

Minutes: CATF Meeting
10 a.m. Thursday, January 18, 2018
Room 604 Cohodas at NMU

In Attendance: Robert Kulisheck, Scott Erbisich, Greg Seppanen, Karen Alholm, Eric Anderson, Lauren Luce, Gail Anthony, David Stensaas, Jessica Thompson, Emily Leach, and Megan Strait.

1. Membership: CATF acknowledges the many contributions made by the late Tom Baldini. Congratulations to Sara Cambensy on her recent electoral victory. Expression of thanks to Beth Roberts (CATF's Administrative Assistant) who has resigned her position in the Provost's Office in order to pursue a nursing degree. Consideration of potential new CATF members, including Tom Tourville (MBLP), and someone from the Marquette City Commission as Tom Baldini is no longer with us, and Sara Cambensy will likely be preoccupied with her new position of State Representative. Thank you to NMU for continuing to be a partner and providing use of the meeting space.

2. Consideration of broadening CATF's Mission: It has been suggested that CATF should continue to focus on "climate adaptation" issues while expanding the definition of "adaptation" to include a broader range of issues related to "increasing community resilience". CATF's current work on energy issues already fits this definition. Discussion ensued about how CATF's focus is in fact broad, and we don't want to "water down" CATF's vision by changing the name. We want to ensure CATF's focus area stays Marquette County wide. Decided not to change CATF's name, as this would potentially undermine our efforts.

- David Stensaas: the City of Marquette received a grant to update their zoning codes, in part due to the fact that they wrote CATF into the proposal.
- Emily Leach: Acknowledgement of other local climate resiliency groups including transition Marquette, that focuses on getting away from oil dependency and growing local food as well as ex- Grand Rapids Mayor, George Hartwell's efforts with renewable energy developer, Rich Van der Veen, to encourage a "triple bottom line" approach to community resiliency planning.
- Scott Erbisich: emphasized the importance of these partnerships. CATF can and should cooperate with these other efforts, but maintain its vision as a knowledge base for local government entities and as a resource for planning, grants and other funding sources.
- Bob Kulisheck: the Grand Rapids' efforts have a different landscape, being in an urban area with different industry to back up changing the landscape of systems.
- Eric Anderson: CATF has always had public, government and non-profit groups at the table, while some of these other groups have different composition.
- Discussion ensued about keeping to our original roots, and maintain a focus on Climate Adaptation though health, energy and water issues, while cooperating with other efforts simultaneously.

3. Presentation: Report on findings from a fall semester NMU student project studying long-term and short-term energy issues in the Marquette Community. Megan Strait, one of the students in the group presented about their efforts to find a specific framework for an energy plan, not to push any ideal outcome.

- Discussed the City of Holland, MI's P21 plan as a model. Holland has a new natural gas plant at the entrance to town, surrounded by greenspace to showcase and educate invitingly; harness BTUs, some wind power and harness landfill methane gas. Holland power plant is open to public and provides educational activities.
- Interviewed 11 local energy stakeholders with same set of questions. Interview outcomes included: interviewees thought solar was the ideal renewable source;

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education and economy are setbacks for Marquette; thought it would take 25 years to implement an energy plan.

- Other perceived barriers discussed: local political climate, net metering not used at MBLP, and an end limit on renewable infrastructure.
- Scott Erbisch: What are the next steps for the project? Stranded costs need to be identified.
- Students may continue project, but some of these particular students who initiated the project are/have graduated.
- Discussion about Shiras Plant buying energy off the grid, and how it is not economically viable to operate. It will be shutting down soon. Discussion about PIPP closing by 2020 when UMERG gas plants up and running, and no plans for that site yet.

4. Project Reports:

-Northern Climate Network Programs (update by Jes Thompson)

- *The Proposed Summit Lake Wind Project*
Mason Sorenson, Renewable Energy Systems
Friday, Feb. 16, 12-1 p.m.
Jamrich, room 1320

Mr. Sorenson will discuss his company, Renewable Energy Systems, and their proposed utility-scale wind energy project in Baraga County.

- *Saving Snow* (<http://www.adaptationnow.com/saving-snow/>)
Documentary viewing and discussion
Co-sponsored with the Marquette Citizens Climate Lobby
Wednesday, February 28, 6-8 p.m.
Jamrich, room 1318

Across the country, people who depend on winter for their livelihood are feeling the heat. On the sidelines of skiing and snowboarding, an epic struggle to reverse rising temperatures is unfolding. Ski towns and the snow sports industry are paving the way toward a clean energy future.

- *Sustaining Lake Superior*; Dr. Nancy Langston, MTU
Friday, March 23, 12-1 p.m.
Jamrich, room 1320

Dr. Langston, professor of environmental history at Michigan Technological University will discuss her new book, *Sustaining Lake Superior*, and provide a compelling exploration of Lake Superior's conservation recovery and what it can teach us in the face of climate change.

-Superior Watershed Partnership Projects (update by Emily Leach)

- SWP Hawley Street Storm Drain relocation project to be implemented in 2018 with GLRI funding. Changing flow from direct outflow of city storm water into Lake Superior (in front of Biolife) to flow into a wetland area adjacent to Lake Superior to filter contaminants before entering the Dead River and Lake Superior. GLCC started clean up of debris and native vegetation planting in wetland area in 2017; more in 2018.
- SWP Energy Conservation Corps (ECC) launching February 1st. ECC to conduct low income home energy assessments, and perform basic weatherization measures

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(draft sealant, caulking, pipe wrap, etc) and education on reducing energy usage, including providing resources for further energy reduction measures.

-CATF Energy Subcommittee (update by Greg Seppanen)

- Still no communication with UPCAP.
- Change focus away from entire UP; bring back to Marquette County focus.

-Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Team Study (MSU/DHHS/MDOH)

- The next workshop is scheduled for February 21 from 3:30-5:30pm at the Citizens Forum at Lakeview Arena in Marquette. Community members and local officials are invited to review draft physical designs, policy and health interventions and provide feedback on their application throughout the county. The workshop will include a ½ hour presentation on progress to date and an opportunity for feedback on the physical design solutions. This meeting will build on the extensive input received at the November 2, 2017 kickoff meeting and interviews with over 20 area organizations and interest groups.

5. Staffing: Consideration of creating an ongoing NMU internship arrangement with CATF. Discussion ensued; all in favor of a CATF intern to help with administrative tasks and other SWP projects. Jes Thompson and Emily Leach to discuss logistics and identify a student.

6. Good-of-the-Order: Dave Stensaas: grant update on updating City of Marquette land use codes; completed first draft as of last week for updates to environmental standards. Will send to CATF for comment. Karen Alholm: The newest appointed Marquette County planning commissioner is Emily Leach. Emily Leach: Speaking on behalf of Gail Anthony- CFoMC was awarded a CS Mott Foundation grant to promote energy literacy throughout Marquette County. Under the grant the SWP ECC and Michigan Energy Options will be conducting low income energy assessments, conducting an energy assessment of the CFoMC office, and installing solar arrays. These efforts will be used as demonstration sites for educational materials and highlighted at an energy dinner with local community leaders. SWP has multiple proposals in to mitigate and restore the City of Marquette's coastal erosion issues. Lauren Luce: The county was awarded a MI Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for Sugarloaf Recreation Area; updates include a solar trash compactor. They are also hiring a planner. Eric Anderson: 2017 was the 2nd warmest year on record. Jes Thompson: She is no longer on the National Parks Board; all were appointed by President Obama; the board resigned because they were not getting resources, support or any response from Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke.

Next CATF Meeting: April 19, 10 am, 604 Cohodas.