

MINUTES – EASTERN REGIONAL UP RC&D MEETING
Cedarville Community Library, February 7, 2007

Present: Pat Carr, Dusty King, Wendy Wagoner and Rich Serfass-CEMCD; Sharon Brown and David Mitchell-LWMCD; Mike Patrick-Mackinac Co. Commission; Dick Timmer-Chippewa Co. Commission; Richard Stevenson-MDNR; Scott Hughey and Mike LaPointe-NRCS; Nathan Fazer-EUPPDR; Dean Reid-Mackinac Co. Planning Commission; Marilyn Shy, Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with the addition of EUPPDR under Reports (Timmer/Carr).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The previous meeting minutes were approved (Timmer/Serfass).

Business Items:

Election of Officers: Marilyn reported that the UP RC&D Council by-laws are currently under review and that her understanding of them as they now stand is that each county will be represented on the Eastern Council by an appointee and an alternate, each conservation district will also be represented by an appointee and alternate and there may also be one at-large representative. In effect a quorum would exist with 5 voting members present. Members present agreed that they currently were in transition in filling all these positions and at this time the council would elect a pro-tem chairperson. To avoid any conflict of interest or perception of such, Sharon Brown temporarily vacated the chair and appointed Darcy Rutkowski, the UPRC&D Council's Executive Assistant to conduct the election. Ms. Rutkowski called for nominations to the office of pro-tem chair. Dick Timmer was nominated for the office of Chairperson by Carr, supported by Mitchell. Ms. Rutkowski then called for further nominations from the floor three times for this office, there being no further nominations Carr moved that the nominations be closed and the clerk be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees. The motion was supported by Mitchell. *Motion Carried.*

Newsletter Feedback: The current newsletter received favorable comments and an idea for future issues would be some information on the new Quality Forest Act.

Update on Re-establishment of Forestry Committee: Marilyn highlighted the background of the Forestry Committee and status of the re-establishment. A committee met to formulate a draft mission statement which was distributed for comments. The consensus of the group was that the word "economy" should be more clearly spelled out.

Area Plan Update: The UP RC&D Council is currently in the process of updating its Area Plan. The new plan will be in effect beginning in 2008. The council is seeking input from partners and stakeholders regarding their views on the most important resource needs and opportunities facing the Upper Peninsula now and in the next 5 years. As a starting point, the Council is reviewing the current Resource Assessment documents from all 13 UP Conservation Districts and summarizing the resource conservation and development issues that they have identified. A preliminary summary (including all but two districts) was presented. Members present were asked to pass along their ideas regarding the best ways to gather input from stakeholders.

Reports:

Chippewa County: Dick Timmer reported that finances are a big issue for the county right now (possible cut in funding to airport in the works). Chippewa County's situation is dependent on how the State budget develops, but in general counties are receiving less money and slower delivery of funds, and seeing flat line budgets as better than cuts. The County is still playing with the concept of renewable fuels (grasses). BMCC is working with MSUE on 16 experimental species. They are also looking at a pelletization plant.

Mackinac County: Dean Reid noted that Mackinac County is also interested in biofuels (their master plan includes some biofuels ideas). They are also exploring a wood-fired electric plant (could help adjoining counties) and wood conversion to ethanol further down the line. At this point using corn for ethanol and soy for biofuel competes with those crops as food stocks. There is a need to utilize "marginal" farmlands for these biofuels, not prime farmlands.

NRCS: Mike LaPointe reported that NRCS has been under a Continuing Resolution since October 2006. The new Farm Bill is favorable to conservation with proposals for energy incentives and an increase WRP funding. He suggested that it would be a good idea to put a link on the UP RC&D website to the Farm Bill. The President's budget contains significant reductions for the RC&D program. It proposes cutting support for coordinators in 370 RC&D areas down to supporting only 50 areas (1 per state). He mentioned that Chippewa County is one of the leaders in the state in NRCS funding – partly due to the topography there, and that conservation is contributing to the economy of some of the UP counties. Scott Hughey reported that he is now busy with sign-ups for WRP, WHIP and EQIP.

Chippewa/East Mackinac CD: This is a very busy time for the district with the Annual Tree Sale now in progress and the Les Cheneaux watershed personnel (Pat & Hank) having recently moved to an office in Cedarville to work on a 3-year 319 grant for that watershed.

Luce/West Mackinac CD: Sharon Brown reported that the Hamilton Lake Project was chosen as one of the 100 Smart Growth Case Studies by the Land Policy Institute at MSU. The Tacquamenon Area Civic Center Committee will be holding a meeting of stakeholders with local government officials to form a recreational authority. The District is currently working on a position statement on the proposed Kennecott Mine in Marquette County. They feel the mine is a far-reaching issue and being the first of it's kind in Michigan, it will set a precedent for future mining endeavors.

DNR: Richard Stevenson reported that there were six new forestry bills in 2006, three were modifications to CFA. The Qualified Forestry Program is being done cooperatively between the DNR and Dept of Treasury and will reduce taxes on wooded property. The application form is not yet available and the bill requires the property owner to harvest the forest at some point or incur significant penalties. The Farm Bill was not kind to the DNR and the NRC is discussing how to deal with lack of funding (possible license fee increases).

Coordinator's Report: Marilyn distributed a written report highlighting various projects. She asked for input on the name of the "Forestry Committee vs. The Forest Resources Committee". Richard Stevenson feels that "forest resources" is more encompassing (includes biofuels, etc.).

EUPPDR: Nathan Fazer was attending his first Eastern UP RC&D Council meeting on behalf of the EUPPDR. He hopes to attend future meetings. He is currently working on a bike path project from St. Ignace to Drummond Island. Pat Carr feels that RC&D would be a valuable partner in this project and would like Chippewa County to also get involved. He mentioned there are lots of fragmented groups working on bike paths/trails in the Eastern UP and they might benefit from coordinating their activities.

New Projects:

Les Cheneaux Watershed Project: Pat Carr reported that CEMCD worked to write a management plan and received an implementation grant of \$600,000 to cover information, education, structural fixes for sediment problems (culverts, streambank stabilization). They have incorporated water quality protection language in the Clark Township Master Plan. They are working with the Little Traverse Conservancy to provide landowners information to conserve land for water quality purposes. Pat thought this project had previously been approved as a UP RC&D Council Project – but there was no official mention of it in meeting minutes. The project was approved (Stevenson/Patrick).

EUP Cooperative Weed Management Area: This new project was approved (Hughey/Mitchell).

Correspondence: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9th at 1 pm in Newberry

**MINUTES – EASTERN REGIONAL UP RC&D MEETING
McMillan Township Hall, May 9, 2007**

Present: Pat Carr-CEMCD; Sharon Brown and David Mitchell-LWMCD; Jill Maki-Luce Co. Commission; Dick Timmer-Chippewa Co. Commission; Will Bomier and Roger Quist-NRCS; Nathan Fazer-EUPPDR; Aaron Hopper-Chippewa County At-large member; Marilyn Shy, Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by chairperson Dick Timmer. The agenda was approved (Brown/Fazer).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of February 7, 2007 were approved as written (Brown/Hopper).

Business Items:

Legislative Updates: Darcy reported that the UP RC&D Council sent letters to Rep. Stupak, and Senators Levin and Stabenow urging them to support full funding for the RC&D program (flat funding). The president's budget had recommended cutting the funding from \$56 million to \$14 million and eliminating all but one Coordinator in each state.

Update on Re-establishment of the Forest Resources Committee: The first meeting of the newly re-established Forest Resources Committee will take place at the UP RC&D office on May 15, 2007. Meeting notices have been sent to all former Forestry Committee Members and several others who have expressed an interest in attending. The Mission Statement which was approved at the last UP Council meeting was distributed. This first meeting will help establish priorities for the new committee which will work closely with the UP Council. The input from the last Eastern meeting was incorporated into the revised mission statement. Dick Timmer

questioned whether or not this committee might promote a past program that MSU Extension offered which provided certification to loggers regarding safe logging practices, environmental issues, silvaculture, etc.

Area Plan Survey: The UP RC&D Council is in the process of formulating a new 5-year Area Plan which will become effective in 2008. As part of the process they are seeking input from all partners and have developed a survey which was distributed to members present for completion. Dick Timmer suggested that it would be beneficial to have “non-involved people” complete the survey. It was suggested that this might be accomplished at the UP State Fair or County fairs.

Reports:

Chippewa County: Dick Timmer reported that the Conservation District is now handling the soil erosion permits (working with the building authority). Pat Carr is doing the work – the new fee is \$100 for a residential permit which covers the costs of the service. They have been able to diffuse some problem situations between the DEQ and landowners before they got out of hand. Will Bomier reported that he has been involved in the initial conversations with Tim McKee of the County Emergency Mgmt. dept and MDOT concerning windbreak corridors. Work that has been done in the past was not well documented and they hope to develop a better system for keeping track of the work done in the future. They may bring this to the Eastern UP RC&D Council as a proposed project at some point in the future. Roger Quist mentioned the need to determine how the windbreaks will be maintained after they are established. Dick reported that the 10th annual Federal Forest Cleanup will take place on May 19 in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties. Volunteers raise money in advance to pay for the disposal of the trash.

Luce County: Jill Maki is the new Luce County appointee to the RC&D Council. She is dealing with many issues as a Commissioner, but one of the most pressing is ORV problems. All roads in the county are open to ORV's and this is causing some safety and environmental problems. Dave Mitchell mentioned ORV's have been a problem in the Two Hearted River Watershed. Members present indicated that ORV's will become more prevalent in the UP in the future and that one thing that might help with the problems is larger penalties.

NRCS: Roger Quist reported that all the EQIP funding allotted to NRCS in Michigan has been utilized. They are hoping to obtain additional funds from other states that have not utilized all their funds. It looks like the WRP will be well-funded in the new farm bill. Will Bomier reported that there were 10 WRP projects funded in Chippewa/E. Mackinac area, the Michigan allotment was all spent for EQIP, almost all projects were funded under WHIP and they are busy with engineering but still taking these applications. Bids are currently out on 14 wetland projects.

Chippewa/East Mackinac CD: Pat Carr reported that the tree sale in late April went well and that the funding freeze from the State of Michigan is a huge concern for them. Right now the soil erosion program they now administer is helping them financially. The board may have to spend more time solving financial issues, but for now the St. Mary's RWA funding (NRCS) is still intact and the Les Cheneaux funding reimbursement is intact, but delayed.

Luce/West Mackinac CD: Sharon reported that her hours were reduced to 10/week and the board is taking a “wait and see” attitude. They can operate on a shoestring for a couple of years, but won't be able to accomplish many things they would like to. The ORV issue is critical and it was suggested that the penalties for ORV infractions are not severe enough.

EUPPDR: Nathan Fazer reported the North Huron Scenic Pathway project is on hold for 60 days. EUPPDR is working with partners involved to assist them in developing an entity that can accept funds from local government units (like a recreational authority), or possibly establishing the route as a heritage route. They are also involved in early stages of a project that would inventory equipment (UP-wide) that would be available in the event of an emergency. This needs to be done prior to the onset of a disaster.

UP RC&D Coordinator: Marilyn reported that there are approximately 20 active projects in the UP and she highlighted a few and also distributed a written report highlighting several others. The project Central UP Volunteer Stream Monitoring received a MiCorps grant for about \$14,000. This is a two year project to be conducted on the Dead River in Marquette County and the Anna River in Alger County. The UP RC&D Council will receive a small amount of money to administer the grant. She updated those present on the project dealing with the changes in large corporate landownership in the UP and how that might impact recreation, wildlife and the forest products industry. The dates for the three community forums have been set as June 19 in Newberry, June 20 in Marquette and June 21 in Houghton. Invitation mailing lists are being developed by the three Conservation Districts for mailing in mid-May. She also reported that the Tahquamenon Civic Center project is moving forward and she will be attending a meeting tomorrow regarding the establishment of a recreational authority. She also reported on the Central UP Scrap Tire Collection Project. The focus will be on collecting tires from agricultural sites. The Conservation Districts will be surveying their residents as a first step to determine how many tires are out there and where they are located. The DEQ has grant funds available to fund the disposal of the tires, but no money for collection and administration of the program. They hope to use this information to apply for a grant this fall with the intention of collecting the tires next summer. The DEQ has very specific criteria for this type of tire collection – tires must be clean, stacked and counted and there are minimum numbers of tires required. She will forward the survey she developed for this project to the CD's in the Eastern UP so they can survey their residents if they wish.

Project Updates:

Les Cheneaux Watershed Project: Pat Carr reported that some soil erosion sites have preliminary engineering complete, an environmental awareness workshop called “Frog Fest” will take place in the school and community next weekend (5/18-19), and the Little Traverse Conservancy is working on conservation easements in the watershed. He mentioned that to help solve septic system problems they have developed a handbook promoting awareness to help minimize pollutants. Clark Twp. received a grant to fund hazardous waste collection and they are working on a Master Plan and zoning ordinances specifically targeting coastal issues.

St. Mary's RWA Project: Pat also reported on this project. Public meeting attendance has been low and because the public involvement is limited they need funds for educating the public on how to sustain the resources.

Tahquamenon Civic Center Project: Sharon Brown reported that currently four local units of government (two townships, the county and the Village of Newberry) are working to see if a recreational authority could be formed.

Correspondence: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 8th at 1 pm in Sault Ste. Marie

MINUTES – EASTERN REGIONAL UP RC&D MEETING
USDA Service Center, Sault Ste. Marie – August 8, 2007

Present: Dusty King-CEMCD; Jill Maki-Luce Co. Commission; Scott Hughey-NRCS; Nathan Fazer and Jeff Hagan-EUPPDR; Michelle Walk-MSU Extension; Dean Reid-Mackinac Co. Planning Commission; Marilyn Shy and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Darcy Rutkowski as neither the chairperson or vice-chairperson was present. The agenda was approved (Brown/Fazer).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of May 9, 2007 were approved as written (Reid/Hagan).

Business Items:

County Dues Update: Darcy reported that all but 3 counties (Delta, Dickinson and Gogebic) have paid their dues for the 2007 fiscal year.

Legislative Updates: Darcy reported that the latest information she has received was on July 23rd and the RC&D program received \$52,370,000 from the House Appropriations Committee and \$53,150,000 from the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is an increase from the President's budget proposal of \$14.6 million. The next step in the process is for these bills to be considered for a floor vote in both the House and Senate.

Update on Forest Resources Committee: The committee has met twice and has developed a project entitled "B.U.R.N. U.P. (Biomass Utilization & Restoration Network in the Upper Peninsula) which is being sponsored by the Marquette Conservation District and will be brought to the UP Council Meeting in September for approval. This is a UP-wide project which deals with the need to develop a network that will facilitate the exchange of information regarding the availability, location and cost of small woody biomass and explore the feasibility of utilization of this resource by schools or other institutions. The North Dickinson schools have utilized a woodchip heating system since 1991 and there are also models in the western US in "Fuels for Schools" programs. The UP RC&D Council has applied for grant funding for this project from the USFS Forest Restoration Partnership Grant Program and should find out shortly if we were awarded funding. This grant program appeared to be a good fit for this project as it required working partnerships among State Foresters, Conservation Districts, RC&D Councils and local governments. It was suggested that the prison system at Kinross would be a good site to implement a feasibility study.

Area Plan Update: The UP RC&D Council is in the process of formulating a new 5-year Area Plan which will become effective in 2008. Marilyn updated those present on the summary of results of the 60 surveys received so far and asked for input on specific projects that would help those present achieve their vision of what might be accomplished over the next five years. Some possible project ideas are:

Invasive species control – this UP-wide problem could benefit from collaboration, try to gear it toward increasing average citizen participation

Lime-deficient pastureland in the Eastern UP – demonstration plots that would demonstrate to farmers what might work best for their particular situation – utilize lime from quarries in Gulliver and Cedarville – helps prevent high fertilizer use

Alternative Fuels from crops (canola, rape seed, flaxseed, etc) – utilize research from MSU Ext., or switchgrass

Promote local foods – good for health reasons, good for local economy, less shipping/saves energy, several local food markets already exist in the eastern UP

Reports:

Luce County: Jill Maki reported that the wildfire has consumed about 19,600 acres so far although no structures have been lost. ORV's are still a major issue in the county.

Mackinac County: Dean Reid from the Mackinac Co. Planning Commission reported that they are looking at amending the solid waste management plan (adding another hauler). There are inequities in dumping fees at various sites in the county ranging from \$17/ton to \$62.50/ton. They are also looking into methane recapture.

NRCS: Scott Hughey reported that he is busy with construction – 5 WRP projects have been completed, 2-3 more are ready to be started and there are a couple more future projects also (like stream crossings and waste storage facilities on farms). The conservation security program review went well but is not well-funded in the new farm bill.

MSU Extension: Michelle Walk distributed a powerpoint handout on the North Huron Scenic Pathway. The project has many partners (USFS, MDOT, road commissions, Sault Tribe, DEQ, 8 municipalities and 2 counties). The route has not been finalized, but they already have funds to do the engineering study. The Pathway will provide many benefits including increasing nature-based tourism, providing alternative, safe transportation routes, solving some conservation issues, etc. There will be a kickoff meeting with the engineers on August 30th. This will be a long process but has generated a lot of energy and interest so far. There is a steering committee with representation from the partners and EUPPDR will act as the fiscal agency through a Memorandum of Understanding. Long-term maintenance may be handled through a recreational authority.

Chippewa/East Mackinac CD: Dusty King reported that the MDA approached the District to remove ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer traps. Approximately 600 small trees will be removed over a two month period with funding of \$52,000.

EUPPDR: Nathan Fazer reported they are currently involved with a Resource Inventory that details equipment that would be available in the event of an emergency. Also – maps have been printed and distributed which highlight “bike routes (including traffic volumes, etc.) and resources for bikers. Jeff Hagan reported on a trail system in Sault Ste. Marie which utilizes part of an old trolley line along the canal and mentioned that the Pavilion there is being used for a farmers market two days per week.

UP RC&D Coordinator: Marilyn distributed the 2007 Council Annual Plan with updates on progress on various projects. This is a new format for our Annual Plan (which is required to be submitted to NRCS annually). The UP Council feels this format is a better tool for providing them with information on the active projects and accomplishments during the current year.

New Projects: Eastern UP Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA)- This project is sponsored by the Chippewa/East Mackinac CD and is an expansion of the current St. Mary's River RWA. The assessment will take place in portions of the St. Mary's watershed in both Luce and Chippewa counties that are not being studied under the current RWA and funding is being provided by NRCS. The project will begin in September and end by July of 2008. The Chippewa/East Mackinac CD will be working with the Luce West Mackinac CD for community outreach on the project. The project was approved (King/Maki).

Correspondence: A letter was received by the UP Council from Bart Stupak acknowledging receipt of a letter from our council and his support for the RC&D program.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7th at 1 pm in Cedarville.

**MINUTES – EASTERN REGIONAL UP RC&D MEETING
Les Cheneaux Community Library, Cedarville – November 7, 2007**

Present: Dusty King, Rich Serfass, and Forbes McDonald-CEMCD; Jill Maki-Luce Co. Commission; Scott Hughey-NRCS; Jeff Hagan-EUPPDR; Aaron Hopper-UP RC&D Council; Pat Carr-Les Cheneaux Watershed Council; Dean Reid-Mackinac Co. Planning Commission; Marilyn Shy and Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Darcy Rutkowski as neither the chairperson or vice-chairperson was present. The agenda was approved (Hopper/King).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting of August 8, 2007 were approved with the following changes/corrections (Reid/Hagan): under "Area Plan Update" in the paragraph regarding lime-deficient pastureland, change the word "prevent" to "reduce". In the Mackinac Co. report-change the word "county" to "state" and change the last sentence to "Waste Management has indicated that methane recapture is not presently feasible at the landfill".

Business Items:

County Dues Set for 2008: Darcy reported that all but 1 county (Delta) have paid their dues for the 2007 fiscal year. The UP Council voted to leave the 2008 county dues amount at \$300, noting that the dues have not increased for several years.

Update on Forest Resources Committee: Marilyn reported that Dave Andersen resigned as the chairman of the Forest Resources Committee at the last meeting which was held in Escanaba on October 4, 2007 and that no one was interested in taking on that responsibility – so at this point the committee is "chairless". Two groups already exist in the UP which have similar goals to this committee (EUPPEM and WUPPEM), and Marilyn will attend meetings of both to see if they have any interest in serving in the same capacity as the Forest Resources Committee in providing a networking opportunity and bringing projects/ideas to the UP Council in return for the UP RC&D Council providing organizational assistance to them. The committee developed a project entitled B.U.R.N. U.P. (Biomass Utilization & Restoration Network in the Upper Peninsula) which is being sponsored by the Marquette Conservation District and has been approved by the UP Council. The project has been funded in the amount of \$99,450 through a Forest Stewardship Grant. This is a UP-wide project and Chris Burnett (former forester with the Mqt and Alger CD's) is the project leader under contract with the UP RC&D Council. A steering committee

meeting for this project was also held on Oct. 4th and several forest resource committee members were in attendance and will be serving on other committees for the BURN UP project.

Area Plan Update: The UP RC&D Council is in the process of formulating a new 5-year Area Plan which will become effective in 2008. Marilyn is working with the UP Council to incorporate input from the three regional councils and other partners into the draft Area Plan. The UP Council worked on modifying their vision and mission statements at their last meeting in September. The final version of these statements will be included in the new Area Plan.

Reports:

Mackinac County: Dean Reid from the Mackinac Co. Planning Commission reported that in regards to bio-energy in the Eastern UP, prior to establishing a wood co-generation plant the power company would require an engineering study of the line transmission capability (with a \$10,000 downpayment). A bio-energy plant would utilize a wood resource that is in abundance and for which there is no current market. He also visited/toured the Emmet County Recycle Center on behalf of the Planning Commission and another commissioner visited Zellar in Schoolcraft County. He was very impressed with the Emmet County operation which was established in 1990, now employs 16 employees (12 for recycling), 80% of residents utilize recycling, \$2.5-3 million per year passes through their program, they recycle 35 different items and 35% of their revenue comes from recycling. They require that all waste goes through the transfer station. At this time there is nothing convenient in Mackinac County for recycling and some residents haul their recycling to Manistique.

Luce County: Jill Maki reported that the portion of M-123 from the Tacquamenon Falls to Newberry is now part of the Heritage Route. Also, Sharon Brown wrote a letter of support to MDOT for the widening of M-28 for a bike path.

Chippewa County/EUPPDR: Jeff Hagan reported that lots of partners attended the first meeting of the new "Superior Trail Project" and there was lots of enthusiasm amongst those in attendance. (See New Projects)

NRCS: Scott Hughey reported that he is in the middle of EQIP sign-up (currently 8 landowners) and the second round of funding ends December 13th. His field work is winding down and "winter work" of plan writing, etc. is beginning. They are operating under a continuing resolution and have been told not to expect the Farm Bill to pass until mid-spring. They anticipate quite a few changes in the new bill.

Chippewa/East Mackinac CD: Dusty King reported that they finished their fall tree sale. They have been told to expect funding from the state in the amount of about \$11,000 for this fiscal year. Emerald Ash Borer project is about two-thirds complete and they hope to be done by "deer season". A second infected tree (first one was at Brimley State Park) was discovered by them near Moran in Mackinac County and a third infected tree was discovered at an MTU site in Straits State Park recently. Scott Hughey reported that there will be a public meeting to inform citizens about the problem on November 19. He will send the details to UP RC&D so they can forward to folks in the Eastern Region.

Les Cheneaux Watershed Project and Sault Area Watershed Project: Pat Carr reported that they held a very successful hazardous waste cleanup for the Les Cheneaux watershed collecting 8 tons this summer. They estimate they only reached 10% of the households and are hoping to raise funds for a second cleanup in the future. They have a website now

www.lescheneauxwatershed.org. They are still hoping to complete another stream crossing remediation before the season ends. He is encouraged that Clark Twp. which is improving it's Master Plan and zoning ordinances is referencing the work being done by the watershed council and including representatives from the council at the table. There is a lot of development pressure in the township.

The Sault Area plan was approved for 319 funding and the conservation district will apply for new grants next fall (they will look at other sources besides CMI, like possibly Coastal Zone grants).

UP RC&D Coordinator: Marilyn reported on the meeting of the Michigan Association of RC&D Councils which was hosted by the UP RC&D Council and held in St. Ignace last month. Representatives from most of the RC&D Councils in Michigan attended to work on strategic planning for the group. She is also helping several partners write grant proposals at this time.

New Projects: Superior Trail Project- This project is sponsored by the Bay Mills Indian Community with many partners including MSU Extension and EUPPDR. They are proposing a 9 mile safe, non-motorized pathway from Brimley State Park to Point Iroquois Lighthouse. They are requesting assistance with planning, fund raising and engineering. There will be a workshop tomorrow where 2 experts will talk to the partners about their experiences with similar projects. The next meeting after that will take place on November 13th. The project was approved (Hopper/Serfass).

Project Updates: Marilyn reported on BURN UP – Chris Burnett met with the people at the Calumet school district who currently utilize wood chips to heat their facility. He will be making a presentation to all the UP superintendents in early December and all districts will be asked to complete a survey of their current heating system and interest in converting their system to wood chip utilization. She provided information about a statewide study of boilers which was done by the SE Michigan RC&D Council. Most facilities that have converted their boilers to wood chip utilization are using boilers manufactured by Messersmith Manufacturing. The project will also include tours to facilities that use wood chips and harvesting demonstrations. Some of the folks who are serving on the steering committee for this project will also be working with the DNR to develop guidance for harvesting woody biomass in the state. A website will be developed to provide information to the public.

Eastern UP RWA – This project is now underway and the Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm (Hagan/Serfass).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 1 pm in Newberry. Please include RSVP in meeting announcement for future meetings.