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Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment – AREA INITIATIVES*

* Programs listed first and **bolded** in the initiative categories were specifically highlighted in the September 23 meeting. All others were found in prior data gathering efforts.

INITIATIVE	Description	Supporting Orgs/Sponsor(s)	Contact	Comments
<i>Community Assessment, Planning & Initiatives</i>				
Presque Isle County Community Vitality			Dave Glenn	
NE MI Tourism Mapping Project	<i>Nature-based tourism. Report by Frank Fear & Joe Fridgen facilitated by MSU Extension. Group met for over 3 years and 36 people are trained as part of program.</i>		Tom Ferguson	
Community Master Plans (Planning)	<p><u>In Progress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpena County Master Plan <p>Sponsor: Alpena County Planning Commission Spurred by a strong public outreach effort in 2003 by Commission members, this document is in draft form and details specific objectives for the community. These include enhancing employment opportunities, collaborating with all levels of government, developing a multi-modal transportation system, maintaining and expanding infrastructure services for residents and businesses, protecting natural resources, enhancing community character, and improving recreational and cultural opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtis Township Master Plan • South Branch Township Master <p>Sponsors: South Branch Township Planning Commission, NEMCOG South Branch Township is located in Crawford County. The development of a Community Master Plan started in 2000. A draft plan was submitted in May, 2005. The geographic area of the township is 105.4 square miles and it is located west of Oscoda County and south of Grayling Township. The Master Plan contains an assessment of the area in terms of socioeconomic characteristics and land use patterns.</p>	Multiple Sponsors	NEMCOG	"In Process" phase

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-Townships Master Plan This is a Master Plan for Alcona, Caledonia and Hawes Townships. This joint agreement may have been spurred by the shared jurisdiction of Hubbard Lake. It made sense for the townships to work together to establish standards to close the loop on management and development concerns regarding the lake. <p>After initial public comment to the process, objectives were established. These include revising community zoning ordinances, controlling the location of new development, developing open space standards, control for light and noise stress factors, ensuring affordable housing, promoting economic growth, encouraging retention of existing industries, improving transportation systems and community facilities, preserving access to public lands and water, and protecting the natural environment.</p>			
Community Master Plans (Implemented)	<p><u>Status – Implemented</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mikado Township Land Use Master Plan The township is located in Alcona County. It is recognized by the community for its rich natural resources. The township plan calls for controlling development and preserving open space and farmland. • Misery Bay Initiative Sponsors: NEMCOG, TNC, DNR, several other government and nonprofit stakeholder groups Misery Bay is located in Alpena county. This area is known to have endangered bird species and rare wildflowers. This plan seeks to protect this ecosystem by assessing ecological values and recommending long term policies. • Presque Isle County Comprehensive Plan 	Multiple Sponsors	NEMCOG	"Implemented"
Alpena Eco-Plan				
Fletcher Creek Watershed				

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Study				
Maple Forest Master Plan				
Thunder Bay Watershed Initiative				
Regional "Welcome Center" project in Standish at US 23/M61				
<i>Ecological & Recreational</i>				
Ocqueoc Outdoor Center	<i>A Presque Isle County Revitalization project. Redeveloping current center to draw groups to PI county (Elder Hostel, bike & kayak trips, guided person tours).</i>			
Bike Trails	<i>Harrisville State Park initiative with goal to connect park to Sturgeon Point Lighthouse Park.</i>	DNR?	Dan Mullen	Grant request in for engineering, planning of Harrisville Park project.
Huron Greenways	<i>An organized system of land and water trails, and routes, intended to specifically link the coastal areas of Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties. Some area cities already serve as models for greenways systems: Mackinaw, Rogers, Alpena. Intended to enhance local pride, identity and character by incorporating and educating visitors on civic, historic and archeological sites as well as protect natural resources.</i>	NEMCOG, MCMP	NEMCOG, Mary Ann Heideman	The first task in the planning effort was to conduct an inventory exercise. A study team (Greenways Committee) involving multiple municipalities, public officials and private citizens with the aid of public documents and private publications, captured values and characteristics of selected sites.
State Park & Property Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockport • Negwegan • Thompson's Harbor 	DNR	Paul Curtis	<p>--On Rockport, multiple planning processes by DNR with no subsequent action, some frustration.</p> <p>--On Thompson's Harbor: about 5,200 acres, and listed with DNR as a "legally protected area" (by both state and federal wilderness laws). Proposed management plan drawn up in 1989 by a Citizen Advisory Committee, whose objectives included incorporating new</p>

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				approaches to providing recreational opportunities, environmental education, protecting sensitive natural resources, and incorporating public views. Plan includes phased approach involving site preparation, limited, extended, full use stages.
<i>Cultural & Historical</i>				
Maritime Heritage	<i>"Positioning NE MI as Maritime Heritage Destination". Developing self-guided tours focused on regional connections to promote tourism around maritime heritage; selling an experience based on a theme (i.e. lighthouses).</i>	MI Dept of History, Arts, Libraries, Thunder Bay NMS, Sunrise Side Tourism	Sandra Clark, Deb Pardike, Jeff Gray, Tom Ferguson	Refer to "NE MI Self Guided Tour" (and Travel MI website).
Sweetwater Trails	<i>This program was implemented in 1991. MDOT was a partner in creating signage along the Circle Tour route to direct travelers to certain communities and historic resources.</i>	MHPN, MDOT	Phil Alexander	
"Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve"	Designated the nation's 13th National Marine Sanctuary and the first Great Lakes Sanctuary in 2000, Thunder Bay NMS is a 448-square mile federally protected area off Northeast Michigan. It was recognized for its cultural and historical value as it is the site of more than 100 shipwrecks that rest well-preserved in water from 12 to 180 feet from the surface and is a major scuba diving attraction. Prior to national designation, the Sanctuary was recognized by state law in 1981 as a "Great Lakes Bottomland Preserve". Around the same time, members of the community of Alpena petitioned NOAA for national designation of the preserve and the process toward this effort started in 1983.	NOAA, MI State Government	Jeff Gray, Ellen Brody	A "Sanctuary Advisory Council", representing the community's various interests including fishing, diving, boating, historic preservationists, educators and city and county governments was formed three years prior to designation to advise on management and vision of the Sanctuary.
<i>Transportation Access & Utility Projects</i>				
US-23 Heritage Route	<i>Also known as "Michigan Heritage Route" or "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"</i>		Tom Ferguson	

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River Roads Scenic Byway	<i>Also known as "National Heritage Route". Connects north to south, promoting economic development</i>		Tom Ferguson	Current challenges: infrastructure, signage, interpretation
Transportation/Utility (Planning)	<u>In Progress</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmet County Transportation Coordination Study Sponsors: Community Access Transportation Team, NEMCOG, MDOT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rogers City Wellhead Protection Plan 	Multiple Sponsors		"In Process" Phase
Transportation/Utility (Implemented)	<u>Status - Implemented</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpena Area-wide Comprehensive Transportation Plan • Hazard Mitigation Planning Sponsors: NEMCOG An effort led by NEMCOG to develop county-specific plans for hazard mitigation and associated grant application requirements. While emergency management plans do exist, a hazard mitigation plan extends community protection further to preventing or reducing harm from disaster events, in addition to responding to events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-75 Scenic Corridor Study • I-75 Gaylord East-West Crossing Study • M-32/Old-27 Study • Straits Regional Transit Study 	Multiple Sponsors		"Implemented"
"Circle Tour"	Established in the 1980s, this 6,500-mile scenic, international road system connects the five Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. There are "sub" connections for each area with associated highway signage, example the "Lake Superior Circle Tour" or "Lake Huron Circle Tour", etc. The Circle Tour signage system was established in the late 1980s as a cooperative, regional effort between the Great Lakes Commission and the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces that comprise the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.	Great Lakes Commission, all area State governments, two Canadian Provinces		

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	The Circle Tour established new routes and connected them to previously designated highways on "North America's Fresh Coast." Several spur routes, including a ferry ride across Lake Michigan, have been added in recent years			
<i>Government Initiatives</i>				
"Cool Cities"	A state sponsored program that offers funding for community improvement projects with the overall goal being to enhance local economies and community spirit. Designated "Cool Cities" are those that have formed local commissions for the purpose of revitalization efforts. An example is with the City of Alpena. It formed a "Cool City Advisory Committee", received a \$100K pilot grant from the Initiative, and is focusing on the city's downtown historic waterfront area, launching its first project, the "Heritage Riverwalk Project".	State of Michigan, Local City Commissions		
Lake Huron Binational Partnership	A formal collaboration involving government and non-government entities established to address and coordinate activities involving Lake Huron. An Action Plan released in 2004 addresses current issues, trends, monitoring and future needs. There are three identified priority areas: contaminants in fish and wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystem change, and fish and wildlife habitat. This action plan may be considered a "work in progress". Projects underway both in Canada and the U.S address these issues on several fronts. Some of these projects include specific assessments of fish habitat and fisheries, water quality surveys, assessments targeted to certain "Areas of Concern" and wildlife monitoring.	U.S. EPA, Environment Canada, MDEQ, MDNR, various others (source U.S. EPA)		
Northeast Michigan's Environmental Scan and Career Development Report	Conducted in 2000 and part of a multi-phase process within the Michigan Department of Career development. It is intended community	Workforce Dvlp Board of Northeast Michigan, Workforce		

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Card	trends in population, economy, labor skills and overall capability and well-being of the workforce. Subsequent phases involved community review of the process and issuing recommendations to keep skilled workers in the area as well as stabilize local economies.	Education Advisory Group, Northeast MI Consortium, NEMCOG		
"Renaissance Zone" Designations	Cities are designated as Renaissance Zones to spur economic growth opportunities for residents and businesses alike. One incentive is by removing tax burdens in designated zones.			A state program established in 1996 and managed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation
"Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2004-2005"	A Committee formed to review recent studies on economy and community well-being. A key objective that was drawn up was to "create, retain, expand and attract business and industry throughout Northeast Michigan using sound environmental and management practices while retaining the community's quality of life."	NEMCOG		
<i>Other Promotions & Events</i>				
Thunder Bay NMS "Welcome Center" project	See TBNMS in "Ecological"			
Various Seasonal Events	<p>-- Summer --</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AuSable River Canoe Marathon • Brown Trout Festival • Fourth of July Festival (Onaway) • Grand Lake Fish Derby • Harmony Weekend • Nautical City Festival (Rogers City) • Presque Isle County Fair • Rogers City Salmon Tournament • Sunrise Side Wine and Food Festival • Wooden Boat Show (Presque Isle Harbor) <p>-- Fall --</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival • Last Chance Salmon Tournament • Posen Potato Festival 			

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INITIATIVE	Description	Supporting Orgs/Sponsor(s)	Contact	Comments
	-- Winter -- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Lake Shivarree• K of C Snow Derby• Northeast Michigan Sportsmen's Show• Christmas in the Village			