



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

To: Alpena County Planning Commission
From: Steve Schnell, NEMCOG
Date: July 18, 2019
Re: Master Plan updates

The next phase of review includes 1) revisions made as a result of the comments from your May meeting and 2) additional chapters for your review.

- 1) Changes have been made and some additional research is being done in response to your comments from May. My responses to your specific comments as they were summarized to me are included below in this report.
2) The additional chapters included are Chapter 3 – Community Services and Facilities and Chapter 5 – Existing Land Use. There are some data that we are still researching which we will include when we hear back from the agencies we’ve reached out to. This data is highlighted in the document.

Chapter 5 includes a map of the whole county showing existing land use color-coded to categories that are common for this type of study. We will be providing each participating township with their own existing land use map at an appropriate scale to show the details for that specific township. Those will be included in the final product of the joint master plan. I will bring a large format print of the map shown in this chapter to your meeting can be linked to from the document to a website for download if that’s desired.

Responses to comments from the May PC meeting:

Pg. 2-7: the disability information and percentage (38.4%) seems high. This was also true in the last master plan.

- The current data shows that it’s 23.3%. This change has been made.

Pg. 2-8: the data in Table 2-5 is from 2005-2007 and the members wondered if more recent data is available.

- This is now Table 2-9 and the data has been updated to show 2017 numbers.

Pg. 2-9: Table 2-6: suggest adding state educational attainment data for comparison
Table 2-8: suggest adding all other townships in the county for a full median income picture

- State educational data has been added.

Regional Cooperation Since 1968

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

- All township data is now shown in this table.

Pg. 2-17: Table 2-15: why isn't timber cutover data available for 2015-2018?

- We will gather newer timber cutover data and include it.

Pgs. 2-20-2-24: The graphs are all fuzzy and difficult to read (they look like they have been colored in by hand).

- These are gathered from Munetrix's website and are exported directly from their site. They print differently on various computers. They appear clearer on a computer screen. We can turn the tables 90 degrees so that they appear larger and possibly easier to read on paper but more challenging on a computer. These plans are often distributed digitally but perhaps the preference is for a better print copy.

Pg. 4-37: Table 4-1: is there more recent data available (2010 is last year included)? If so, text on 4-36 will also need to be modified to include more recent information.

- The most recent data available at the NOAA website uses normal from 1981-2010. Other data is recorded by various weather stations. Some of that data has been added and a graph replaces the table in the document on page 4-38. Weather stations that report to the Midwest Regional Climate Center have wide-ranging data on the same day.

Pg. 4-54: members wonder if the Paxton Quarry is included in the inventory (maybe under artificial pond?)

- We will find out more about this.

Pg. 4-58: groundwater: since PFAS is a recent identified contaminant in the county, members suggest including any available information. Given the interest, it might also be significant enough to include a section on page 4-72.

- We'll add a section on PFAS. This is a great idea and much needed.

Additional surface water concerns that we didn't notice include: frog bit (invasive weed species) and the largemouth bass virus discovered in Beaver Lake.

- We'll add these also.

4-62: under hunting-should there be some mention that hunters are advised to be on the lookout for chronic wasting disease in the white tailed deer population?

- This has been added on page 4-63

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

4-63: Table 4-4: information is old (1989). Is there anything more recent available. Because it is old, the table lacks any reference to coyotes which have become popular game.

- A new table has been added. The old table remains and I'll find out about that source before we delete it.

Pg. 4-64: Table 4-5: any more recent data available?

Pg. 4-65: Major forest pests: Only EAB is included. What about yellow scale in Beech trees and whatever is causing decline of white pines? There may be other concerns so members suggest reaching out to the Conservation District Forester, Brook Alloway/Nowakowski for more recent information.

- The person we use for forestry information is aware of this question and will update as appropriate.