helps build partnerships between local government leaders, frontline community groups and place-based funders in the U.S. and Canada.
- Adjournment 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.