



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

January-June 2023

Agency Operations

1. Attend and represent Northeast Michigan at the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) monthly videoconference meetings.
Staff: Doug Baum
2. Continue to determine staff capacity needs and fill vacancies. *Staff: Doug Baum, Denise Cline*
3. Continue to monitor FY 2023 Budget. Meet quarterly with Finance Committee to review financials. *Staff: Doug Baum, Chelsea Goodwin, Theresa Huff*
4. Complete monthly financial reports and billings. *Staff: Chelsea Goodwin, Theresa Huff*
5. Continue to work with communities on planning and zoning contracts as requested.
Staff: Doug Baum, Denise Cline

Agency Marketing

1. Continued weekly updates of new information on the NEMCOG website.
Staff: Denise Cline, Theresa Huff
2. Continued to distribute marketing packets for promotion of NEMCOG, increasing membership, when appropriate. *Staff: Theresa Huff*
3. Websites: discovernortheastmichigan.org, us23heritageroute.org, upnorthtrails.org, and northeastmichigan.org continue to be updated with news and event listings. New

plans, project information, resources and ordinances are continuously being added.

Staff: Denise Cline and Jared Cline

4. Continue to respond to Community requests for technical services to complete plans, grants, and zoning ordinances.
Staff: Denise Cline, Doug Baum, Nico Tucker

Planning & Zoning



1. **Wilson Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff is working with the township on a complete zoning rewrite. All draft articles are complete. *Staff: Denise Cline.*
2. **Kearney Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has begun a zoning rewrite and has met with the Township once to cover Articles 1 and 2.
Staff: Denise Cline
3. **Baldwin Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff has begun a zoning rewrite and has met with the Township once to cover Articles 1 and 2.
Staff: Denise Cline
4. **Alcona Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff completed this reformat and minor update project – the new ordinance was adopted. *Staff: Denise Cline*

5. **Caledonia Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff is working with the township on a complete zoning rewrite. The final marked up draft is complete. *Staff: Denise Cline*
6. **Presque Isle County Master Plan:** Staff is assisting Presque Isle County with updating their Master Plan. The Master Plan portion is complete and entering the final review stage. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*
7. **Village of Pellston Master Plan:** Staff is assisting the Village of Pellston with updating their Master Plan. The Master Plan portion is complete and entering the final review stage. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*
8. **Avery Township/Rust Township Zoning Ordinance:** Both Rust and Avery Township's new zoning ordinances are complete and adopted. *Staff: Denise Cline*
9. **Hillman Township Zoning Ordinance:** Staff is working with the township on a complete zoning rewrite. The final marked up draft is complete. *Staff: Denise Cline*
10. **Crawford County Master Plan:** Master Plan is complete. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*
11. **Presque Isle Township Master Plan:** Staff is updating the Master Plan. Most chapters are complete and staff is meeting with the township to go over goals. *Staff: Denise Cline*
12. **Tuscarora Township Master Plan:** Staff is updating the Master Plan. All but one chapter is complete. Township requested project to be put on hold until further notice. *Staff: Denise Cline*
13. **Otsego County Master Plan:** Staff updated the socio-economic data and land use map. *Staff: Denise Cline*
14. **Charlton Township Master Plan:** Staff updated the socio-economic data and land use map. *Staff: Denise Cline*
15. **Livingston Township Master Plan:** Staff updated the socio-economic data and land use map. Other chapter updates have been started. A public input survey is on-going. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
16. **Chester Township Master Plan:** Staff updated the socio-economic data and land use map. *Staff: Denise Cline*
17. **Elmira Township Master Plan:** Staff updated the socio-economic data and land use map. *Staff: Denise Cline*
18. **City of Gaylord Master Plan:** Staff updated the land use map and assisted the city to prepare a public input survey. *Staff: Denise Cline*
19. **City of Gaylord Zoning Ordinance:** Staff prepared the first two chapters of the zoning rewrite *Staff: Denise Cline*
20. **Tri-Township Master Plan:** Staff met with the Tri-Townships to prepare a public input survey. *Staff: Denise Cline*
21. **Village of Roscommon Master Plan:** Staff has begun working with Roscommon to update the master plan through MEDC RRC Technical Assistance. *Staff: Denise Cline*
22. **Rogers City Zoning Reformat and Applications:** Staff reformatted the Zoning Ordinance and made it interactive. Staff is now working with the city on new zoning forms. *Staff: Denise Cline*
23. **Charter Township of Alpena Master Plan:** Staff has begun working with the township to update the Master Plan. A public input survey was developed. *Staff: Denise Cline*

24. Sanborn Township Brownfield Grant Administration:

Staff is assisting Sanborn Township with the Administration of a \$220,000 Brownfield Development grant. This has been put on hold due to construction impacts from COVID. Project is on hold. *Staff: Doug Baum*

25. Village of Lincoln DDA & TIF Plan:

Village of Lincoln DDA & TIFA Plan is complete and is ready for adoption.

Staff: Eric Szymanski

26. Lovells Township Master Plan:

Master Plan is complete. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*

27. Reno Township Zoning Ordinance:

All draft articles are complete. *Staff: Denise Cline*

28. Sherman Township Zoning Ordinance:

Staff is working on a complete zoning rewrite. *Staff: Denise Cline*

29. Joint Land Use Study (JLUS):

Staff is finalizing the implementation of JLUS strategies for the Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and respective community councils. The update to the Grayling Transportation Study is completed. Community Council informational Flyers have been completed. *Staff: Denise Cline, Eric Szymanski, Doug Baum, Nico Tucker, and Consultant*

30. Briley Township RRC:

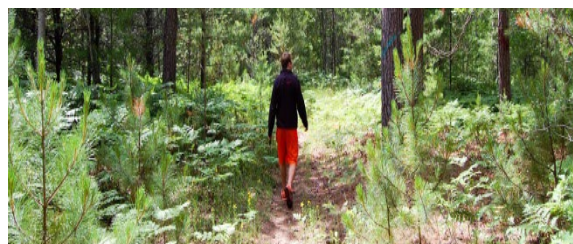
Briley Township has obtained funding through the MEDC to complete the Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Downtown Plan, and Economic Development Plan. Staff has reviewed all Master Plan chapters with the planning commission and is entering final the final review stage. Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are complete. *Staff: Eric Szymanski, Denise Cline*

31. Planning Assistance:

Staff provides planning and zoning assistance when needed to the following communities:

1. City of Alpena
2. Charter Township of Alpena
3. City of Grayling
4. Rogers City
5. Green Township
6. Long Rapids Township
7. Wilson Township
8. City of Harrisville
9. Village of Lincoln
10. Ossineke Township
11. Curtis Township
12. Village of Hillman
13. West Traverse Township
14. City of West Branch
15. Grayling Charter Township
16. Clement Township
17. Tawas City
18. Presque Isle Township
19. City of Cheboygan
20. Albert Township
21. Hawes Township

Recreation Planning



1. Up North Trails:

Staff continues to provide updates to the Up North Trails website. An updated website was completed and is online. *Staff: Denise Cline, Doug Baum, Jared Cline*

2. City of Tawas Parks & Recreation Plan:

Recreation Plan is complete and submitted to MDNR. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*

3. Lovells Township Recreation Plan:

Recreation Plan is complete and submitted to MDNR. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*

- 4. Presque Isle County Recreation Plan:**
Recreation Plan is complete and submitted to MDNR. *Staff: Eric Szymanski*
- 5. City of Gaylord Recreation Plan:** Staff assisted the city to prepare a public input survey. *Staff: Denise Cline*
- 6. Hillman Township Recreation Grant:** NEMCOG continues to assist the Township with the recreation grant process, including identifying potential cost savings. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
- 7. Alcona Area Recreation Plan:**
Staff is assisting Alpena County, City of Alpena, Green Township, Charter Township of Alpena, Wilson Township, Ossineke Township, and Sanborn Township to update the multi-jurisdictional recreation plan. A public input survey was released which garnered nearly 500 responses. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Denise Cline*
- 8. Otsego County & Elmira Township Recreation Plan:**
The recreation plan was completed and adopted by Otsego County and Elmira Township. All required documents were submitted to the MDNR. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Eric Szymanski*
- 9. Caledonia Township Recreation Plan:**
Staff is assisting the Township with updating their recreation plan. An online survey was completed. PCSC forms have been completed. All chapter updates are underway. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
- 10. Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan:**
The recreation plan was completed and adopted by Tuscarora Township. All required documents were submitted to the MDNR. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
- 11. Spark Grant Assistance:**
Staff assisted several communities with Spark grant applications by answering

questions, reviewing plans and application materials, and contacting MDNR grant coordinators. Staff prepared and submitted grant applications for Oscoda County and Tuscarora Township. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

Materials Management



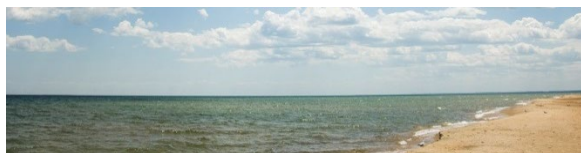
- 1. Continued to monitor solid waste planning at the state level:**
Legislation revising materials management planning passed in December. Solid waste plans will change the emphasis from material disposal to material management. Continued to attend the Materials Management Workgroup meetings from EGLE to stay up to date on the new legislation. Continued to document stakeholders to serve on County committees. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
- 2. Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grants:**
NEMCOG and RRS conducted a series of online Zoom and in-person meetings to gather input on priorities and needs within each county. The final report was completed by RRS and NEMCOG has submitted all required documentation to EGLE. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
- 3. Clean Sweep Program:**
Applied for and received funds to pay for Pesticides brought into the Regional HHW Facility in Alpena. *Staff: Doug Baum, Theresa Huff*
- 4. Electronics Waste Recycling Program:**
Applied for funding for 2023-25 collection events in 7 counties, and two permanent storage buildings. Funding has been received and events will be held in Alcona,

Cheboygan, Montmorency, and Presque Isle counties in 2023. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Denise Cline*

5. EGLE Scrap Tire Grant Program:

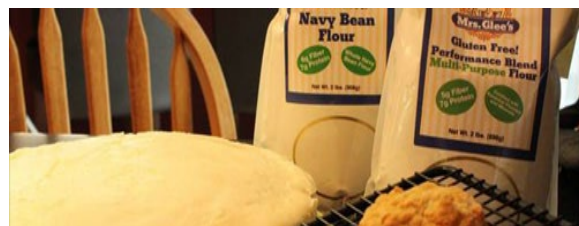
Funds were obtained from EGLE to support the collection of scrap tires in Alpena County. Approximately 3,000 tires were collected in 2022. Funding was applied for 2023 for the collection of scrap tires in Alpena, Crawford, and Montmorency counties. Collection day events have been held in all three counties and approximately 6,000 tires have been collected. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Theresa Huff*

Environmental & Water Resources



1. **Explored opportunities with the 2023 DEQ Nonpoint Source Grants and other state and federal grants.** *Staff: Doug Baum, Nico Tucker*
2. **Upper Black River Council:**
NEMCOG assists the council by developing EGLE permit applications, performing stream surveys, and assisting in the oversight of the contracted work crew. A new habitat enhancement permit and a streambank restoration permit were prepared, submitted and have been received. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

Economic & Community Development



1. **Northeast Michigan Housing Council:**
Staff have been attending meetings to assist in furthering initiatives and housing goals in Northeast Michigan Region. *Staff: Doug Baum*
2. **Integrated Asset Management (IAM):**
Staff have completed state training and are certified "Champions". The intent of the program is to work collaboratively at the local level to plan for all public asset's maintenance, enhancements, and new investments. *Staff: Denise Cline, Nico Tucker*
3. **Region 3 CDC:**
Staff organizes and holds monthly Region 3: CDC Videoconference meetings with Economic and Community Development organizations in the region. *Staff: Doug Baum, Denise Cline, Heather Runyan*
4. **NE MI Talent Hub Project:**
Staff provides updates to the website including adding events. Staff has also given presentations and met with MEDC and local ambassadors about the website.
<https://www.northeastmichigan.org/>
Contractor: Audra Leininger, Jared Cline
5. **Broadband Navigator Program:** Applied for and received funding from the MEDC for a Broadband Navigator Program. Through the program, staff serves as the primary point of contact for the region and liaison between local agencies and the Michigan High Speed Internet Office. Staff assisted Connected Nation and the MIHI office in scheduling two

rounds of public meetings to gather feedback and develop a plan for the BEAD broadband funding coming to Michigan.
Staff: Nico Tucker

6. **Tuscarora Township EPA Grant:** Staff assisted Tuscarora Township by completing and submitting an application for EPA Congressionally Directed Funding for their Phase 2 sewer expansion project. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
7. **2023 Regional Asset Mapping Project:** Businesses have been identified by staff and put into the industry clusters by the MEDC. Mapping of Industries is being developed to place on the website. *Staff: Heather Runyan, Nico Tucker*

GIS Services



1. **Montmorency County GIS:**
Staff has continued to work with county equalization staff to address issues related to parcel overlaps, gaps etc. Staff continue to perform parcel splits/combines, fix problem areas, and provide general GIS technical assistance to the county.
Staff: Nico Tucker
2. **Alcona Township GIS:**
Parcel mapping services are now provided throughout the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
3. **Alcona County GIS:**
Staff has continued to make corrections to parcel data and perform all property splits and combinations. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
4. **Alpena County GIS:**
Due to new staff hires at the County they will be maintaining their GIS in house. NEMCOG
5. **Alpena Township:**
Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
6. **City of Alpena GIS Services:**
Staff has entered a contract with the city to make corrections, updates, and data developments to the City parcel layer. Subdivision plat layers will also be developed. To date, the project is about 95% complete. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
7. **Montmorency 911 Technical Assistance:**
Staff continues to work on the update to the County's 911 computer mapping system. Staff continues to correct any outstanding issues, assist the County in assigning new addresses, and update the various GIS layers. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
8. **Montmorency Township GIS:**
Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
9. **Hillman Township GIS:**
Parcel mapping services are now provided throughout the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
10. **Vienna Township GIS:**
Parcel mapping services are now provided through the County. Other GIS services are provided to the Township on an as needed basis. *Staff: Nico Tucker*
11. **NEMCOG:**
Staff has had numerous discussions with Township Assessors, County Equalization staff, other Regional Planning Agencies to

discuss mapping services NEMCOG could provide and the possibility of establishing a regional GIS program. A survey has been drafted for dissemination to each county to determine current status. NEMCOG provided mapping assistance to many township assessors. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

12. Presque Isle County GIS:

Staff has continued to make corrections to parcel data layers and develop a county-wide layer. Numerous problem areas have been redrawn. Work has continued on a platted subdivision layer with 240 subdivisions completed to date. Accuracy issues remain that will take time to solve. Staff completed parcel section maps for the county. A continuing services contract will be developed in the near future.

Staff: Nico Tucker

13. West Branch GIS:

Staff has provided one half day GIS training session to City staff. Training will continue to be provided as needed, up to 4 full-day or 8 half-day sessions. NEMCOG has also completed the development of updated parcel and subdivision platted lot layers.

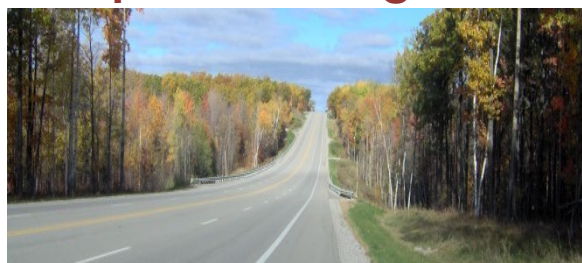
Staff: Nico Tucker

14. Lake Township:

Staff has completed master plan maps for Lake Township in Roscommon County.

Staff: Denise Cline

Transportation Program



1. Asset Management:

NEMCOG completed the annual PASER and IBR training.

The federal aid PASER survey for Cheboygan County has been completed. The federal aid survey for Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties has been scheduled. Staff has also assisted Alpena County in rating their local roads.

Staff prepared PASER maps for several local road agencies and the MDOT.

Provided onsite assistance and training to several agencies on RoadSoft and the Laptop Data Collector.

Staff queried traffic crash reports at the request of several local road agencies.

Staff took part in training webinars regarding local road agency requirements for transportation asset management plans. Staff has continued to assist road commission staff with exporting and analyzing data to be used in their Asset Management Plans. Staff has also provided on-site assistance developing plans and reviewed draft plans.

Staff responded to questions from local road agencies regarding the IRT/ADARS reporting process and requirements. NEMCOG completed the IRT reporting on behalf of the Village of Posen, and Village of Hillman.

Staff: Nico Tucker

2. Rural Task Force:

Staff responded to numerous phone calls and emails from local agencies with questions regarding task force procedures and target allocations. Responded to requests from several citizens of the region for information on the RTF process. Provided information to each regarding RTF procedures, funding sources, funding and project requirements, and provided the RTF 9 STIP and Illustrative list of projects. Following the October meeting, all projects were programmed into JobNet. Reviewed the status of all HIP-CRRSA funded projects

to ensure all were obligated on time to avoid recession. Assisted local RTF agencies by completing required 1799 and 1797 forms, and submitting project change requests as needed. Reviewed and monitored project obligation status to determine if any bid savings are available. Scheduled and prepared all materials for the March 31 RTF9 meeting. Attended the RTF meeting to record minutes and documented project additions or changes. All project changes were programmed into JobNet.

Staff: Nico Tucker

Small Urban Area Program:

Continued to monitor project status. Reviewed fiscal year project lists received from MDOT and noted any errors to be corrected. *Staff: Nico Tucker*

3. Transportation Work Program:

Attended meetings and provided information on planning and/or funding options for non-motorized facilities to several local governments.

Staff reviewed and updated transportation language for several township and county master plan updates.

Submitted geographic framework corrections on behalf of local road agencies.

Staff attended several meetings to discuss TAP and other funding options and planning efforts to extend the bike path in the Alpena area.

Staff continued to respond to numerous questions from local officials and residents of the region regarding transportation planning, funding, and project selection and implementation processes. Appropriate information or contacts were provided in all instances.

Staff attended several meetings to discuss the need to update the Alpena Area Transportation Plan. Staff worked with

MDOT North Region Planner, Alpena Township, and other project partners to develop and submit funding requests for the project.

Helped coordinate and facilitate stakeholder workshops to gather input on the regional coordinated transportation plan.

Reviewed the MIRE FDE data requested by MDOT and began compiling available data.

NEMCOG discussed traffic count procedures and began compiling a list of counts to conduct this season.

Staff: Nico Tucker

4. North Region Active Transportation Plan:

Discussed the update to the 2008 non-motorized transportation plan. The North Region Active Transportation Plan will be completed for the entire North Region with NEMCOG leading the effort while working with Networks Northwest. Attended several meetings, and began compiling a list of stakeholders. *Staff: Nico Tucker, Denise Cline*

5. US 23 Heritage Route:

NEMCOG provides coordination and technical assistance to the Heritage Route teams in Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Iosco, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan Counties as well as the US 23 Management Council. Marketing: Staff has assisted in coordinating the website development and marketing efforts. Promotional materials created and maintained include six county-level brochures, a map guide of Historic Sites, a map guide of trails, a winter map guide, Sunrise Coast Birding Trail, a waterproof flip guidebook for the Huron Blueways, and a regional guidebook. Two new brochures were designed, printed, and added to the US 23 materials including the North Eastern State Trail and the North Central State Trail. Staff worked with Iosco County to create a new, large format parks and trails map as a

pilot project within the US 23 program. *Staff: Denise Cline, Jared Cline*

Community Corrections



1. Northeast Michigan Community Corrections has been running programs in six counties within the region. Staff has been working both remote and on-site with the courts and jail systems during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continuity of services. A new program, Adult Crossroads, will begin in the Alpena County Jail in early July. This new program will replace Thinking matters through Sunrise Centre and will service clients within Alpena and Montmorency Counties. Bear River Health has continued to provide Jail Based Groups within the jail through their Cheboygan Outpatient Office. Community Based Case Management is actively being utilized as a remote service to connect felony offenders to housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, employment, and education assistance services. Additionally, the new evidence-based Change Companies Interactive Journaling component has allowed for participants to start the change process prior to release from jail and continue the process in the community with the guidance of a Case Manager.

Substance Use Assessments are being provided by Community Corrections to those with a documented need. By providing this service the program has filled another gap in programming to better service Northern MI.

The Pretrial Supervision Program is active in Otsego County and has returned to in-person referrals and interviews within the

Jail as well as the Community Corrections Office. Otsego County's pretrial services enrollment has continued to surpass the projected utilizations and demonstrated an increased need for Pretrial Supervision Services.

Crawford County continues their Pretrial Supervision program remotely. Supervision is provided by the Pretrial Supervision Case Manager while the participant is out on bond and engaging with the public. Including starting pretrial substance use testing services for those charged with a felony offense scoring moderate to high risk with a crime involving substance misuse.

The Community Corrections Program strives to provide best practice standards for convicted felony offenders, to promote pretrial justice, and ensure court appearance and public safety. Alternative programming is being explored in order to address the adapting needs of the offender population within the Northeast Region.

Staff: Jessica VanWulfen

NE MI Child Care Coalition

1. NEMCOG has convened the Northeast Michigan Child Care Coalition under the ECIC Child Care Innovation Fund and has begun its research into the childcare deficit in our region. Parent, provider, and employer surveys have been distributed and will be wrapped up in early August. Interviews have also been taking place to have one-on-one discussions with parents, providers, and employers to get anecdotes from each group. Local chambers of commerce have been conducting additional employer surveys. NEMCCC has also connected with local school districts in an attempt to partner in potential new programs or expansion of existing programs.

Local municipalities have been contacted to review zoning issues, as well as building and

fire codes. NEMCCC has also partnered with NEMCSA, Develop Iosco, RCCIP teams, MI Works, economic development agencies, as well as other organizations to combine efforts in data collection and data analysis. LARA has been involved to help with analyzing regulations and start-up hurdles.

The August coalition meeting will include explanation of survey findings and research thus far as well as determine goals that the coalition as a whole wants to see completed throughout the grant process.

Staff: Melissa Chambers

Respectfully submitted by Doug Baum