



Resolution

EDA Build Back Better Grant

WHEREAS, the residents of Marquette County enjoy pristine, robust, and unique recreational options without having to travel outside their local community; and,

WHEREAS, supporting outdoor recreational activities is a priority for the residents of Marquette County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Marquette has prioritized planning for the protection, promotion, and enhancement of outdoor recreation assets within our current recreation plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Marquette has coordinated recreational planning with Marquette County culminating in the 2020-2024 Marquette County Recreation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail serves as a regional recreation connection and attraction through Marquette County and is centrally located among the County's vast recreational assets; and,

WHEREAS, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Authority supports the enhancement of the trail for outdoor recreational activities and with that, the benefits it provides to the community, such as with economic development and talent attraction; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Economic Development Administration "Build Back Regional Challenge" is a Federal grant program for regional initiatives to help revitalize local economies through industry cluster-based strategies; and,

WHEREAS, a coalition of economic and community development institutions in Marquette County has been formed to support the growth of jobs, businesses, and innovation in the outdoor recreation economy; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned coalition includes: Innovate Marquette SmartZone, Northern Michigan University, InvestUP, Lake Superior Community Partnership, Central U.P. Planning & Development Regional Commission, Michigan Works, and Marquette County; and,

WHEREAS, the coalition would like to submit a project centered on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Corridor as an outdoor recreation innovation district for the purpose of diversifying economic development opportunities with the intent to develop an Outdoor Recreation District Strategic Action Plan which includes a component on managing sustainable tourism; and,

WHEREAS, the coalition is seeking additional support to apply for a potential first Phase \$500,000.00 grant to develop the plan and further explore the potential of developing key projects throughout the region; and,

WHEREAS, the coalition is also seeking local government support for the submission of the grant application; and,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Marquette approves this resolution in support of joining the coalition to support economic diversification efforts by exploring growth opportunities in the outdoor recreation industry and apply to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's "Build Back Better Regional Challenge" with the intent to develop an Outdoor Recreation District Strategic Action Plan focused on creating additional outdoor recreational economic benefits and managing tourism in a sustainable way as it comes to Marquette County.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2021.

Jennifer A. Smith
Mayor