



MARQUETTE COUNTY  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION  
TASK FORCE

CATF Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 27  
2:00 p.m. Building Rm. 604

**Members in Attendance:**

Karen Alholm, Krystle Baecker, Pri Burnham, Zosia Eppensteiner, Jane Fitkin, Jenn Hill, Isabelle Honkomp, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Michael Larson, Emily Leach, Brad Neumann, Ali O'Neal, Tyler Penrod, Erik Powers, Paola Rivera, Greg Seppanen, Anna Solberg, Dave Stensaas, Ryan Stock, Jes Thompson, Dale Throenle, Nico Vermaat, Abby Wallace, Darlene Walch, Johanna Worley

**Guests in Attendance:** Caroline LaPorte, Maddie O'Donnell, Sara Kelso, Patti Clancy, Joe Daniels, Kelsey Wermager

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Election of Officers and Steering Committee**

- Jes Thompson elected CATF Chair
- Bob Kulisheck elected Vice Chair
- Anna Solberg elected Coordinator
- Brian Hummel elected to Steering Committee
- Emily Leach elected to Steering Committee
- Brad Neumann elected to Steering Committee
- Dave Stensaas elected to Steering Committee

**3. Committee Updates**

- Outreach Committee: Marquette 2049 Learning Circle
  - Greg, Bob, Isabelle, Jenn, Johanna, Anna, Emily, Paola, and Jane were appointed to the Outreach Committee.
  - Anna will be accepting comments on the summary document for the next month before finalizing the document to post on the CATF website and share with Learning Circle attendees.
  - What comes next after the Learning Circle Series will include internal presentations to CATF, public presentations, and creating action items through a strategic doing process.
- Membership Committee
  - Brad, Greg, and Zosia were appointed to the Membership Committee.
  - CATF has 22 official members and substantial interest in joining CATF.

**4. Climate Action Plan – Draft for Review**

- Marquette County released a draft of the Climate Action Plan for public feedback which will be accepted through March 24<sup>th</sup> before presenting the plan to the County Board the first week of April for approval.

**5. 2024 CATF Year-End Report**

- The YER was approved with edits and additions discussed at the meeting to be posted on the website.

**6. 2025 CATF Work Plan**

- The Work Plan was approved with edits and additions discussed at the meeting to be posted on the website.

## 7. Round Table Updates

- CFMC distributed grants totaling >\$3 million in 2024 to benefit Marquette County. 2025 grant applications for spring will open March 1<sup>st</sup> and the deadline to apply is March 28<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- The Community Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) is up for renewal. CEMP is a partnership between CFMC, SWP, and KBIC to conduct independent environmental monitoring of Eagle Mine and Humboldt Mill.
- Sands Township installed solar panels on the township office planning to utilize federal tax credits to help pay for them, but obstacles may prevent Sands Township from receiving that funding. Marquette Township has navigated this process before and may be able to help.
- The City of Marquette is developing their 2-year Strategic Plan and the Community Development Dept. is submitting a request to support the creation of a Climate Action Plan in accordance with recommendations of their recently-adopted Community Master Plan, which includes a standalone Climate Action Framework Plan that can be found online:  
<https://www.marquettemi.gov/departments/community-development/planning/>
- Chocolay Township is updating their master plan and zoning ordinances this year.
- March 12-13 EGLE will be hosting the Northern Michigan Environmental Conference at NMU.
- Registration for the MI Healthy Climate Conference is still open for the conference which will be held April 22-23.
- The State of Michigan received \$500 million to fund the new MI Solar for All program with public input sessions to be held virtually. Links to those sessions will be distributed after the meeting.
- NCN's next Climate@Noon seminar will now be hosted April 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. John Barch will present "Your Brain on Nature."
- April 20-26 is Anderton's Earth Week at NMU. More details including the schedule will be distributed after the meeting.
- Marquette County's Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be updated in 2025.
- Scott Erbisch is retiring after a distinguished career serving Marquette County. Scott is supportive of CATF and was one of CATF's founding members. The Marquette County Board selected Dennis Liimatta as the new Marquette County Administrator.
- Superior Watershed Partnership is hiring for the Great Lakes Climate Corps summer field season. The GLCC program is now based out of the SWP Climate Office (formerly Fred's Rubber Stamp) which will also serve as a weekly community electronic waste collection site and headquarters for the SWP Climate Emergency Response Program.

## 8. Good of the Order

- Adjournment 3:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting: May 15, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.**