

Dotty LaJoye, Executive Director - CUPPAD

Jeff Hagan, CEO – EUPRPDC

# Agenda







# Western Upper Peninsula

- Western six counties of U.P.
- Population about 79,000
- Economic legacy of resource extraction has shifted to healthcare, education, government, high-tech, some manufacturing – more "attractive"
- Increasing importance of tourism
  - Trails promote this and improve quality of life
  - MN, WI, IL, Lower MI



## What We Have

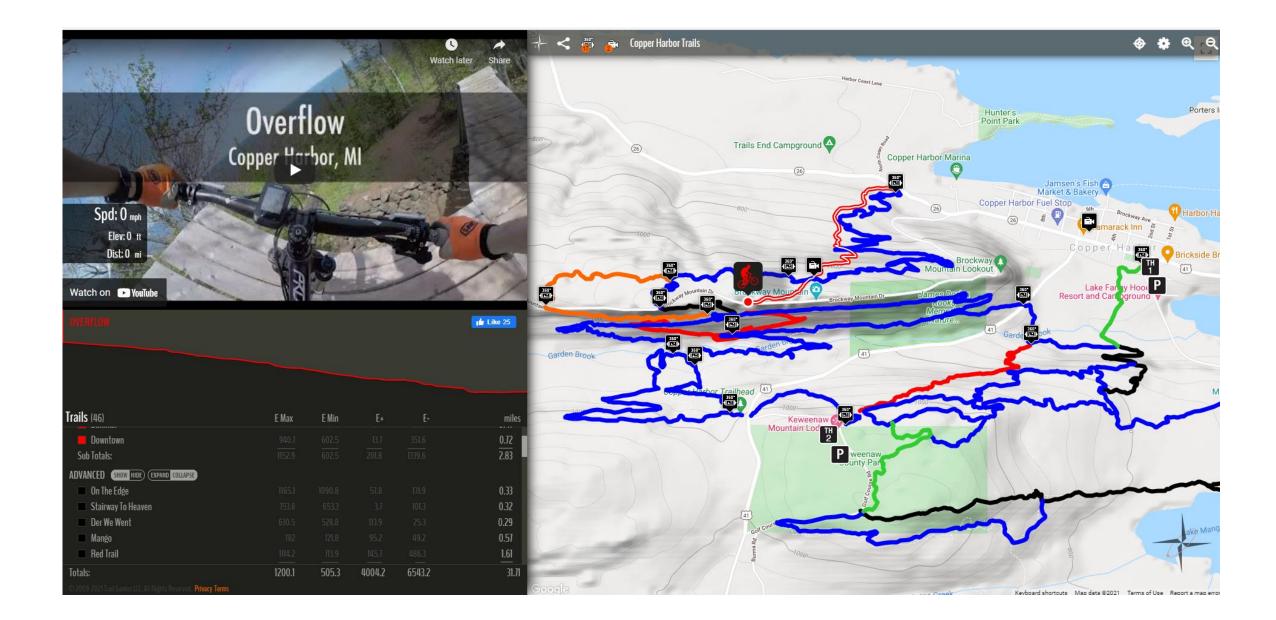
- World-class mountain biking
- ORV and snowmobile (throughout)
- Ski trails and resorts (XC & downhill)
- Iron Belle / North Country hiking trail (northern route)
- Iron Belle bicycling trail (southern route)
- Scenic byways



midnr.maps.arcgis.com

## **Copper Harbor Trails**

- Under formal development for over ten years
- Today one of the Midwest's greatest trail destinations
- 35 miles of single-track trails connected with other adjacent trails; mostly nonmotorized multi-use
- International Mountain Bicycling Association "silver" level
- Bell's Beer Copper Harbor Trails Fest



## **Snowmobile and ORV**

- Over 1,200 miles of groomed trails in Western U.P.
- Relatively reliable destination for snowmobilers often have snow when other areas (e.g. WI Northwoods and Northern MI) do not
- ORV usage has grown massively in recent years; hundreds of miles of trails but more problematic for access





Challenges

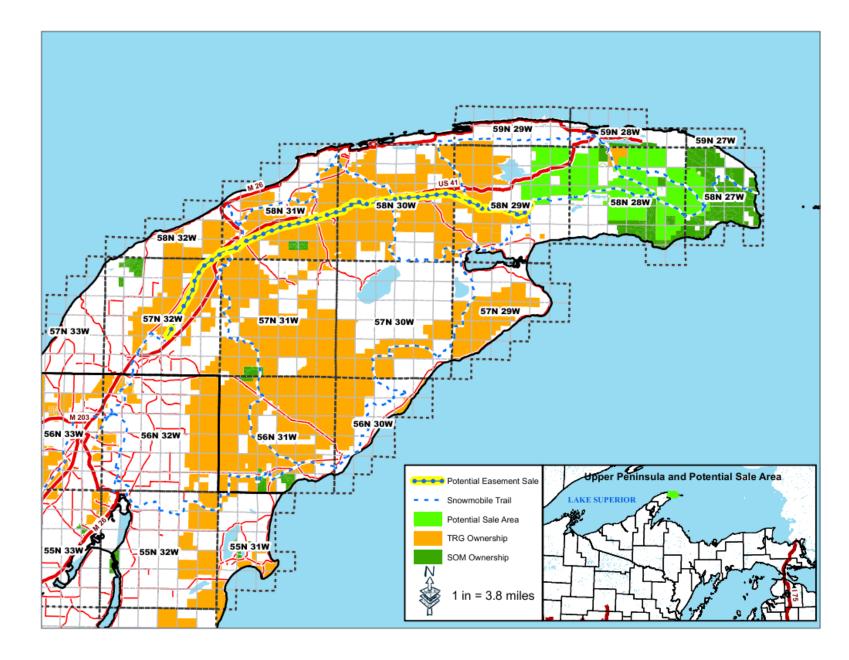
- Landownership
  - Unreliability of easements
  - Liability concerns
- Maintenance costs
  - Flood damage
- User type conflicts
- Resident backlash politics



- Strategic public land purchases
- Education about liability
- Fundraising for maintenance
- Grant-seeking
- Separation of uses on parallel trails
- Community conversations

## Landownership

- Southern part of region has a million acres of national forestland but relatively few recreation amenities
- Northern part, which has most of the top tourist points of interest and trails with a national draw, has much less public land
- Trail easements temporary, threatened by landowner dynamics, perceived liability, and logging closures
- Proposals for DNR acquisition of large collection of Keweenaw parcels



The Rohatyn Group (TRG) / American Forest Management

# 2018 Trail Damage

- Extensive damage to three motorized multi-use trails on steep grades due to flooding in summer 2018
- Resulted in only one, rather than two, continuous trails north from Portage Lake Lift Bridge
- Proper reconstruction of the key damaged trail will cost \$8+ million
  - Funding may finally be satisfied by \$250M state parks/trails proposal



# Ecotourism

- Natural and culture-based
- Untrammeled environment
- Water (falls, trails)
- Geology
- Historic/cultural
  - Copper Country Trail National Byway
  - Keweenaw National Historical Park
- The paradox





#### Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

- Dotty LaJoye
- Executive Director
- <u>https://cuppad.org</u>



# How to Build a Trail Metwork and get the Communities to pay for it

Lessons learned from two successful trail networks in Marquette County

#### The Visionaries

#### **NOQUEMANON TRAIL NETWORK**

#### • Verida Group

- Retired Doctors
- Lawyers
- Other well established and financially secure individuals

- Staff person with LSCP
- A retired teacher from the City of Negaunee
- A retired contractor

#### **Their Visions**

#### **NOQUEMANON TRAIL NETWORK**

- An abundant amount of world class cross county ski trails
- An abundant amount of world class mountain bike trails
- Economic development in the Marquette area
  - Attracting and retaining educated workforce

- A 47 mile multi-use, year-round trail that connects communities and people to the region's historic sites and human stories.
- Economic development across Marquette County by drawing people to the trail and the communities along the way.

# **Organizational Structure**

#### **NOQUEMANON TRAIL NETWORK**

- Founded in 2001
- 501(c)3
- Financed through partnerships, sponsorships, memberships and donations
- Race events including Ore to Shore Bike Race and the Noquemanon Ski Marathon which are qualifiers for other major ski and bike races

- Started in 2005
- Formed the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Recreation Authority
- Collects a millage of .197 mills from participating local units of government. (9)
- Uses millage to leverage larger grants from DNR, MDOT and others

## How did they Make it Happen?

#### **NOQUEMANON TRAIL NETWORK**

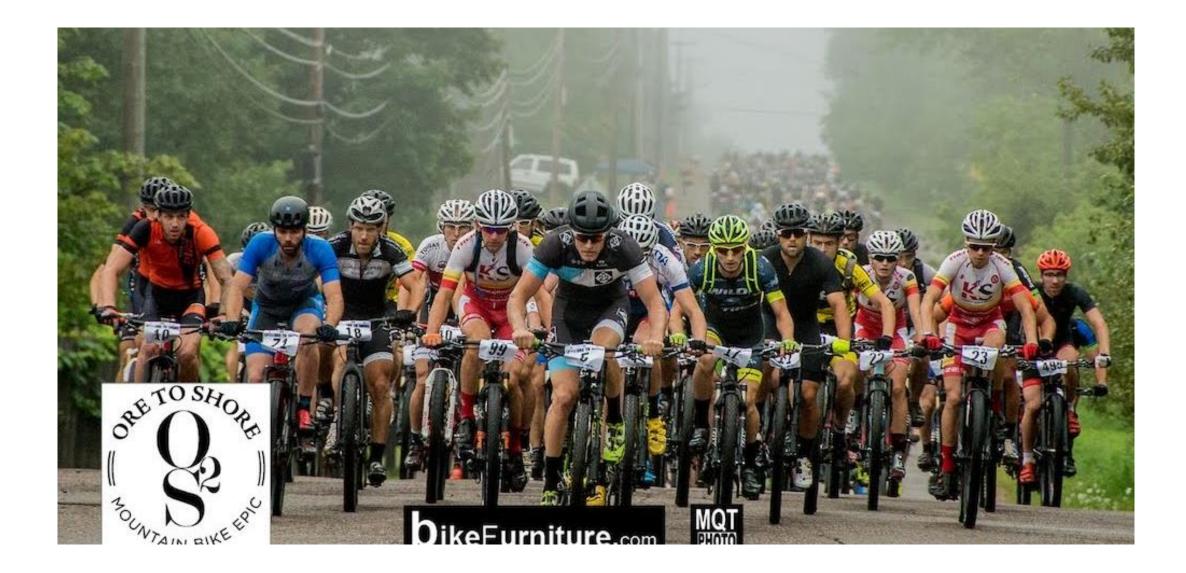
- Secured access to develop trails on municipal power company's land holdings around the hydroelectric dams along the Dead River Basin
- Secured the right to develop city owned, undeveloped land in south Marquette
- Organized successful partnerships, sponsorships, memberships that include volunteering in trail development, maintenance and race procedures

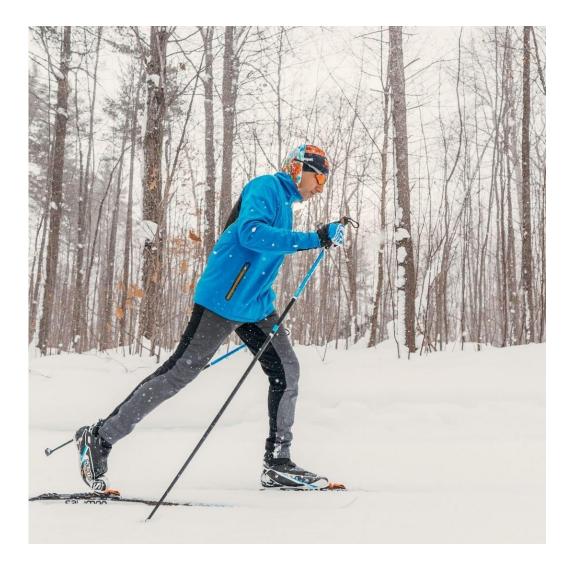
- Worked closely with DNR Trails Coordinator to secure abandon railroad grades.
- Promoted the vision of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to every community along the trail
- Solicited the talents of historians, educators and local artists for interesting and historically accurate content and artistic representation that tells the historic story of iron ore mining along the Marquette Iron Range.

#### **NTN Assets**

As of 2020, there are 7 trail systems maintained by NTN from Munising to Big Bay including over 75 miles of singletrack trail, 35 miles of groomed winter single track, over 125 km of Nordic ski trails, 2 pump tracks and Forestville Trailhead with a 25-site campground. Supports non-motorized trail sports and the local economy.









# PURE ICHIGAN®

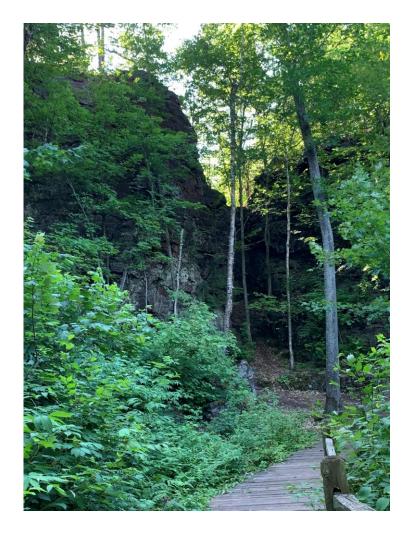
#### **IOHT Assets**

47 miles of trail that links 9 communities together with well developed trail heads. ORV, cross country skiers, and snowmobiles are allowed on some portions of the trail promoting cooperation among jurisdictions and trails users. Supports education, recreation and economic growth.













# EUP Regional Trails PLANNING

MAM Conference – August 12, 2021 Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Jeff Hagan, CEO EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission 2345 Meridian St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 www.eup-planning.org



## Who is EUP ?

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission or EUPRPDC, is a multi-county organization. We pool resources for the assistance of local governments in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. We assist EUP municipalities and counties in the areas of grant writing, land use planning, economic and community development, community surveys, recreation planning, hazard mitigation, transportation planning, and GIS mapping. We are a regional, non-profit government agency operating under Michigan Public Act 281 of 1945, founded in 1968. The Commission also administers the Pure Michigan Scenic Byways program for the M-123 Tahquamenon Scenic Byway, US-2 Top of the Lake Scenic Byway, M-134 North Huron Scenic Byway.

## **Regional Trail Initiatives**





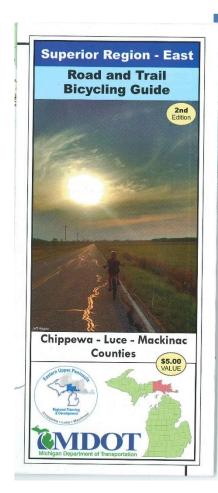




## **REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED** PLAN AND MAP UPDATES

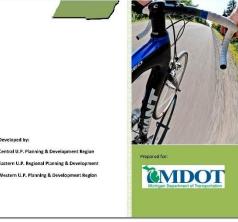
MDOT engaged with EUP to update both the **Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan** and Bike Maps in 2021/2022

- Non-Motorized plan outlines existing assets and trail systems, describes goals and objectives, public input and involvement
- Bike Map outlines the current transportation and trail system on a map, printed copies are available for the general public



Developed by

2009 **MDOT Superior Region** Non-Motorized Transportation Plan & Investment Strategy



# **US Bicycle Routes**

US





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU\_E1DPGsdI

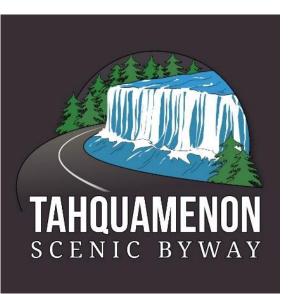


# Pure Michigan Byways





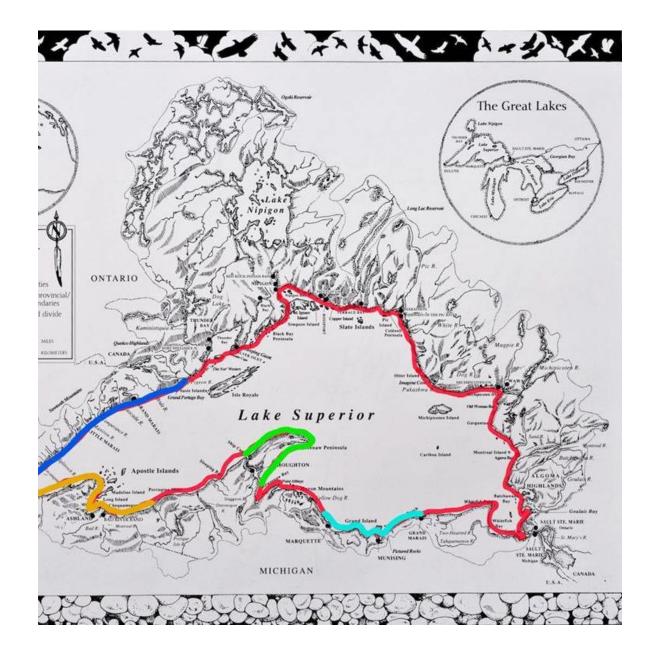
Tahquamenon Scenic Byway (M-123) North Huron Scenic Byway (M-134) Top of the Lake Scenic Byway (US-2)





## EXPLORE M-123....PADDLING TAHQUAMENON COUNTRY





# Partners of the Lake Superior Water Trail

- CANADA LAKE SUPERIOR WATERSHED CONSERVANCY
- MINNESOTA
- WISCONSIN
- MICHIGAN
- WESTERN U.P.
- KEWEENAW
- HIAWATHA
- LAKE SUPERIOR EAST

#### ST MARYS RIVER ISLAND EXPLORER WATER TRAIL



SSM

Sugar Island

Neebish Island

Munuscong

DeTour

Drummond Island





#### UP Water Trails Website and Paddling Atlas



Eastern Upper Peninsula Paddling Atlas Itlas for The Eastern U.P. WATER TRAILS www.upwatertrails.org

## Thank You!

#### **Comments, Questions, Discussion**





