Beaver Island Association

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

The Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

2017 Annual Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2017
4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Community Center

Agenda

2016-17 Activity Overview
Election of Directors & Financial Report
Island Fellow Initiative
Great Lakes Island Summit Initiative

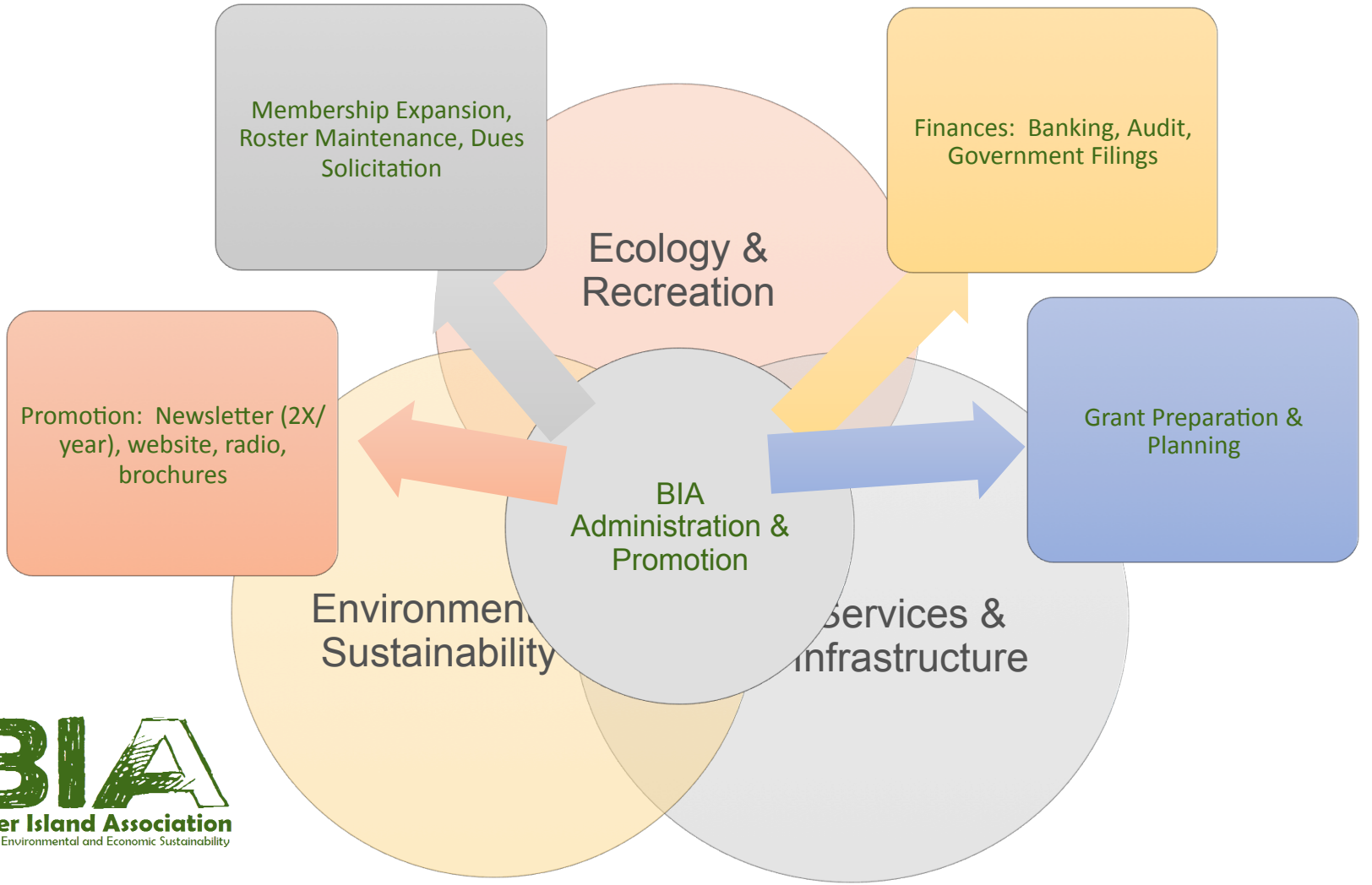
Northern Michigan University Broadband Internet Initiative

BIA
Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President)

I'd like to welcome you to our annual meeting. I'd also like to thank Joe Moore who is broadcasting our meeting on his News on the 'Net service for those who couldn't attend in person. Upon entering the auditorium you viewed a presentation loop prepared for the Chamber of Commerce Community Appreciation event earlier this spring that showed the structure of BIA and the myriad of activities your membership supports. The organization, founded 27 years ago, focuses on environmental and economic sustainability. As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization we had membership of 283 at the time of our spring newsletter and are supported by annual dues of $25 per family.

Our agenda today will be me reviewing an overview of this past year's activities and election of board directors; a financial report by Treasurer Kevin Boyle; and then three presentation on exciting initiatives that I think you will find very interesting. For this past year's activities I'd like to use the structure that was reviewed and adopted at last year's annual meeting using some of the slides you viewed as you entered.



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2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

First, the overlapping administration & promotion area. Last year many of you expressed interest in electronic communication. Board member Sheri Richards has agreed to take on the role of Membership Coordinator to improve our member records. Because many members have multiple addresses we have a couple dozen newsletters that get returned as undeliverable, often with multiple forwarding stickers. Passing thru the audience is a tablet computer, and clipboard for those that are more comfortable with it, for those that didn't get to update their contact info and preference for email or paper when you entered for us to use in future communication. This past year we published a fall and spring newsletter, each eight pages long, with the spring newsletter distributed to all BI PO box holders in addition to our membership, with a cover article, "What is the BIA and What does it do?" It was good publicity, but only marginally successful at gaining new members, which was our goal. You'll hear later about our finances and several grant activities related to various initiatives. The web sites for the BIA and BI Birding Trail are professional, current, and totally transparent…all of our newsletters and board and annual meeting minutes literally for years are available to anyone with an internet connection.

Support Recreation

- Birding
- Waterways
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Biking
- Dark Sky
- Camp Sites

Ecology & Recreation

Maintain & Preserve Environment

- Beaches
- Forests
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Nature Preserves
- Wildlife

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2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

Ecology and recreation. Many of our most recognizable successes as well as long term partnerships are in this sub group and pages have been written in our newsletters and island publications, but let me quickly cover last year's activities.

Trails. The BIBT continues with popular spring and fall events attracting internationally known birding guides; the island was recognized as Conservation Partner of the Year by Saving Birds Thru Habitat; and many visitors used the BIC Center here as the trailhead for their own self-guided tour of our trail. The Waterways Trail progresses with grants from Charlevoix County and the Michigan DEQ Coastal Zone Management Program. LIAA, the Land Information Access Association, that led the township master planning development is helping work through the process of site selection, facilities, signage, and approvals. The Born Learning Trail was created with funding from Leadership Charlevoix and United Way as a public engagement activity for early childhood education. On DNR trails, two CMU interns were hired to conduct GIS surveys of all trails, do minor cleanup & document invasives. A separate new non-profit group is in the development stage to take on the coordination of land trail activities. We wish them success in their endeavor, and if you are interested please offer to get involved.

Environment. Surveys and treatment of invasive species was conducted in partnership with the DNR, Nature Conservancy, and many private property owners. Invasive phragmities, the scourge of Saginaw Bay and virtually every interstate overpass borrow pond is now barely found on Beaver Island and we serve as a model of how to work together to control it. An extensive lending closet of equipment was acquired through the Michigan Dune Alliance and Nature Conservancy and is available at the Transfer Station to assist property owners and groups in controlling invasives. Our annual beach cleanup was conducted in September. And sixteen emerald ash borer monitoring stations were installed last month in partnership with the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development as we continue to be an island free of the pest that has decimated the ash trees in most of the country. The boat company and airlines are our front line partners of defense watching for imported firewood to keep this pest from the island. Hemlock wooly adelgid, autumn olive…..better yet, go to our website and look at invasives activity or we'll be here all evening and not get to some really exciting new initiatives we want you to know about. One last environment comment….a recent action involved the showy lady slippers we all enjoy seeing in the spring and the reports of holes where the orchids were growing and visitors seen with cut bouquets of the flowers. The colorful flyers you saw quickly surface around the island explaining the need to protect the flowers were prepared and distributed by BIA board member Beth Leuck.

Healthcare

BI Rural Health Center, BI Emergency Medical Services, Charlevoix Area Hospital, Munson Hospital, telemedicine, aging-in-place

Education

Beaver Island Community School, mentoring, tutoring, teaching, virtual technology, early childhood education, coastal resilience, CMU, permaculture

Other Services

Fire department, police, transfer station, zoning, road maintenance and signage.

Infrastructure

Airport, marina, government buildings, EMS vehicles, affordable housing.

Services & Infrastructure

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2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

Services and Infrastructure. Last summer and fall a significant amount of effort, time and dues money went into BIA advocacy for a November EMS ballot proposal. Since 2000 Beaver Island was fortunate to have Advanced Life Support (ALS) level of Emergency Medical Service staffed by qualified paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) who were island residents serving their community as volunteers for a modest on-call stipend. This ALS service included island-based licensed air ambulance service from Island Airways that was available for quick evacuation of critical patients needing hospital care. Over the past seventeen years the paramedic staff was reduced as they retired or left the island for other work. In the spring of 2016 only one remained, and she ran a busy seasonal business. The Emergency Services Authority (ESA) that has local government responsibility for EMS and Fire Department operations had to recruit off island paramedics to serve 24/7 in order to maintain our ALS status. This dramatically increased EMS cost, because the volunteer stipend we were paying was insufficient to attract full-time professionals from their current jobs to work on Beaver Island.

Recognizing that historical funding from ambulance and air evacuation billings and the one mil assessment from the townships would not support the cost of off-island paramedics, the ESA requested the townships place a proposal on the November 8 ballot for up to an additional two mils for ongoing EMS support. Both townships agreed. Peaine Township ballot proposal was not received by the County Clerk so it did not appear on the ballot, but the township board approved to assess 1-1/2 mills of the requested 2 mil amount against previously voter approved millage for the general fund with the remaining mill available from reserve funds, so Peaine Township would have funds available from the next tax statements, paid by Peaine Twp. residents and property owners. St. James voters would have a ballot proposal on the November 8 ballot to approve the additional 2 mills for EMS that was needed to continue Advanced Life Support on the island. Unfortunately, public law prohibited the ESA and township boards from using their resources to communicate about the proposal for sixty days before the election. Voters had questions about what had changed and why more taxes were needed, but public officials could not answer them. Seeing that frustration, confusion, and even apathy and opposition arising from the lack of information could jeopardize the ballot proposal, the BIA board approached the Preservation Association of Beaver Island (PABI) board to co-sponsor a community forum to present the background and facts about EMS and the ballot proposal and give voters an opportunity to get their questions answered. The community forum was well publicized with flyers, announcements at township board and ESA meetings, WVBI radio announcements, forum postings, and word of mouth.

On October 22 the forum was held at the Beaver Island Community Center and was well attended. It was broadcast live on WVBI, and Paul and Angel Welke sponsored Joe Moore's News on the Net to live stream and record the entire event. A panel of three medical experts included paramedic Brian Meade, intensive care physician Dr. Brad Grassmick, and retired emergency room physician Dr. Don Fix. They discussed the medical importance of EMS and the critical difference between ALS service with paramedics and BLS (Basic Life Support) with only EMT's, including the qualifications, training and care each could provide. The background and what had changed in our EMS staffing and the financial impact of continuing ALS coverage was also presented, and audience questions were solicited and addressed to assure all present (and watching/listening) were fully aware of the importance of maintaining ALS for the island and that its future relied on the passing of the St. James ballot proposal. In addition to the community forum, your association had developed a trifold brochure earlier in the summer to describe the importance of ALS and created an online funding opportunity for people interested in helping support EMS. An additional brochure was created for handout at the community forum that focused on the importance of the ballot proposal and why it was needed. This brochure, coupled with a cover letter, was mailed to all Beaver Island PO box holders prior to the election. These brochures were posted on News on the Net and the two island internet forums, and a separate Letter to the Editor was published in the Northern Islander edition just prior to the election.

The end result was the successful passing of the proposal with a vote of 181 in favor and 44 opposed. With adequate funding now assured, the ESA is working on short term and long term plans for providing the proper structure and oversight for ALS on Beaver Island. The BIA will continue to be engaged to push for implementing industry best practices in our island services. Board member Don Fix is on an ESA sub-committee that prepared a Request for Proposal from companies providing EMS for mainland communities and possible benefits of associating with them at some level ranging from full service responsibility to serving as a training resource. And the saga continues…..Peaine Township has a ballot proposal on August 8 for a new up to 3 mil assessment for EMS, essentially replacing the vote that should have taken place last November for both townships. St. James is in place, but this Peaine Twp. proposal identifies specific EMS funds and is intended to be offset by a reduction in the general and contingency funds that were used this year to match the St. James funding. Once again, the sixty day "we can't use public resources" blackout period is in effect, so officials won't be talking about it. PLEASE vote "yes" for the EMS ballot proposal in August to continue our excellent emergency service. Tell your friends, and any questions, please see a board member.

2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

Economic Sustainability

Maine Institute Project

Communications

Internet, cell phone coverage, radio, television

Collaboration

NGOs, Townships, Charlevoix Count, Tribes, State Agencies, Universities, Community Center

Property Tax Monitoring

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2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

Economic Sustainability. A tremendous amount of work has taken place this past year, and some really exciting things are happening that can offer tangible short term and long term benefits to Beaver Island. First, our continued partnership with the Maine-based Island Institute introduced us to their nationally-acclaimed Island Fellow program. Patrick McGinnity will tell us about Beaver island's participation this fall with the first Island Fellow in the Great Lakes. Second, that same partnership fostered a visit last fall to Madeline Island in Lake Superior that has resulted in the first-ever convention of Great Lakes islands to be held here on Beaver island in September. Pam Grassmick will tell us about how this came about and the opportunity it provides.

The third and final presentation is a direct result of one of the Priority Focus areas identified in the community forum held to summers ago, broadband internet service. Early last year the BIA wrote to TDS Telecom, our island phone & internet provider, concerning both 911 service outages and internet service outages and capacity. The response we received was that the 911 problem was a failure of ATT, one of their suppliers, not TDS; and that far as the internet, they had no record of service complaints from Beaver Island….hence, no problem. That prompted the comprehensive internet survey the BIA sponsored from July to October to get real data from residents and visitors on their experience and expectations that was detailed in our fall newsletter. In the meantime, CMU was so dissatisfied with TDS capability and reliability it constructed its own broadband link to the mainland to serve its Biological Station and offered to sell that service to the BICS and other non-profit groups; the island has experienced more 911 service outages; two more letters have been exchanged; and TDS has received a $10 million federal grant to extend broadband to underserved rural areas but won't say how, when or what it means to Beaver Island. Fortunately a parallel path was being pursued through an association of BIA board member Kevin Boyle as a member of the Northern Michigan University Foundation Board of Directors. Kevin will provide some background and introduce Eric Smith of NMU who will present what could be unique source of broadband service for our island.

As you can see, your membership continues to support numerous activities that fall within our mission of environmental and economic sustainability. They are only possible because of partnerships forged with a wide array of government, tribal and non-governmental organizations at the local, regional, state, and national level. Compared to our modest budget of a few thousand dollars, literally tens of thousands of dollars have been brought to our initiatives by our partners. We would appreciate your feedback by email or to a board member in person regarding the activities we are undertaking on your behalf.

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2017 BIA Annual Meeting 2016-17 Overview (Bob Anderson, President) Continued

Before moving on to the election of board members, I'd like to take a moment for a something special. Joe Moore, would you take a break from your video camera and join me on the stage? We described all the activity this past year regarding efforts to help maintain Advance Life Support level of EMS on the island. Too many people to list have been involved in starting and sustaining that service, but one person was there at the beginning in 2000 and continued to serve his community until his well-deserved retirement last year. So…..(read plaque). Comments from Joe?

Now moving on to our Board of Directors. This slide shows our current board and their term status. Would those present please stand to be recognized? The board is evenly split between full-year and seasonal residents, and you'll recognize them as involved in many activities of the island beyond the numerous BIA initiatives. Our by-laws require between 9 and 15 directors with staggering 3-year terms with none serving more than three consecutive terms without a break. We currently have none term limiting off. Keith has asked to not stand for re-election, leaving us Pam Grassmick, Taffy Raphael, Bob Tidmore and Mark Englesman willing to start another term. I make a motion to re-elect Pam, Taffy, Bob & Mark as BIA directors. Second? If you are interested in serving in the future, let one of us know because we will be looking for new members with three term limiting off next year.

Kevin Boyle our Treasurer will give us a financial report and tell what all that activity last year did to our bank account!

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Director	Term	Term Ends
Pam Grassmick	Second	July 2017
Taffy Raphael	Second	July 2017
Bob Tidmore	Second	July 2017
Keith Brothers	First	July 2017
Mark Englesman	First	July 2017
Jim Jones	Third	July 2018
Ken McDonald	Third	July 2018
Bob Anderson	Third	July 2018
Kevin Boyle	First	July 2018
Patrick McGinnity	First	July 2018
Beth Leuck	Third	July 2019
Don Fix	First	July 2019
Sheri Richards	First	July 2019
Alan Vicstein	First	July 2019

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Financial Report

2016-2017 Fiscal Year Cash Flow

INCOME	
Membership Dues	1,840.00
Other Income (Business)	
BIBT Fees	270.00
BIBT Sponsorship	1,225.00
Donations	255.00
Island Fellow Donations	300.00
TOTAL Other Income (Business)	2,050.00
TOTAL INCOME	**3,890.00**

EXPENSES	
Advertising (Business)	
BIA	782.50
TOTAL Advertising (Business)	782.50
Insurance (Business)	229.00
Meals & Entertainment (Business)	40.67
Misc. Expense (Business)	
Bank Fees	30.00
Memberships	360.00
Web Services	
BIA	600.00
BIBT	418.96
Island Jewel	80.00
TOTAL Web Services	1,098.96
TOTAL Misc. Expense (Business)	1,488.96
Postage and Delivery (Business)	463.35
EMS Project	159.80
TOTAL Postage and Delivery (Business)	623.15
Printing and Reproduction (Business)	1,008.35
EMS Project	738.60
TOTAL Printing and Reproduction (Business)	1,746.95
Taxes (Business)	
Licenses (Business)	20.00
TOTAL Taxes (Business)	20.00
Travel (Business)	94.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,025.23**

OVERALL TOTAL	-1,135.23

Beaver Island Association

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

Financial Report

2016-2017 Transaction Report

BALANCE 6/30/2016								**2,465.15**
7/1/2016	Checking	461	Charlevoix C...	Membership	Misc. Expen...		c	-160.00
7/1/2016	Checking	464	Joe Moore	News on th...	Advertising (...		c	-150.00
7/7/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	A	Membership ...			40.00
7/8/2016	Checking	467	Sudekum De...	7-7-16 Invoi...	Misc. Expen...	Web ...		-70.20
7/10/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	B	Membership ...			80.00
7/14/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	C	Membership ...			580.00
7/14/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	D	Membership ...			415.00
7/18/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	E	Membership ...			60.00
7/20/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	F	Membership ...			45.00
7/25/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	G	Membership ...			70.00
10/5/2016	Checking	468	Ken McDonald	Beach Clea...	Meals & Ent...		c	-40.67
10/5/2016	Checking	DEP	Dues	H	Membership ...			125.00
10/5/2016	Checking	DEP	... BIBT Spons...	I	--Split--	--Split--		450.00
10/5/2016	Checking	469	Next Level S...	BIA Website	Misc. Expen...	Web ...	c	-300.00
10/5/2016	Checking	470	Village Grap...	About EMS...	Printing and ...	EMS ...	c	-420.00
10/5/2016	Checking	471	Tip Of The M...	Annual Dues	Misc. Expen...	Memb...	c	-50.00
10/7/2016	Checking	472	Michigan Uni...	Annual Dues	Misc. Expen...	Memb...	c	-50.00
10/24/2016	Checking	473	S Beaver Islan...	Annual Dues	--Split--	--Split--	c	-142.50
10/24/2016	Checking	474	Village Grap...	EMS Millag...	Printing and ...	EMS ...		-243.60
10/24/2016	Checking	DEP	... Various	J	--Split--	--Split--		425.00
10/24/2016	Checking	475	Village Grap...	About EMS...	Printing and ...	EMS ...		-75.00
10/31/2016	Checking	476	U.S.P.S	Postage for...	Postage and...	EMS ...		-159.80
12/4/2016	Checking	477	Beaver Islan...	Advertising	Advertising (...			-150.00
12/6/2016	Checking	478	Conservatio...	Annual Dues	Misc. Expen...	Memb...		-100.00
12/6/2016	Checking	479	Beaver Beac...	Advertising	Advertising (...			-250.00
12/8/2016	Checking	DEP	... BIBT Spons...	K	--Split--	--Split--		300.00
1/20/2017	Checking	480	Michigan Co...	Annual Fee	Taxes (Busin...			-20.00
1/20/2017	Checking	481	Grand River ...		Insurance (B...			-229.00
1/20/2017	Checking	482	U.S.P.S Box ...	PO Box 390	Postage and...			-40.00
2/1/2017	Checking	483	Bob Tidmore	Chamber B...	Travel (Busi...			-94.00
2/1/2017	Checking	484	S Bob Anderson	Newsletter ...	--Split--	--Split--		-377.26
2/11/2017	Checking	DEP	... Various	L	--Split--	--Split--		425.00
4/15/2017	Checking	485	Island Design	Great Lake...	Misc. Expen...	Web ...		-80.00
4/15/2017	Checking	486	S Bob Anderson	Newsletter ...	--Split--	--Split--		-1,054.44
4/15/2017	Checking	487	Next Level S...	BIA Websit...	Misc. Expen...	Web ...		-300.00
4/15/2017	Checking	488	Sudekum De...	7-7-16 Invoi...	Misc. Expen...	Web ...		-348.76
6/1/2017	Checking	DEP	... Various	M	--Split--	--Split--		795.00
6/1/2017	Checking	489	USPS	Box Fee	Postage and...			-40.00
6/1/2017	Checking		BICAA	2017 Spon...	Advertising (...	BIA		-90.00
6/2/2017	Checking	DEP	... Various	N	--Split--	--Split--		50.00
6/2/2017	Checking	DEP	USPS Refund		Postage and...			40.00
7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017								**-1,135.23**
BALANCE 6/30/2017								**1,329.92**

TOTAL INFLOWS	3,900.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-5,035.23
NET TOTAL	-1,135.23

Beaver Island Association

Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

Financial Report

2016-2017 Spending

Other Printing and Reproduction (Business)	$1,008.35	20.07%
Advertising (Business):BIA	$782.50	15.57%
Printing and Reproduction (Business):EMS Project	$738.60	14.70%
Misc. Expense (Business):Web Services:BIA	$600.00	11.94%
Other Postage and Delivery (Business)	$463.35	9.22%
Misc. Expense (Business):Web Services:BIBT	$418.96	8.34%
Misc. Expense (Business):Memberships	$360.00	7.16%
Insurance (Business)	$229.00	4.56%
Postage and Delivery (Business):EMS Project	$159.80	3.18%
Travel (Business)	$94.00	1.87%
Other	$170.67	3.40%
Total	$5,025.23	

BIA
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Financial Report

2016-2017 0.2% Certificate of Deposit

BALANCE 6/30/2016			**5,438.49**
7/11/2016	CD	Interest Inc	2.70
10/11/2016	CD	Interest Inc	2.74
1/11/2017	CD	Interest Inc	2.74
4/11/2017	CD	Interest Inc	2.69
7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017			**10.87**
BALANCE 6/30/2017			**5,449.36**

TOTAL INFLOWS	**10.87**
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**0.00**
NET TOTAL	**10.87**

Beaver Island Association
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Financial Report

Change in Assets

	1-Jul-16	30-Jun-17	Change
Checking	2,465.15	1,329.92	(1,135.23)
CD	5,438.49	5,449.36	10.87
Total	7,903.64	6,779.28	(1,124.36)

Beaver Island Association
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Financial Report

Notes

- Change in financial position primarily attributable to work on EMS Project and mailing of spring newsletter to all BI box holders
  - Goal of maintaining ALS achieved
  - Spring mailing is generating new members and showing transparency
- Impact of Island Fellow program
  - Assets include $300 that will be contributed to that program
  - At least an additional $6,500 has been pledged to support BIA's contribution
- Converted record keeping from paper to electronic (Quicken)
  - Should reduce workload (especially payment process)
  - Makes quarterly financial reporting possible
- Items for consideration
  - Move to electronic distribution of Island Currents newsletter (except where paper copies are requested)
  - Consolidated web services on self managed site to reduce costs

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The Great Lakes Unbridged Island Communities Project

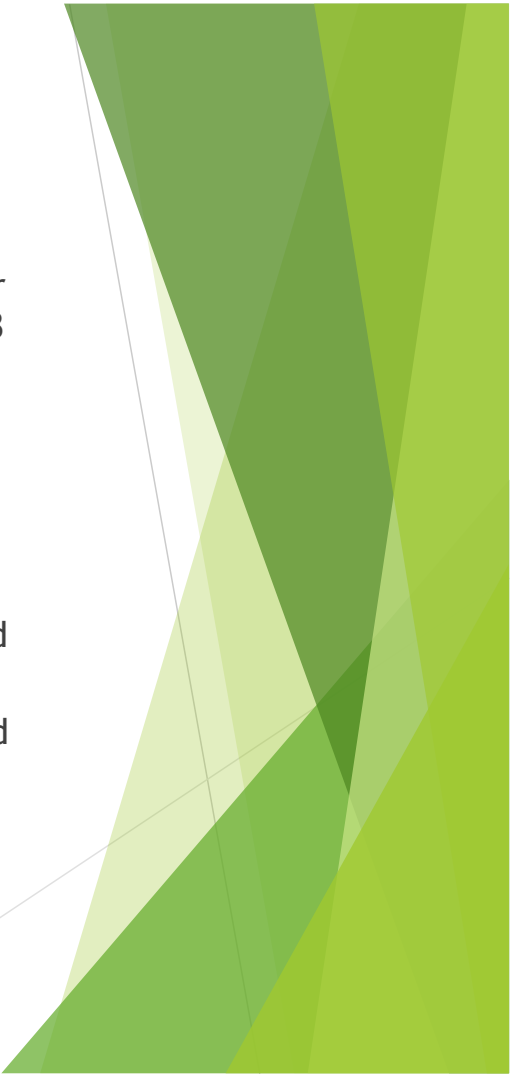
Kevin Boyle, Patrick McGinnity, and Pam Grassmick

Advisory Subcommittee for BIA

The project began in 2015 with the Office of Great Lakes Facilitation

5 Beaver Islanders participated in the first “knowledge exchange” with Maine Islands and experienced a Maine Island Coalition meeting.

- 5 Great Lakes
- 10 + Island Schools
- 3 States 1 Province
- 0 Great Lakes Island Conferences for energy, broadband, or teachers vs. 3 yearly Maine Island Conferences
- 16 Year-Round Unbridged Island Communities of 50+ or more
- 20+ Ferries
- .4 Square Miles: Smallest Populated
- 134 Square Miles: :Largest Populated Island
- Roughly 8189 Total Year-Round Island Population
- Limitless Opportunities for Collaboration



HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE ISLAND COMMUNITIES.

https://www.northland.edu/sustain/crc/great-lakes-islands/

Great Lakes Islands Responses to Date:

Mackinaw, Pelee, Drummond, South Bass, Middle Bass, Put-In-Bay, Madeline Island and anticipate Beaver Island Township Representation

Top Challenges Identified

- Demographic shift: Decreasing Populations and Aging
- Lack of Employment Opportunities
- Water Quality/Environmental Degradation
- Lack of Law Enforcement
- Affordable Housing
- Medical Services
- Decreasing Tax Values

Points of Pride Identified

- Natural Resources, Preserves
- EMS/Fire
- Senior Center
- Regional Island Promotions
- Safe Communities
- Multiple Universities/Professional Organizations Studying Wildlife and Water Quality

Laying the Foundation for a Great Lakes Islands Coalition-September 2017

- Network developed by Islanders-not for them.
- Islanders share and learn of new ideas and tangible approaches to addressing complexities of island living.
- Cooperative Relationships: Unique opportunity for positive cross-boarder interaction.
- Knowledge of island communities are advanced in governments, institutions, organizations and the media.
- Great Lakes islands have an opportunity for a more amplified and consistent voice to mainland decision-makers.

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Communications Services

Update

- Island-wide survey of residents, seasonal residents and visitors complete last fall
- Meeting with Representative Triston Cole and local leaders to discuss issues
  - Will seek engineering proposal for long term options
  - RFP now being drafted
- Meantime, pursue short and intermediate term options
  - Establish internet link for BICS
  - NMU Educational Access Network
- Public support will be critical along the way

Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

Educational Access Network

NMU's RURAL EDUCATIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE FOR BEAVER ISLAND, MICHIGAN

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Northern Michigan University

CRITICAL NEED

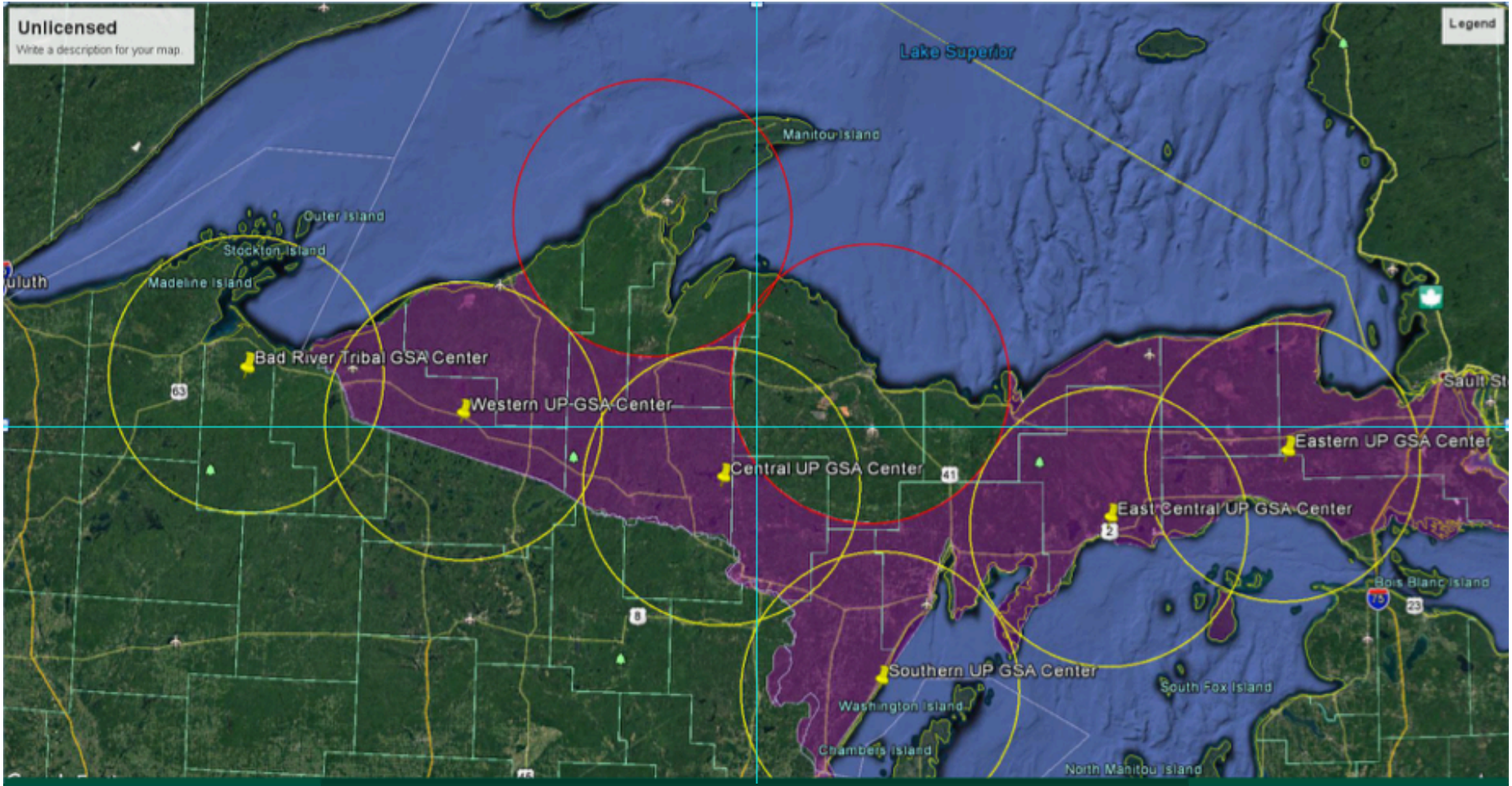
NMU UP Rural Educational Broadband Initiative (Educational Access Network – EAN)

Rural need for broadband

- **25% of U.P. households have little or no broadband**
- **Primary issue during Gov. Snyder's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission**
- **Regional schools, cities and towns have requested NMU's assistance in their areas**

Demographic factors

- **47% (almost 18,800) of U.P. K-12 students are on "free and reduced" lunch programs**
- **Median incomes are more than $14,000 below the national average ($39,022 vs. $53,482)**
- **Affordable educational high-speed broadband is needed to address the "homework gap" of Michigan students where internet access is limited.**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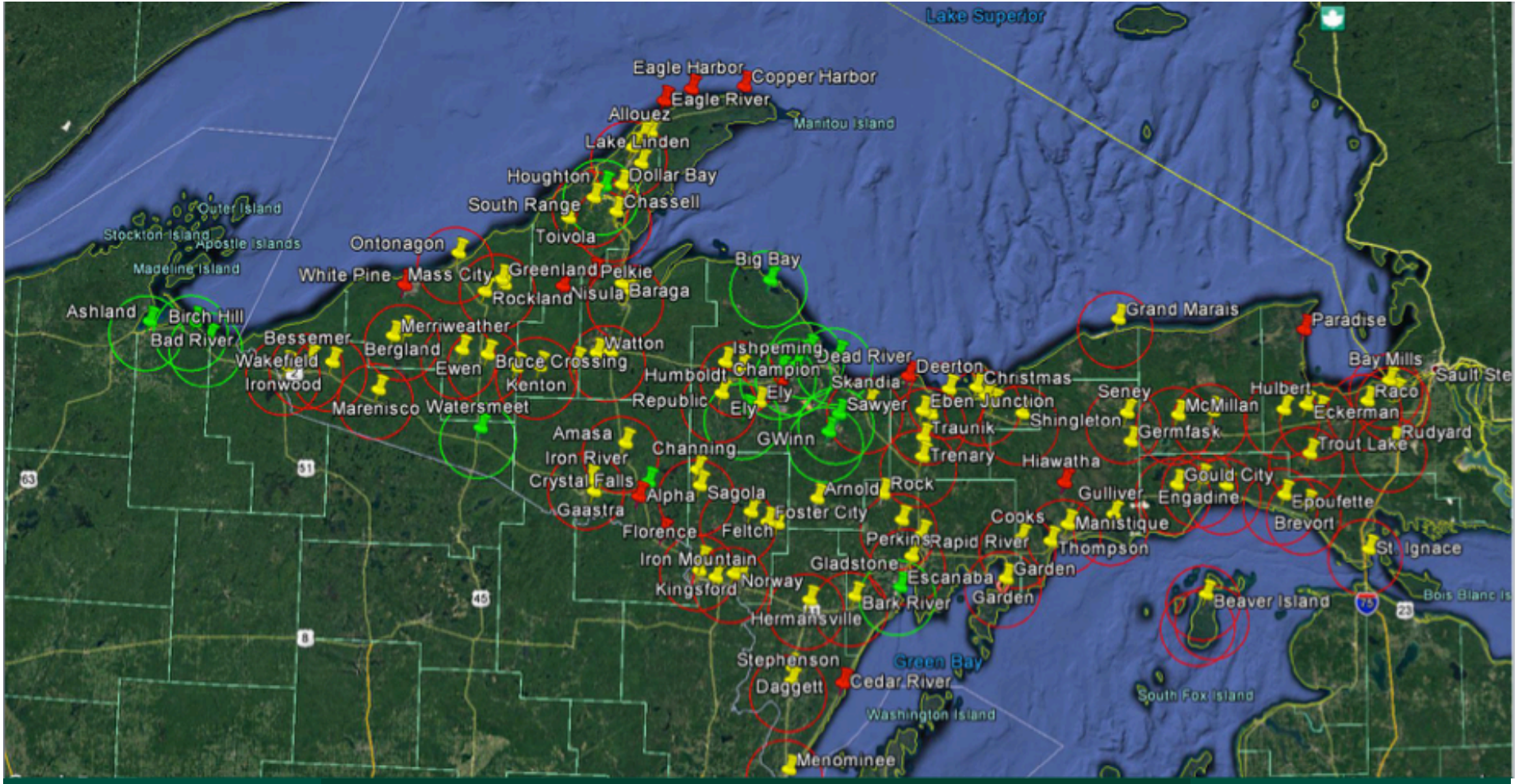
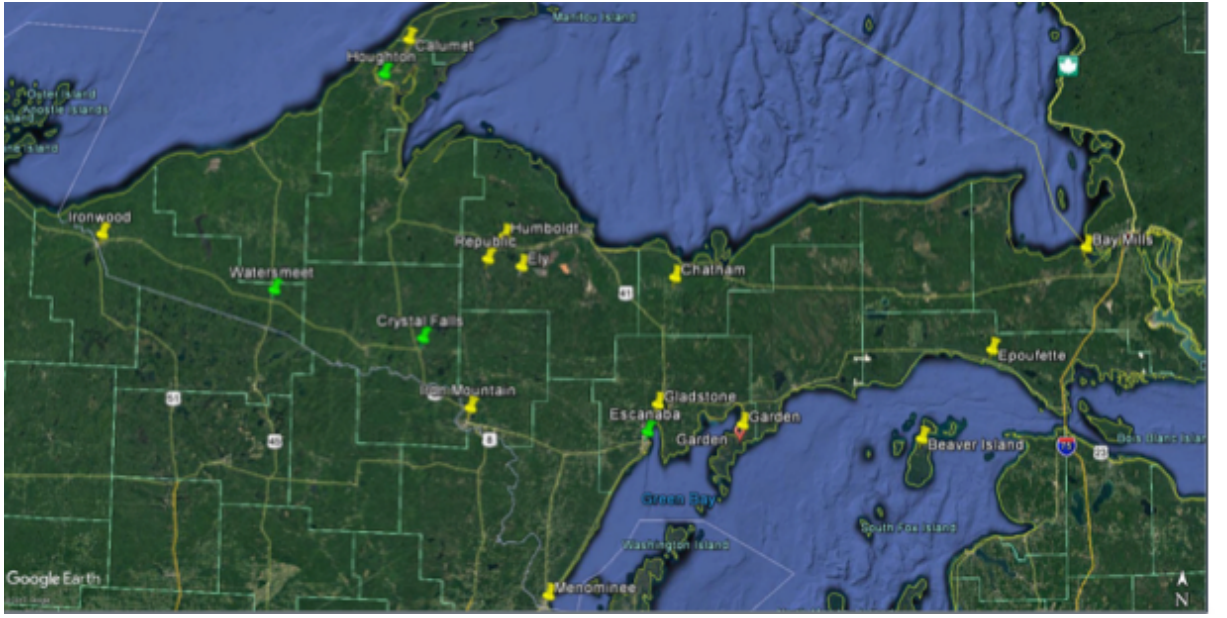


NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Preliminary Plan for 2017 Buildout

Cities under development

- Escanaba
- Watersmeet
- Iron County
- Crystal Falls
- Chatham/Eben Junction/Traunik
- West Ishpeming/Republic/Champion
- Houghton/Hancock
- Calumet
- Gladstone
- Epoufette
- Brimley/Bay Mills
- Iron Mountain/Kingsford/Breitung
- Menominee
- Ironwood/Gogebic
- Garden/Nahma
- Beaver Island



LTE CONSTRUCTION

Network Construction Factors

- Access to public land to build towers where needed
- Existing public infrastructure that can be utilized
- Highest community need levels
- Meet FCC GSA (Geographic Service Area) license requirements
- Northern Promise partners
- Timing/ability for city/township/county to enter into agreement for delivery of system
- Timing of access to backhaul to reach tower sites

NMU'S U.P. RURAL EDUCATIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE
EDUCATIONAL LTE NETWORK

Currently

- Providing educational broadband service to..... 9,000 students, faculty, and staff
- Covering Marquette and Houghton counties..... 2,867 square miles
- Broadband speeds..... Up to 25Mbs down and 5Mbs up

When Fully Constructed

- Will provide last mile connectivity to..... 21,548 sq. miles of rural U.P. communities
- Will connect..... 60,000 K-16 students and lifelong learners
- Will middle college links between..... 40,891 K-12 students and 6 colleges & universities
- Will provide educational broadband to..... 6 Native American tribal communities

Project Funding

- Construction and operational costs will be paid by individuals and other educational entities with assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

EAN SERVES A VARIETY OF STUDENTS

Educational Access Network

Degree Seeking Students

- Online degrees
- Online certificates
- Individual credit courses (including dual/ concurrent enrollment)

Community Members

- Continuing professional education
- Workforce development
- Lifelong learning
- Other non-degree courses

Educational Partners

- K-12 School Districts
- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Tribal Communities

EXTENDING NMU STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Associate level:

- Criminal Justice

Baccalaureate level:

- Loss Prevention Management
- Criminal Justice
- Psychology
- Applied Workplace Leadership (Fall 2017)
- Nursing (Winter 2018)

Master's level:

- Education
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Reading Specialist (K-12)
  - Reading (K-8)
  - Instruction
  - Administration (American Indian Education)
  - Administration (traditional K-12)
- Public Administration (certificate and Master's)
- Clinical Molecular Genetics

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Community Member Offerings

- Provide a library of learning modules
- Current Offerings
  - Customer Service Training
  - Understanding Online Personal Security
  - Protecting Your PC
  - Windows 10 In-Depth
  - Financial Fitness

Future Expanded Community Offerings

- Community learning modules and skill builders will continue to grow.
- Provide at least 50 additional in the next 12 months.
- New development modules may focus on:
  - Health care,
  - Business skills,
  - Technology skills, and
  - Other personal skills.

SERVING EDUCATION PARTNERS

Current School Partners

- Marquette Public
- Ishpeming
- Negaunee
- Gwinn
- Crystal Falls
- Watersmeet
- Escanaba
- Westwood HS
- Powell Township
- Bay Community College
- Beaver Island

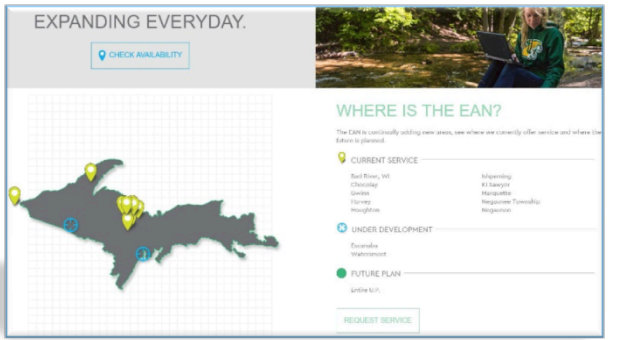
Educational Partners

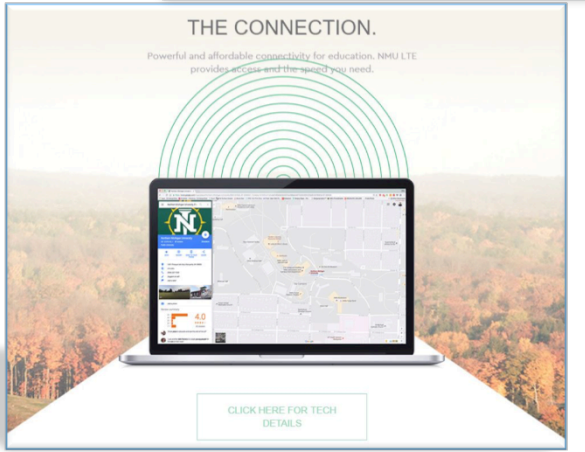
- Agreements with Schools throughout the Upper Peninsula
- Provides access to education for K-12, Community Colleges, and Universities throughout the Upper Peninsula
- Students access their home institution via bandwidth provided by LTE service
- Students may roam outside their district and connect wherever NMU LTE network is available

ENROLLMENT PROCESS FOR EAN

Sign-up on the web

1. Prospective students visit NMU's EAN web site
2. Provide name/address & email information
3. Software automatically checks service availability and provides equipment recommendtion
4. Provides payment information
5. CPE device mailed to user or available for pickup





EAN RATES

Service includes content & internet

- Enrollment in the EAN provides full access to learning modules and internet service on a monthly basis
- Payments are made through reoccurring charges to credit or debit card
- Lease or purchase options for the LTE wireless modem (3 types are available)
- Service may be terminated at any time

HOW EAN BENEFITS STUDENTS

Colleges and Universities

- Provides anytime, anywhere access to on-line courses & off-campus learning
- Facilitates research
- Enables course communications and video/audio discussions

K-12 School Partners

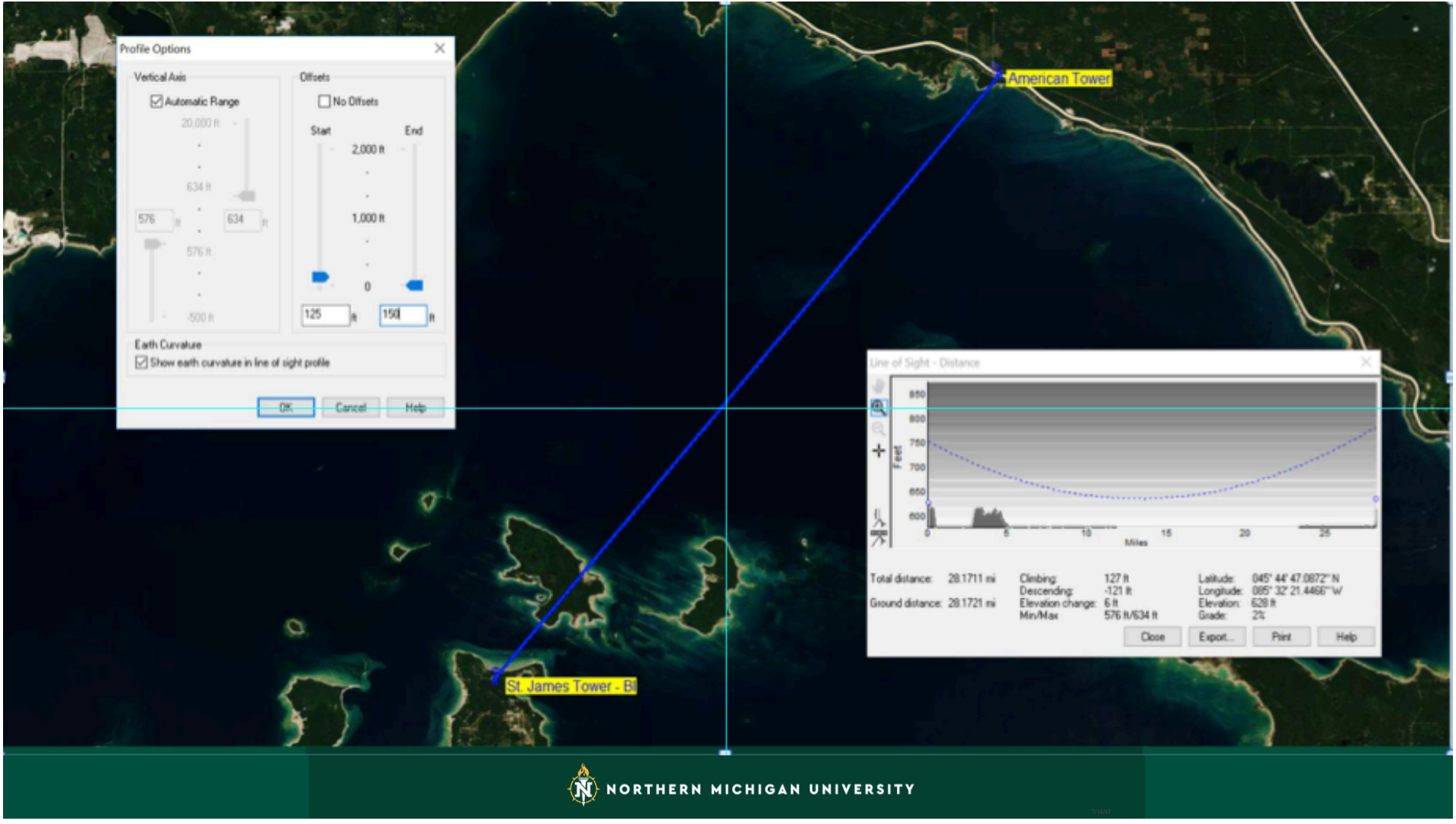
- Supports student dual enrollment and middle college experiences
- Provides access to classroom server content
- Enables administrator and school board conferences & training
- Teaches digital literacy, virtual field trips and project research

Lifelong Learners

- Provides learners of any age with non-credit courses
- Provides jobless individuals with career and technical skill training opportunities
- Promotes digital literacy among individuals of any age
- Provides individuals with access to medical, utilities, weather and public safety emergency services information

BEAVER ISLAND BACKHAUL

- Service will originate at American Tower site on US-2 near Epoufette / Brevort
- Internet service through MERIT networks
- Available bandwidth 1.2 GB



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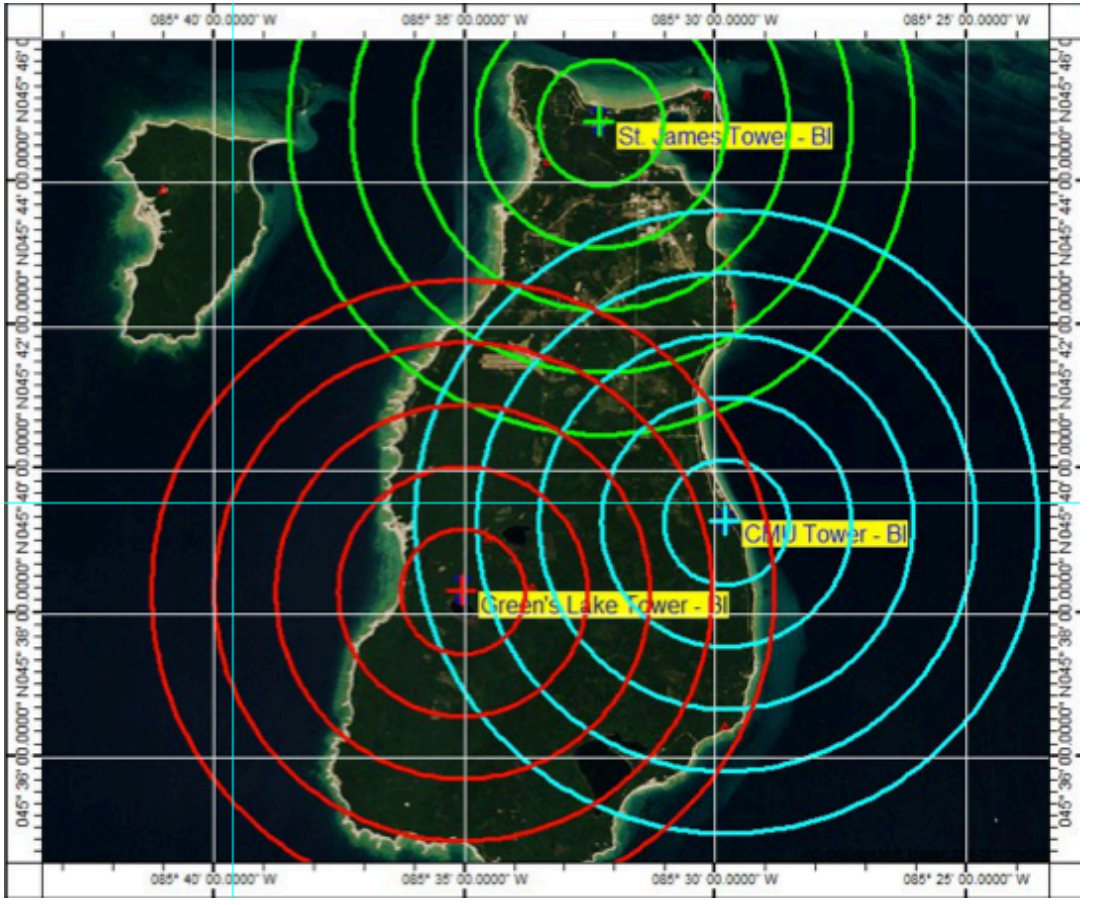
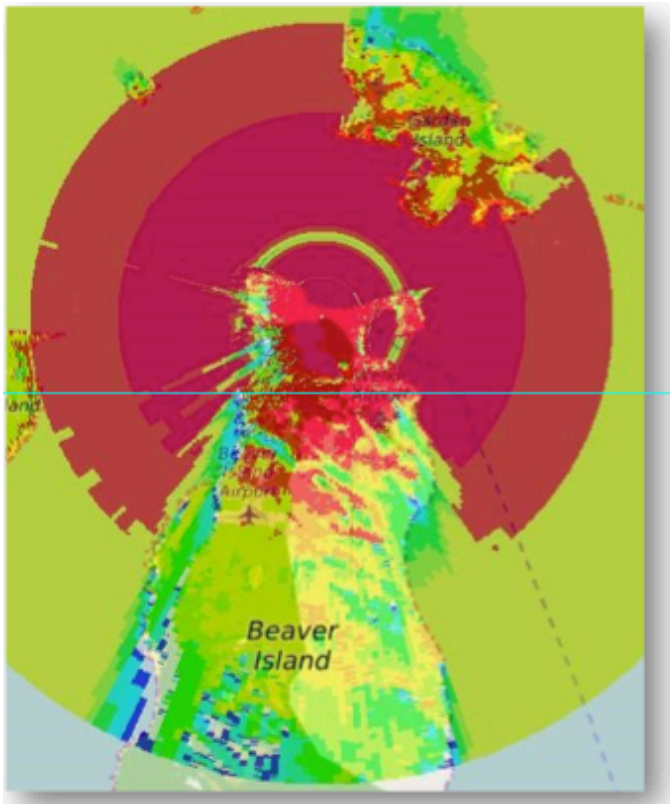
LTE TOWER SITE COVERAGE

- Theoretical coverage from existing tower sites
- 5-mile projection
- Projections do not account for terrain effect

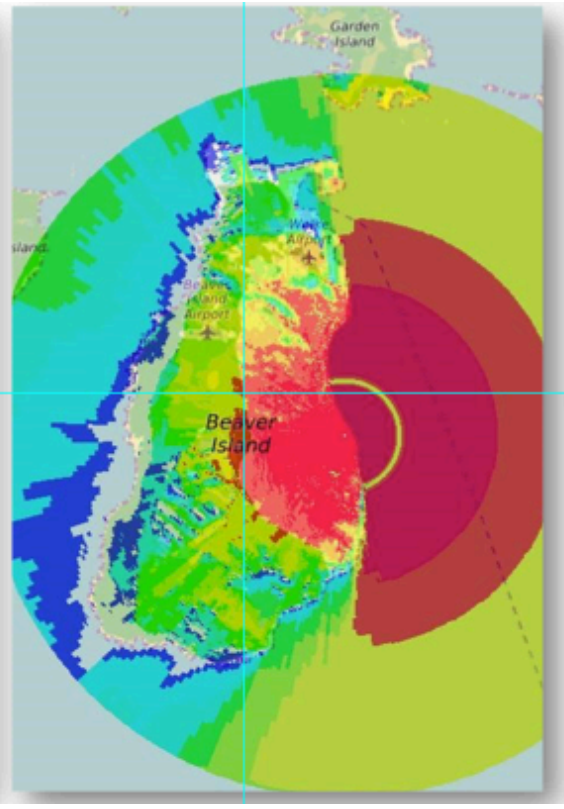


RF PROJECTIONS – ADJUSTED FOR TERRAIN

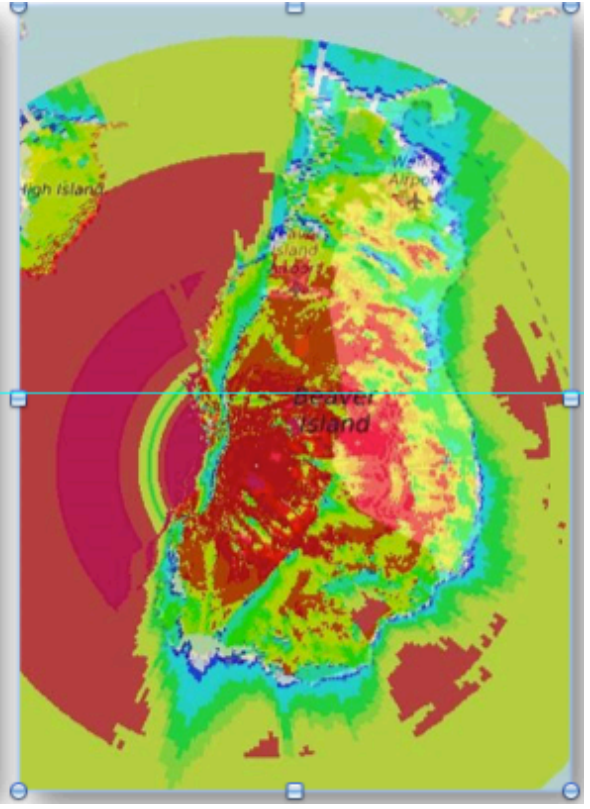
Font Lake Tower



CMU Tower



Green's Lake Tower



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More on the web @

nmu.edu/ean

Beaver Island Association

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