

# Arenac County EDC

## Meeting Minutes



Location: Arenac County Building  
Room 201

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- I. Call to Order: 8:30am
- II. Roll Call: Bob Balzer, Jennifer Pierson, Kim Nelson, Deb Morgan, Harold Woolhiser, Julie Hazeltine, Shelly DuCharme, Brad Mason, Matt Felan, Dale Wiltse  
Guests: Dennis Whitney, Chris Ming, Austin Hazeltine, Heather Bauman, Doug Schultz, Alison Swanson, Stephanie Kernstock, John Hoffman  
Absent: Leona Daniels, Mike Stodolak, Pat Killingbeck
- III. Public Comment:
  - a. Dennis Whitney: Loyalty Day Parade will be April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Casino hosted the Chamber of Commerce coffee and donut hour this month; everyone really enjoyed it.
  - b. Chris Ming: Au Gres has used six snow days, can apply for an appeal. Spring sports are starting. March is reading month, the theme is "circus". Replacing the roof at the elementary school.
  - c. Austin Hazeltine: The Building Department is open again. There is a new employee in the Drain Commission office. Purchased twelve new computers that are being distributed throughout the building.
- IV. Meeting Minutes/ Secretary's Report:
  - a. Approval of February Meeting Minutes: **Motion**- Dale Wiltse, **Supported**- Deb Morgan
- V. Treasurer's Report:
  - a. Approval of Treasurer's Report: **Motion**- Brad Mason, **Supported**- Matt Felan
- VI. Director's Report (attached included in report):
  - a. Working on the strategic plan, going to reach out to the road commission to create a plan for funding and grants for bike trails. Beach access points and trail points need signage to let people know it is there. Reached out to Ryan Klenk and Extreme Graphics for designs for a new logo (see attached swag and prices from Extreme Graphics).
  - b. **Motion** by Matt Felan to spend \$2,500 on advertising for the EDC with \$500 coming from Migizi, **Supported** by Kim Nelson.
- VII. Old Business:
  - a. Brownfield: In 2012, there was a study done with the EPA funding that surveyed around 30 different properties in the county. The files for these properties are in the MSU Extension office.
- VIII. Around the table:
  - a. Matt Felan: Feels the EDC needs to focus on bringing new businesses to create jobs that will bring people to the community.
  - b. Deb Morgan: We need more childcare facilities to bring families into Arenac County.
  - c. Kim Nelson: Attending Whittemore Prescott job fair next week. Hunter Nostrant is transitioning to Chief Operating Officer and Mike Erickson is transitioning to Market President for Alpena, Saginaw, Standish, Tawas and Towne Center.
  - d. Brad Mason: Construction on the Spark grant has started.
  - e. Shelly Ducharme: The Career Center just had an open house. All are welcome to tour the center and eat at The Blooming Chef.
  - f. Julie Hazeltine: Property tax season is here. The settlement period has started.
  - g. Harold Woolhiser: The floors have been epoxied at the Event Center. The first meeting is being held there for the Rotary Club at the end of the month.

- h. Bob Balzer: Staging for upcoming weather events. Affordability for utilities is a big concern, working with Heather and Jeff Ryan to host an affordability event in the county.
  - i. Dale Wiltse: Fourteen families were affected by the fire at the apartment complex in Au Gres. The Closet Exchange and It Takes a Village have been helping the affected families. No injuries from the fire.
- IX. Guest Speakers: ROWE Professional Services (Doug Schultz and Alison Swanson)
- a. Received around 60 responses from the Master Plan survey, the survey will be extended until March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- X. Next Meeting: May 14th, 2026 at 8:30am- April meeting canceled
- XI. Meeting Adjourned: 10:43am

Respectfully submitted,

Abbie Golimbieski

MSUE