

WUPPDR Pandemic Recovery Projects Joint Committee

March 24, 2022 Meeting



Community Listening Sessions

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Housing Study/Strategy

Updates



What's been happening?

- Stakeholder solution discussions – multiple in Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton counties
- Deeper exploration of several innovative programs
- One-on-one discussions and interviews including:
 - Northern Homes CDC
 - Sarah Lucas re: Housing North formation



A few County Discussion Group



- Rehabilitation & Revitalization of existing homes & downtown buildings
- New Construction-Modular Homes to lower construction costs



MORE IDEAS!

- **Housing Cooperatives for affordable and market rate housing**
 - Employer subsidized Rental Cooperatives
 - Non-profit Cooperative Corporation for rental housing or for sale units
- **A Community Land Trust for housing affordability**
 - Leased Land
 - New Construction
 - Rehabilitation of existing Homes





- Creation of a regional community land trust organization
- Regional property database prime for development/redevelopment
- Regional nonprofit entity to:
 - Facilitate housing development
 - Provide education
 - Assist local governments
 - Continue county-level engagement

Study Contents

- Overview – national trends
- Planning process
- Overview – survey results
- Regional profile and trends
- County sections
 - Statistics
 - Discussion findings
- Implementation strategies
- Funding programs
- Basic market demand analysis



Tourism Strategy

Updates



EDA Regional Economic Impact Analysis

Analyze regional tourism trends and related economic impacts with a goal of leveraging tourism to increase economic development in the Western U.P.

Partnership with *U of M Economic Growth Institute*

- Develop partnerships and tourism estimates (county-level data collection)
- Gather market intelligence on spending habits and activities
- Conduct economic impact (input/output) modeling
- Produce final report including, by county:
 - Key tourism industries
 - Economic impacts
 - Visitor profiles, including destinations visited



Labor Force Assessment

Updates



Discussion groups:

Remote Workers

- Positive
 - Flexible work schedule (or none)
 - Low cost of living
 - Not crowded nor congested
 - Love of winter
 - Broadband – good! (in communities)
 - Houghton similar to “mountain ski town”
- Negative
 - Rural broadband
 - Childcare
 - Healthcare – specialists, availability
 - Social connections
- Mixed bag
 - Housing
 - Airport (very important)

