

BY-LAWS

US 23 HERITAGE ROUTE

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of the Council shall be the **US 23 Heritage Route Management Council**.

ARTICLE 2: Purpose

Section 1: Description

The US 23 Heritage Route was designated by the Michigan Legislature and recognized by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The US 23 Heritage Route is a 200-mile corridor along US 23 in the northeast region of Michigan from Standish to Mackinaw City. The general purpose of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall be to enhance and promote the recreational, historical, and cultural opportunities of the US 23 Heritage Route, from the communities of Standish north to Mackinaw City and all other coastal communities therein. The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall provide the overall organizational direction and structure to inform, coordinate and unite the efforts of existing organizations, businesses, and municipalities engaged in economic and community development, natural resource management, preservation, travel and tourism, education, marketing, and promotional efforts along the coast. The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall advocate aesthetics, safety, and maintenance of the US 23 Heritage Route and encourage sound community development practices to support the preservation of our natural environment along the coast. The Council also recognizes the importance and impact that tourism has on the region and will focus on its enhancement and the delivery of a strong voice in the marketplace.

Section 2: Vision

The following Vision Statement has been adopted by the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council: *"The US 23 Heritage Route is a key element in the overall recreational experience offered along the Lake Huron coastline from Standish to Mackinaw City. A wide variety of well-managed recreational, historical and cultural opportunities are available for enthusiasts to enjoy while surrounded by clean air, clear water, lush vegetation and wildlife habitat. Travelers will experience preserved scenic views of the waters, forests and open spaces found along the US 23 Heritage Route. The US 23 Heritage Route will be safe and inviting for all modes of transportation. Visitors will find a wide variety of services and attractions along the US 23 Heritage Route, especially in the many beautiful and thriving towns and cities along the Route. Having US 23 designated as a Heritage Route assists in improving the quality of life for residents, visitors and tourists alike as well as strengthening local economic development efforts. The public will be informed about the attributes of the US 23 Heritage Route through a coordinated marketing and educational campaign".*

ARTICLE 3: The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council

Section 1: Membership¹

The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall consist of the following voting members:

1. One (1) representative from each municipality within the six counties that the US 23 Heritage Route intersects. This representative may be from a local unit of government (county, city, village or township), from an organization existing within the municipality, or may be a citizen chosen to represent the municipality.
2. Two (2) general representatives from each geographical county (Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, Cheboygan) located along the US 23 coastal route. This representative may be from a local unit of government (county, city, village or township), from an organization existing within the county, or may be a citizen who represents the county.
3. Two (2) Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) representatives
4. One (1) Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve (TBNMSUP) representative
5. One (1) Sunrise Coastal Coalition Representative
6. Two (2) Private Sector Tourism Industry Representatives
7. Two (2) Tribal Representatives (one from the north end and one from the south end of the route)
8. One (1) representative from the Friends of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
9. One (1) representative from the South Bay Corridor.
10. Two (2) representatives from "Friends" groups associated with State Parks along the route.
11. One (1) representative from each Convention and Visitor's Bureaus/Chambers of Commerce along the US 23 Heritage Route.
12. One (1) representative from the arts community
13. Two (2) representatives from a Museum or Historical Society
14. One (1) representative from a Trail Organization or Trail Interest Group
15. One (1) representative from US Forest Service/River Road National Scenic Byway
16. Two (2) representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
17. One (1) representative from Michigan Sea Grant Program

All members shall serve until re-appointed or replaced, or upon the written submission of resignation to the Chair. Appointments may occur using one of the following methods:

1. Appointment may be made by organizations which are being represented. Written notice from the organization shall be provided to the Council Chair in advance of their participation.
2. Appointment may be made directly by the Management Council.

Section 2: Alternates

All appointing bodies or the Management Council may designate alternates for voting members in their absence. Written notice of the appointments from appointing bodies shall be provided to the Council Chair.

ARTICLE 4: Meetings

Section 1: US 23 Heritage Route Management Council Meetings

Meetings of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall be held at a minimum of annually or at the call of the Chairperson. In addition, a special meeting of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall be called when the Chair receives a petition from three (3) or more voting members calling for said meeting. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in all meetings and may have issues of particular interest placed on the agenda with notification in writing to and with the approval of the Chair. If the capability is available, members may attend the meeting via teleconferencing or videoconferencing.

Section 2: Notice of Meetings

When a meeting is called by the Chairperson, a minimum of five, (5), days notice shall be given, and will include a copy of the proposed agenda sent to last known physical or electronic address of the committee members.

Section 3: Quorum

For business transactions to take place, a minimum of nine (9) voting Council members of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council shall be present to constitute a quorum. If a vote is called, it shall only pass when a "simple majority" of those present votes in the affirmative. A roll call vote may be ordered by the chair or by the motion and second of two voting members.

Section 4: Annual Meeting

Unless the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council votes otherwise, the first meeting of the Council of each year shall be considered the annual meeting of the organization. Election of officers shall occur at the annual meeting held in odd numbered years. The term of all offices shall be two years.

Section 5: Local Meetings

Each participating county may organize a County Heritage Route Team to identify and develop projects within their respective jurisdictions. This Team shall include at least one (1) of the duly appointed members of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council. The activities of these local Teams shall be reported to the Management Council at their regular meetings.

ARTICLE 5: Corridor Management Plan

Section 1: Oversight of Corridor Management Plan

It shall be the responsibility of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council to oversee and maintain the US 23 Heritage Route Corridor Management Plan.

Section 2: Amendments to the Corridor Management Plan

All amendments, revisions, updates and corrections to the US 23 Heritage Route Corridor Management Plan must be approved by the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council and placed on file. Each County Team shall forward to the Management Council a copy of the proposed revisions to the Corridor

Management Plan as they relate to their county for approval. Once approved, the County Team will be notified that the amendment has been approved.

Section 3: Reviewing the Corridor Management Plan

Every five (5) years the US 23 Heritage Route Corridor Management Plan will be reviewed and updated under the direction of the Management Council.

ARTICLE 6: Officers and Duties

Section 1: Officers

There shall be three (3) officers of the Heritage Route Management Council consisting of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. Their duties are as follows:

Section 2: Chairperson

The Chairperson will convene meetings of the Management Council, preside at these meetings, or arrange to have another officer preside. Roberts Rules of Order will be the used during meetings of the Council.

Section 3: Vice-Chairperson

The Vice-Chairperson will chair committees on special subjects as designated by the Management Council and chair Council meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation (unless a non-voting recording secretary is designated) and signing of the approved minutes of the Management Council,

An alternate shall not serve as an officer of the Management Council.

ARTICLE 7: Council Staff

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) shall serve as staff to the Management Council and the County Teams upon availability of funding. Staff shall perform the following at services as directed:

- Provide a recording secretary for Management Council meetings, if requested by the Council.
- Prepare the meeting agenda with the assistance of the Council Chair and distribute all meeting packet materials to the Council members.
- Distribute any mailings and/or communications to members as required or directed.
- Maintain all organizational records, including a current record of County and agency appointments of members to the Council and the current contact information for all Council members
- Provide general technical, clerical, and administrative support to the Council as directed.

ARTICLE 8: Absences

Upon vote of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council, a member may be recommended for replacement due to excessive absences (failure to participate in four successive meetings). At that time, the impacted County or organization will be notified in writing of the Council's request.

ARTICLE 9: Committee Formation

The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council may create committees as needed. The Chairperson appoints all committees and shall include at least one voting member of the Management Council on every committee.

ARTICLE 10: Compensation

The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council members, Officers, Committee members, and/or ex-officio participants shall receive no compensation for attending meetings or participating in Council activities.

ARTICLE 11: Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council, any and all assets shall be returned to the original source of the asset.

ARTICLE 12: Amendments

The US 23 Heritage Route Management Council By-Laws may be amended when deemed necessary by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members in attendance at a duly called meeting. The proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be in writing and submitted to the Chairperson who will place it on the agenda of the next scheduled or called meeting, and provide copies to all voting members prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE 13: Certification

These By-Laws were approved at a meeting of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council by a majority vote on June 23, 2009. These bylaws were last amended at a meeting of the US 23 Heritage Route Management Council by a majority vote on December 9, 2020.

Attested by:

Chairperson (signature) _____ (Date) _____

Secretary (signature) _____ (Date) _____