

JOINT GOVERNMENTAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
Wednesday, March 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Escanaba City Council Chambers, Room C101, 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, Michigan, Delta County.

Present: Escanaba Delta County Commissioners David Rivard and John Malnar, Escanaba City Mayor Marc D. Tall, Escanaba City Manager James V. O'Toole, City Clerk Robert S. Richards, Judy Trudell of Maple Ridge Township, Cornell Township Supervisor Steve Rose, Rhiannon Haller of CUPPAD, members of the public and media.

Escanaba City Manager Jim O'Toole called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Michigan Development Zone – Superior Trade Zone.

The Superior Trade Zone application with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation was discussed.

- Manager O'Toole updated those in attendance on the application for the Superior Trade Zone;
- Representatives were down in Lansing last month meeting with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). At that time, the Michigan Strategic Fund, who oversees the MEDC, requested that a job analysis be performed prior to any approval;
- The job analysis was completed by Northern Michigan University and sent down to Lansing;
- The job analysis stated there was a potential of creating 2,500 jobs added to the region during the next two decades with the creation of the Superior Trade Zone;
- Once approved, participating municipalities would need to work together as a team to accomplish the Superior Trade Zone goals;
- Manager O'Toole stated he would be in Lansing next month to attend the Michigan Strategic Fund meeting where he expected immediate approval.

Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Funding.

Rhiannon Haller of CUPPAD gave an update on funding available to conduct broadband surveys and map results, as well as other regional projects through the Regional Prosperity Collaborative.

Discussion – Items of Mutual Interest and Concern.

Those in attendance also provided Items of Mutual Interest and Concern in their municipalities that included a discussion to link area trails and bike paths:

- Discussed the possibility of other communities connecting to the proposed bike path between Gladstone and Escanaba;
- CUPPAD would assist in a county-wide bike system master plan to help scope and costs involved in expanding existing trails established in other municipalities;
- CUPPAD was currently working on a regional recreation plan that would include non-motorized trails which included potential private and public development heads;
- The City of Escanaba had established bike paths, but there were gaps in its system;

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- Members were encouraged to contact CUPPAD for further.

Next scheduled meeting was April 8, 2015.

Hearing no further public comment, meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Robert S. Richards, Escanaba City Clerk, Recording Secretary