

GOALS AND POLICIES

Chapter of the Marquette County Comprehensive Plan



Adopted April 1, 2009 by the Marquette County Planning Commission

Approved June 2, 2009 by the Marquette Board of Commissioners

Prepared by:

Resource Management & Development Department
Planning, Community Development, Forestry, & Recreation Division
Marquette County, Michigan

**MARQUETTE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION
MARQUETTE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**GOALS AND POLICIES CHAPTER
of the
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA) authorizes the Planning Commission to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for the use, development, and preservation of all lands in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission updated the Goals and Policies Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and submitted the plan to the County Board for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2009 the Marquette County Board received and reviewed the proposed Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan prepared by the Planning Commission and authorized distribution of the proposed Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan to the Notice Group entities identified in the MPEA; and

WHEREAS, notice was provided to the Notice Group entities as provided in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 1, 2009 to consider public comment on the proposed Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, and to further review and comment on the updated Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission finds that the updated Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan is desirable and proper and furthers the use, preservation, and development goals and strategies of the County;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Adoption of Goals and Policies Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.** The Planning Commission hereby approves and adopts the proposed 2009 Goals and Policies Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, including all of the figures, maps, and tables contained therein.
2. **Distribution to County Board and Notice Group.** Pursuant to MCL 125.3843 the County Board has not asserted by resolution its right to approve or reject the proposed Goals and Policies Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and therefore the approval granted herein is the final step for adoption of the plan as provided in MCL 125.3843 and therefore the plan is effective as of April 3, 2009. In addition, the Planning Commission approves distribution of the adopted amendments to the County Board and Notice Group.
3. **Findings of Fact.** The Planning Commission has made the foregoing determination based on a review of existing land uses in the County, a review of the existing Comprehensive Plan provisions and maps, input received from the County Board and public hearing, and finds that the updated Goals and Policies Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan will accurately reflect and implement the County's goals and strategies for the use, preservation, and development of lands in Marquette County.
4. **Effective Date.** The Master Plan shall be effective as of the date of adoption of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution offered by Planning Commissioner Salo. Second offered by Planning Commissioner Kristola. Upon voice vote the following voted: "Aye": Commissioners Salo, Kristola, Kaiser, Touchinski, and Holmes. "Nay": 0

The Chair declared the resolution adopted.



Chapter I Goals and Policies

The Marquette County Comprehensive Plan addresses several subjects and topics pertinent to guiding Marquette County into the future. The following is a list of several goals, sub-goals, and policies. Each chapter, as well as stand-alone plans, should be reviewed for additional goals, sub-goals, and policies specific to subject matter.

1. Definition of Terms

In what follows, the term “goal” is defined as “a desired end or product of the planning process, to be attained by means of a planning policy or related policies.” Each “goal” is stated first. A series of sub-goals are then stated which more specifically illustrate the various related subjects under the general heading.

The term “policy” is defined as “a means of attaining a stated end or a goal”. Related policies are grouped under each categorical general goal and sub-goals.

2. Categorical Goals/Policies

A. Land Use

General Goal. Achieve long-range sustainability through sound land use decisions while adhering to the following tenets of smart growth.

1. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
2. Create walkable communities.
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
4. Mixed land use development through mixed-use zoning.
5. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
6. Preserve open space, farmland, scenic, and critical environmental areas.
7. Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities.
8. Take advantage of compact building design.
9. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration (in development decisions).
10. Make development decisions predictable, fair, transparent, and cost-effective.

Sub-goals

1. The infill development of areas with existing impervious surfaces and/or utilities.
2. Correlation of land use with land capability/suitability.
3. Avoidance of “strip”, “ribbon”, “leap-frog” or “sprawl” developmental patterns.
4. Balancing of human individual needs with broader societal needs, now and in the future
5. Pleasant, walkable, residential neighborhood environments that provide transportation alternatives and recreational opportunities.
6. Sufficient, well-located commercial centers, with emphasis on design, convenience, safety, and energy conservation.
7. Maximization of effectiveness of all resources, human and non-human.
8. Through land-use decisions improve safety along the urban corridor (US41/M28 –Chocolay, Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming).
9. Minimize unsustainable development such as sprawl, that is consumptive of land and tax dollars in provision of infrastructure (utilities, water, sewer) providing services such as fire and police protection, snow plowing, student busing, etc.

Policies

1. Encourage redevelopment of brownfields and greyfields.
2. Discourage development in unsuitable areas, such as those containing steep slopes, flood plains, caving areas, high water tables, wetlands or shallow soils or areas adjacent to airports or other activities detrimental to human health, safety, and welfare. Encourage development in areas capable of supporting appropriate land uses.

3. Encourage preservation of environmentally fragile and sensitive areas, such as wetlands, swamps, marshes, dunes, and aquifer recharge sites. Encourage preservation of scenic sites, such as waterfalls, scenic drives, and shorelines.
4. Encourage preservation of prime agricultural areas, prime forestlands, and mineral-resource and ancillary areas (tailings basins, process-water reservoirs, and watersheds) from intrusion by residential, recreational, or other types of incompatible development.
5. Encourage preservation and management of high-quality fish and wildlife habitats.
6. Recognize the important value of recreational lands and promote public access to forests, streams, lakes, and rivers.
7. Encourage, within existing infrastructure boundaries, development through land use planning and controls where needed utilities and services can be provided economically.
8. Encourage control and location of seasonal and second-home development through appropriate land-use controls at the local level, so as to be consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
9. Encourage control of access to primary roads in recognition of their high-speed, traffic-carrying capacity.
10. Encourage development of industrial and technology centers.
11. Encourage relating of land use planning and development to overall energy and energy-conservation considerations.
12. Maintain participation in the US 41/ M-28 Access Management Advisory Group.
13. Encourage local units of government to adopt access management regulations.
14. Discourage residential expansion into forest areas (wildland/urban interface) as it greatly increases threat of forest fires and possible loss of life, property, and forest resources.
15. Land use controls (zoning setback distances from watercourses) should be established and uniformly applied on a countywide basis.
16. Townships in which flood potential exists should participate in the National Flood Insurance program to reduce economic loss due to property damage.
17. Update and maintain land use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data.
18. Encourage local units of government to plan for mine closure by establishing closure criteria and reclamation plans for existing and future mine sites.
19. Encourage forest management and agricultural practices on land that is part of a conservation easement as appropriate.
20. Encourage local units of government to adopt appropriate condominium regulations to ensure development that is consistent with community goals.

B. Housing

General Goal. The provision of decent, safe, and healthful housing offering a range of cost, type, and location to potential households, consistent with other planning goals.

Sub-goals

1. A variety of housing-site locations in areas of available transportation, community facilities, and other services.

2. Preservation of sound existing neighborhoods; rehabilitation of deteriorating neighborhoods.
3. Utilization of areas which are capable of supporting residential development without hazard to the development or to the environment.

Policies

1. The private housing industry should be utilized to its maximum potential in meeting community housing needs. However, housing should be recognized as a public as well as a private responsibility.
2. Encourage the development and provision of energy-efficient housing, including winterization and rehabilitation of houses to improve energy efficiency of existing housing stock.
3. Continue to pursue federal and state housing assistance programs to improve the existing housing stock and provide every household an opportunity to live in a safe, decent, sanitary, and healthy house, within a range of housing costs, types, and tenure.
4. Encourage coordination among builders, lenders, and housing agencies in the provision of affordable housing.
5. Encourage housing subdivision design to include cluster development, open space, and trails in location in or near population centers.
6. Encourage the rehabilitation and conservation of existing housing stock.
7. Encourage new housing developments that create mixed communities where a variety of people of different income ranges and physical abilities live together in locations within or close to urban centers.

C. Environment and Open Space

General Goal. Conservation of natural resources; improvement of environmental quality; preservation of open space and wilderness areas; management of wildlife.

Sub-goals

1. Preservation of steep slopes, flood plains, lake and inland stream bluffs, aquifer-recharge areas, marshes, swamps and other ecologically-sensitive areas.
2. Preservation of air and water quality.
3. Avoidance of conflicts between developmental and non-developmental uses.
4. Preservation of lands and sites of historical and/or architectural value.
5. Rehabilitation of areas in serious disrepair.
6. Utilization of resources in an efficient manner.

Policies

1. Recognize the value of vacant land serving an open-space function.
2. Encourage the pursuit of mechanisms to fund opportunities to preserve lands of historical, architectural, scenic, and environmental value.

D. Transportation

General Goal. A multi-modal, balanced transportation system, accommodating travel patterns safely and efficiently, at minimal environmental and fiscal cost and with maximum conservation of resources.

Sub-goals

1. Maximization of energy conservation.
2. Utilization of transportation facilities to implement and guide land-use planning.
3. Maximization of capacity of existing major traffic facilities by the development of transportation alternatives, including non-motorized, and implementation of access management techniques.
4. Development should incorporate non-motorized traffic movements, public transit traffic movements, and service vehicle traffic movements (such as busing and garbage pickup) as appropriate.
5. Increased use of transportation alternatives such as public transit, non-motorized, and carpooling.
6. Assurance of continuing availability of rail-water-and air-transportation facilities.
7. Accommodate for the needs of an aging population as they relate to transportation.

Policies

1. Encourage improvement of all modes and arteries of a balanced transportation system, as an integral part of a coordinated regional and statewide system.
2. Encourage coordination of county transportation system improvements with those of other governmental units. Encourage increased coordination of all forms of public-transit services and inter-modal transfer facilities.
3. Encourage coordination of private transportation and public transportation planning.
4. Encourage participation in regional and state transportation planning.
5. Encourage coordination of the county transportation network with the overall development of county resources and with county land-use planning.
6. Encourage improvement of transportation safety and maximize the mobility of county residents, consistent with other portions of this Plan.
7. Use the existing state/county trunk/primary/secondary/road classification system, for functional and capital programming purposes, as being more appropriate to local conditions.
8. Seek County Planning Commission review of the County Road Commission's annual capital improvement program.
9. Minimize traffic conflicts between abutting land uses and the principal roadway, along arterial and principal collector roads, by means of land-use controls, and access management regulations.
10. Participate on the US 41/M-28 Access Management Corridor Committee and perform site plan reviews of proposed developments.
11. Update the US 41/M-28 Access Management Plan accordingly.
12. Seek methods of reducing the number and length of roads to be maintained in the County.
13. Encourage preservation of existing rail-, water-, and air-transportation facilities.

14. Encourage protection of designated air corridors and glide slopes around airports.
15. Encourage improvement of the transportation system to accommodate all modes of travel.
16. Encourage increased use of public transit and ridesharing.
17. Encourage utilization of traffic-engineering techniques to improve existing road capacities, where needed.
18. Encourage improvement of transportation access to and between the designated County urban center and rural communities.
19. Maximize the efficient use of existing facilities before authorizing new facilities.
20. Encourage new State and Federal funding mechanisms that will adequately support maintaining the county transportation infrastructure.

E. Community Facilities and Services (see also Intergovernmental Cooperation)

General Goal. Appropriate and efficient community facilities and services located in areas of population and developmental needs.

Sub-goals

1. Coordinated modern fire, police and emergency-medical protection systems.
2. Access to coordinated educational and educational-training facilities designed to meet the needs of the community.
3. Access to amounts and types of recreational facilities and activities designed to meet the needs of the community.
4. Coordinated water-supply, sanitary- and storm-sewage systems and solid-waste management systems appropriately located and sized to provide needed services to areas as determined by the planning process.

Water-Wastewater Policies

1. Encourage local inter-governmental and electric-utility cooperation to ensure that needed water-supply and sewage-collection and treatment facilities and replacements/additions/ improvements are provided on a regional or sub-regional basis, wherever such arrangements are cost- and service-effective. This would apply particularly between cities and adjacent townships. Such joint uses should be established at fair and equitable service rates for all concerned.
2. Encourage concentration of new development in areas of the county already served by community water-supply and sanitary-sewer facilities, except where such development will conflict with other aspects of this Plan.
3. Encourage coordination of federal, state and local unit activities in the planning, financing and operation of water-supply and sanitary-sewer facilities on a countywide basis, in a sound fiscal manner.
4. Encourage conservation, maintenance, and quality improvement of existing local water-supply sources by efficient collection and treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater to standards set by the Michigan Water Resources Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
5. Discourage installation/use of on-site wastewater disposal systems (septic tanks) in location of unsuitable soil, geology, or slope characteristics.
6. Encourage maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement of on-site wastewater disposal systems, to alleviate waste-water disposal problems.

7. Encourage construction of facilities, such as inter-connections, to avoid interruptions of water service.
8. Encourage implementation of land-use and lake-level controls to protect inland bodies of water.
9. Discourage use of relatively short-term leases of land for relatively long-term facilities such as water-supply and sanitary-sewage treatment plants.
10. Encourage public and private landowners to practice sound water and land conservation management techniques. Technical/financial assistance should be made available to correct current/future water pollution problems resulting from deficient land-use practices; and public educational programs should focus on such situations.
11. Encourage good storm water management practices, such as proper structure sitting and grading, application of appropriate design techniques and provision of detention/retention basins.
12. Discourage unnecessary proliferation of new water-supply or waste water-disposal facilities, except for lakefront developments where existing uses are seriously degrading the water resources and where required by state regulatory bodies for reasons of public health. Instead, upgrade existing facilities.
13. Give high priority to the designated urban center and to rural communities in consideration of community-facility grants and loans.
14. Encourage separation of sanitary sewer lines from storm drainage lines.

Education Policies

1. Encourage the provision of a public educational system which offers high-quality education to all County residents, keeps pace with changing socio-economic conditions and is balanced between vocational and college-preparatory courses.
2. Encourage the continued technical consolidation of school districts whenever and wherever it is determined that substantial gains in educational quality and/or cost savings can be attained, consistent with other portions of this Plan.
3. Encourage school boards to improve or locate facilities in accordance with Marquette County Comprehensive Plan policies; and to consult with the County Planning Commission regarding major decisions on district consolidations and facility locations.
4. Encourage year round use of school facilities, or close facilities during colder months, to conserve energy.
5. Encourage multiple and joint use of school facilities by school districts, cities, townships and the County.
6. Encourage greater utilization of the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) as an implementation coordinative administrative agency.

Recreation Policies

1. Encourage the provision of a coordinated system of parks and recreation areas which afford a wide variety of recreational opportunities appropriate to the area, is related to the use capacity of the environment, and, wherever possible, is designed for multiple and/or year round use.
2. Encourage each municipality in the County to develop and adopt a five-year recreation plan.
3. Promote cooperation among governmental units, other public and private organizations, and businesses in developing recreational programs and facilities.
4. Encourage use of federal and state assistance programs to acquire and develop recreational facilities.
5. Encourage location of recreational sites in areas naturally capable of supporting necessary facilities.

6. Encourage protection of shoreline areas for public use through appropriate land use controls.
7. Encourage more efficient use of existing facilities before building new facilities.
8. Encourage use of standards regarding new recreational development.
9. Encourage provision of adequate public access sites.
10. Encourage the development of multi-use trail systems, linking existing trails with communities, and linking communities with each other.

Solid Waste Management Policies

1. Encourage coordination of federal, state and local unit activities in the planning, financing and operation of solid-waste facilities on a countywide basis and in a sound financial manner.
2. Maintain the countywide coalition of municipalities participating in solid waste management and continue utilization of a single landfill for disposal of type II and type III waste.
3. Utilize to the maximum extent possible the resources available in Marquette County's waste stream through source reduction, source separation, recycling, and other means of resource recovery.
4. Prevent adverse effects on the public health and the environment resulting from improper solid waste collection, transportation, processing, or disposal, so as to protect the quality of the air, the land, and ground and surface waters.
5. Environmental integrity should be recognized as an important factor involved in solid waste management, and short-range expediencies should be avoided, in the interests of overall long range management objectives.
6. Conservation education should be promoted in the interests of reduction of solid-waste disposal demand, so as to lengthen the life of the Marquette County Landfill.
7. Toxic/hazardous materials should be given special attention, in accordance with federal/state regulations. Encourage technical/financial assistance to persons/firms affected by such Regulations.

Public-Building Policies

1. Encourage each unit of local government to make available to itself a safe and economical building for transacting governmental business and for holding other community meetings. Local vacant buildings may fill this need.

F. Human Services

General Goal. Self-sufficiency and self-support of all county residents through provision of adequate material needs, social, health, housing, education, and employment opportunities and services.

Sub-goals

1. An integrated delivery system of cost effective public and private human services programs accessible to all citizens in need of such services.
2. Coordination of services; elimination of duplication.
3. Provision of special accommodations to disabled individuals and agencies supporting them in the community.

Policies

1. Encourage coordination in planning for and delivery of human services, so as to avoid overlapping and duplication of programs.

2. Encourage county participation in regional criminal justice (police protection services) planning.

G. Economic Development

General Goal. Maintenance of existing county economic base; improvement of county economic base through diversification, so as to provide greater employment opportunities.

Sub-goals

1. Diversified employment opportunities among industrial, service, trade, and professional sectors of the economy.
2. Efficient utilization of existing mineral and forest resources.
3. Greater utilization of local Economic Development Corporations (EDC) as a tool to promote economic diversification.
4. Maintenance and strengthening of the tourist industry, consistent with other planning goals.

Policies

1. Encourage industrial diversification.
2. Encourage local EDCs activity to promote local industrial-development opportunities, especially in economic activities related to County resources such as forest products.
3. Encourage coordination of local EDCs. Encourage EDCs to retain specialized staff to pursue various federal/state economic development grant opportunities, work with local organizations and promote local economic development. Local EDCs could perhaps share common staff resources.
4. Encourage wise use, management, and development of local economic resources.
5. Encourage development of well-planned, attractive industrial parks, especially so-called “incubator” industrial parks, devoted to small-scale industrial enterprises.
6. Encourage development of techniques to promote stability of iron-mining production and stock piling.
7. Encourage the development of manpower programs integrated with industrial development efforts. Require minimum local manpower utilization by contractors bidding for jobs in the County, to the extent allowed by regulations.
8. Encourage concentration in the Urban Center of public investments designed to increase job opportunities.
9. Encourage the maintenance and viability of community development districts in Marquette County.
10. Encourage investigation into the potential utilization of “Self-Help” economic projects, involving employee investment in and representation of the directorship of industrial enterprises.

H. Intergovernmental Cooperation

General Goal. Increased local government coordination and cooperation with each other and with the county.

Sub-goal

1. Increased governmental cooperation and coordination in providing efficient services and meeting governmental responsibilities).

Policies

1. Encourage the development of economical community facilities and related services which will provide citizens with the most efficient public services possible.
2. Encourage the submission of capital-improvement projects to the County Planning Commission, for review and comment, in compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008.
3. Encourage preparation of regional fire-loss management plans, including consideration of accessibility, water supplies, population served, and insurance standards, and to provide a balance between fire protection and fire prevention.
4. Encourage the provision of a high-quality, economical county library service.
5. Encourage local governmental cooperation in the provision of facilities and services.
6. Encourage improvement in and local participation in the county's fire-police-medical "central-dispatch" emergency communications system.
7. Continue to support countywide central dispatch and 9-1-1 services.
8. Encourage establishment of a procedure whereby all planning activities in the county are reviewed by the concerned local planning commission and the County Planning Commission, to achieve greater coordination.
9. Review updates to CUPPAD's Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report to ensure that it is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.
10. Promote greater coordination between City, Township, and County planning activities.
11. Encourage the creation of joint planning commissions between neighboring municipalities. Even if they do not create joint planning commissions, neighboring townships and cities should have joint meetings to discuss common concerns.
12. Augment County comprehensive planning by encouraging preparation and adoption of local Comprehensive Plans consistent with County Planning.
13. Prepare guidelines for planning/development responsibilities at the County and local planning levels, which should be adopted by the respective planning commissions, after review and consideration.
14. Establish Letters of Agreement as to planning services among major federal, state, regional, and local units of government.
15. Encourage neighboring local units of government to maintain relationships promoting intergovernmental use of equipment and manpower.
16. Encourage consolidation of such governmental services as fire and police protection and educational services, where such can be shown to be efficient and cost effective.
17. Encourage utilization of a capital programming procedure for both County and local capital projects per the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

18. Make intergovernmental cooperation a consideration in Marquette County comprehensive planning.

I. Energy

General Goal. Increased awareness of need for energy conservation; utilization of the comprehensive planning process to effectuate an overall developmental pattern conducive to energy conservation.

Sub-goals

1. Reduced consumption of energy for all purposes, consistent with maintenance of a viable, diversified economic base and an acceptable living environment.
2. Practicing of energy utilization /conservation on both a micro and macro scale, as involves both individual units (solar radiation, wind) and the community as a whole (low-head hydropower overall development policies).
3. Energy conservation practice observance in County governmental buildings.
4. Local utility exploration of new conservation techniques, such as use of waste heat, recycling or pricing structures.
5. Merge energy and economic planning.

Policies

1. Encourage increased emphasis on “low-head” hydro electric power generation.
2. Encourage re-adjustments of electric power and gas rate structures, including “peak load” and other load management techniques, so as to promote conservation of energy.
3. Encourage local power utilities to adapt their generating stations to the partial use, at least, of wood pellets and/or biomass conversion materials as a fuel source, thereby promoting the utilization of a local resource.
4. Encourage education in and utilization of energy conservation practices in new and existing construction.
5. Encourage energy efficient strategies in terms of overall patterns of land use, consistent with other portions of this Plan.
6. Encourage increased use of mass transit, carpooling and vanpooling, bicycling, and increased reliance on foot travel.
7. Encourage revision of Codes to promote use of earth shelter, passive and active solar systems and other energy conservation innovations for all buildings and to promote (safe) energy efficient building design alternatives, such as earth-sheltered residences.
8. Encourage pursuit of federal/state funds for mass transit and energy conservation purposes.
9. Promote investigation of the use of heat produced in the generation of electricity (co-generation).
10. Promote investigation of renewable energy resources for electrical generation.
11. Encourage weatherization programs (grants/loans) for low income persons.
12. Promote as part of overall growth management programs land use controls (in appropriate situations) which encourage multi use of facilities, cluster housing, and other types of density control.
13. Focus on conservation by encouraging local utilities to provide low or no interest loans for energy saving purposes.

14. Support incentives (tax, cost-reduction) to homeowners who implement renewable energy systems.

J. Hazard Mitigation

General Goal. Marquette County seeks to reduce the loss of life and property stemming from natural and manmade hazards by promoting mitigation activities.

Sub-goals

1. Increase citizen, corporate, and elected official awareness of hazard mitigation opportunities.
2. Mitigate the impact of flooding by directing new development away from flood prone areas, and encouraging mitigation projects to reduce damage to existing development.
3. Reduce damage, physical injury, and deaths from fire through increased public awareness of actions that contribute to fire risks and to discourage development in areas where it is difficult to provide emergency services.
4. Mitigate the potential loss of life and property resulting from possible dam breach incidents through improved public warning, discouraging development within dam breach shadows/footprints, and supporting proper maintenance (and operation) or removal of dams.
5. Reduce injury and damage caused by severe weather, through improved public awareness and the appropriate design, construction, and maintenance of improvements.
6. Stabilize the local economy and enhance the likelihood of business survival through hazard awareness, promotion for the development of site emergency plans, and protection of data.
7. Promote infrastructure stability through encouraging utilities to direct expansions to areas that can be adequately serviced, to safeguard their equipment and resources, to use appropriate system design, and to acquire redundancy back-up power sources, and/or mutual aid agreements for response and recovery.
8. Promote and safeguard the health of its residents through public awareness programs regarding diseases and exposure threats, through monitoring of incidents of disease, and providing appropriate health care, including emergency response.

Policies

1. Prevent development of hazards through promoting the adoption and enforcement of land use regulations such as zoning, soil erosion control, and storm water management. To discourage development in areas where services and infrastructure cannot be quickly and economically provided, or where hazards exist or may be developed.
2. Make development decisions that consider the need to isolate hazardous operations from people and people from hazardous operations, particularly when site design and safety equipment alternatives are unavailable or unproven.
3. Consider emergency access, emergency shelter, and “crowd control” features when developing or reviewing plans for recreational facilities and public buildings.
4. Consider the impact of development decisions on infrastructure and its redundancy.
5. Participate in the development of public and private partnerships, working together with businesses to plan for and respond to emergencies, and to reduce or eliminate risks associated with their operations.
6. Support and/or sponsor grant applications for flood and other hazard mitigation assistance projects.
7. Incorporate the various hazard mitigation roles of the Sheriff’s Department, Drain Commissioner, Mine Inspector, and Health Department into annual work programs and budget for adequate training and implementation.

8. Base decisions regarding hazards upon scientific data and experiences rather than emotions.
9. Cooperate with other units of government in mitigating hazards and responding to incidents and events, including purchase of equipment that is interchangeable and compatible whenever feasible.
10. Encourage local unit, citizen, and business participation in hazard mitigation through frequently providing public information regarding hazards and mitigation opportunities and through offering or sponsoring hazard mitigation programs such as Neighborhood Watch, FireWise, Storm Ready, and Critical Incident Protocol.
11. Strive to make the County a leader in the Upper Peninsula and State with respect to emergency management.
12. Recognize that GIS (Geographic Information Systems) is a valuable mitigation response and recovery tool, which information layers developed for other purposes, can have hidden value, particularly when attributes are attached to features. That data needs to be shared between departments and agencies to fully utilize the potential of this tool; that more employees to become adept in information retrieval and techniques for GIS analysis.