

# VAN BUREN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

219 Paw Paw St., Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079

[www.vanburencountymi.gov](http://www.vanburencountymi.gov)

269.657.8200 X 1073

**Van Buren County Planning Commission**  
**Meeting was held at the Van Buren County Human Services West Building**  
**57418 CR 681, Hartford MI 49057**

**May 22, 2024 - Meeting Minutes**

- 1) **Call to Order & Attendance** – Alyssa Hosbein called the meeting to order.  
**Present:** Alyssa Hosbein, Scott Cedarquist, Jan Petersen, Will Pugsley, Barbara Rose, and Tony Hemenway. Others present included Adam Arend and several other guests.  
**Absent:** Tom Motycka, Kurt Doroh, and Celinda Gilmore (2 current vacancies).
  
- 2) **Presentation:** Adam Arend, Community Development Coordinator from the EGLE Michigan Coastal Management Program was present to detail the coastal communities program and how it assists to preserve, protect, and enhance the shoreline natural resources through technical and financial assistance.  

The Michigan Coastal Management Program (MCMP) under the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities against hazards such as erosion, flooding, and stormwater management. Key activities include educational outreach, community engagement, and technical training workshops. There are four main project types eligible for funding:

  - A. **Planning Projects:** These involve developing Master Plans, conservation, or recreational plans, and enhancing community engagement and outreach efforts. Activities may include natural resource inventories and the use of drones.
  - B. **Feasibility, Engineering, and Design Projects:** These focus on site-specific investigations, feasibility studies, conceptual designs, and final engineering plans. They involve field inventories, topographic surveys, and soil sampling.
  - C. **Low-cost Construction Projects:** These projects enhance public access, restore habitats, and install green infrastructure, using low-impact development techniques and complying with the federal "Buy American" provisions.
  - D. **Land Conservation through Acquisition Projects:** These are intended for government or public entities to purchase ecologically valuable land, ensuring public benefits and ecological protection through acquisitions, easements, and development rights.

Projects must be located within the MCMP coastal boundary, though some planning grants can extend outside if they contribute to coastal management. Grant amounts vary by project type: planning grants range from \$10,000 to \$75,000; feasibility, design, and engineering grants from \$10,000 to \$150,000; low-cost construction grants from \$10,000 to \$250,000; and land conservation grants can go up to \$500,000. All grants require a 1-to-1 non-federal match. Grant funding opportunities are released each October, with awards announced the following summer. Projects begin on October 1st and run for 12-15 months.
  
- 3) **Adjournment:** Hosbein adjourned the meeting.