

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025-5:00 P.M.

16 N. Third Street, L'Anse, MI 49946

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

- 
- 1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**  
Commissioner Niemela, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, and Commissioner DeLeon
  - 2. APPROVE AGENDA**
  - 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting – August 11, 2025
  - 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Agenda Items Only**
  - 5. TREASURER'S REPORT- INFORMATION ONLY – NO MOTION REQUIRED**
    - a.
  - 6. APPROVAL OF BILLS**
    - a. BCMH Trustee Per Diem- \$1,120.00 (August 2025)
    - b. Approval of County Commissioner and Department Bills, \$
    - c. Approval of Prepaid Bills, \$
    - d. Approval of Sheriff Dept. Commissary Checking Account, \$
  - 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - 8. ACTION ITEMS**
    - a. BCMH, Rob Stowe, CEO update
    - b. Board of Canvassers – Appointment
    - c. MMP Quarterly Reimbursement and Reporting
    - d. Workers' Compensation – Provider Selection
    - e. Opioid Litigation – Closed Session
    - f. Union Negotiations – Closed Session
  - 9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
  - 10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
    - BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
  - 11. RESOLUTIONS**
    - a. Support Senate Bills 293 and 294 (Bond-or-Forfeit Process for animals)
  - 12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**
  - 13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
  - 14. ADJOURNMENT**



18341 US Hwy 41 L'Anse, MI 49946

906-524-3300 [www.bcmh.org](http://www.bcmh.org)

**Board of Trustee Meeting Attendance - August 2025**

**Monthly Stipend:**

Shirley Younggren	\$100.00
Jim Loman	\$100.00
Carole LaPointe	\$100.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$100.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$100.00
Kate Beer	\$100.00
Burt Mason	\$100.00

**Board Briefing of 8-14-2025:**

Shirley Younggren	\$30.00
Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$30.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge (online)	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$30.00

**Med Control Authority Mtg: 8-15-25**

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
-------------------	---------

**Regular Board Meeting of 8-19-2025:**

Shirley Younggren	\$30.00
Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$30.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$30.00

700.00  
210.00  
210.00

**BARAGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF CANVASSERS  
BALLOT  
September 8, 2025**

**Republican Nominee**

- **Kevin Dean**
- **Rollin (Sonny) Thoren**
- **Jeffrey Loman**

**Democratic Nominee**

- **Jim Ekdahl**
- **Ken Harju**
- **Nancy Herck**

# WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

August 22, 2025

## INVOICE # BY1Q2

<b>Bill To</b>	
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Goodreau
<b>Customer</b>	Baraga County
<b>Address</b>	2 S Main Street L'Anse, MI 49946
<b>Phone</b>	(906) 524-6100
<b>WUPPDR Contact</b>	Brendon Presnell
<b>Payment Terms</b>	Net 30

Qty.	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
20*	Contracted Executive Director Hours for Materials Management Planning (MMP), 2024 Rate	\$100.00	\$2,000.00
70*	Contracted Regular Staff Hours for Materials Management Planning (MMP), 2024 Rate	\$70.00	\$4,900.00
8*	Contracted Executive Director Hours for Materials Management Planning (MMP), 2025 Rate	\$110.00	\$880.00
193*	Contracted Regular Staff Hours for Materials Management Planning (MMP), 2025 Rate	\$80.00	\$15,440.00
1*	MMP Outreach Video	\$527.00	\$527.00
1*	Contract Travel for Materials Management Planning (MMP)	\$270.00	\$270.00
	*Unless location is specified, all line items are one sixth of regional total		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$24,017.00</b>

Thank you for your business! Please send payment to:

**Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region**

400 Quincy St 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hancock, MI 49930 | [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org)  
p. 906.482.7205 x111 | [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org)



## MMP Grant Quarterly Progress Reporting Form

**Grantee: Baraga County**

**Multicounty Group (if applicable): Western Upper Peninsula (District 1)**

**GG#: PLA-25-033**

**County Grant Manager: Wendy Goodreau**

**Date Submitted: 8/29/2025**

**Reporting Period: March 1 2024 – July 31 2025**

### 1. Status of MMP Development/Implementation and items/tasks:

- a. County Consultation (1.1)- Complete
- b. Outreach for MMPC (1.2) – Complete
- c. Implement Terms of ILO (1.3) - Complete
- d. Form MMPC (2.1) – Complete
- e. Approve MMPC Bylaws (2.2) – Complete
- f. Work Program RFP (3.1) – Complete
- g. Work Program Approval (3.2) - Complete
- h. Work Program Submission to and Approval by EGLE (3.3) - Complete
- i. Grant Agreements Signed (3.4) – Complete
- j. Compost Community Survey (4.3 a) – In Progress
- k. Recycling Community Survey (4.3 b) – In Progress
- l. Compost, HHW, and Recycling Presentations (5.1) – Complete
- m. Engage & Conduct Compost, HHW, and Recycling Presentations (5.3) - Complete
- n. Part 115 Brochure, Local Call to Action (5.2) – In Progress
- o. Advocacy Groups (5.4)– Started in Ontonagon, In progress in Houghton
- p. Existing Infrastructure (6.1) – Started, visits to Gogebic and Iron counties scheduled
- q. Planning Area Profile (6.2) – Started
- r. Recycling Rates (6.3) – Started, developing flow map of region
- s. Goals, Objectives & Strategies (6.4) – Topic for 8/14 MMPC Meeting
- t. Timelines, Funding, Networks (6.5) – Topic for 10/9 MMPC Meeting

### 2. Plan Format Components Completion:

Planning Area Profile	% Complete	Comments/Details
Population	30%	Developed population heat map by municipality. Identifying recycling target demographics in progress.
Generation	50%	
Sources of generation	50%	Waste characterization study data for Houghton county available. Gaps in data for Gogebic and Iron counties to be addressed in coming quarter.
Infrastructure	32.5%	

## MMP Grant Quarterly Progress Reporting Form

Infrastructure & Systems	<b>20%</b>	Mapped drop-off sites, identified MSW tonnages and some source data. Developing materials flow map to identify target improvements to collections.
Inventory of facilities	<b>30%</b>	See Infrastructure
Hauler Service Providers	<b>30%</b>	Mapped service areas for haulers. Rate comparison info in planning.
Other Collection Events	<b>50%</b>	Identified sites for future events. Planning in progress.
<b>MSW Recycling Rate</b>	<b>10%</b>	Local waste characterization study data available. Recycling collection data lacks precision, may need work to improve data collection at some sites.
<b>Materials Management Goals</b>	<b>10%</b>	
Diversion of Organics & Recyclables from Disposal	<b>10%</b>	Outreach (survey and events) to identify targets for collection sites in progress.
Benchmark Recycling Standards	<b>10%</b>	See MSW recycling rate.
Implementation Strategy	<b>10%</b>	Outlines in progress, working on local outreach for better engagement before rolling out implementation planning.
<b>Mechanisms</b>		
Funding & Enforcement	<b>20%</b>	Funding opportunities identified, waiting on RFP from EGLE to begin discussion with committee.
Siting Process	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Administration</b>		
Responsible Parties	<b>0%</b>	

## MMP Grant Quarterly Progress Reporting Form

### 3. Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

**Meeting Date:** 8/14/2025  
**Agenda Items:** Goals, Objectives, Strategies  
**Action Steps:** Develop Outline of Goals and Objectives by Material Category  
Identify Challenges and Impacts of Regional History

**Meeting Date:** 9/11/2025  
**Agenda Items:** Refine Action Items that Support Goals, Objectives, Strategies  
**Action Steps:** Review Challenges, Propose Solutions  
Outline Plan for Discussion with Local Municipalities

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025  
**Agenda Items:** Timelines, Funding, Networks  
**Action Steps:** Overview Funding Opportunities at a Glance  
Overview Authority Modeling incl. Guest Speaker

### 4. Identification of any MMPC appointment changes (if applicable):

None

### 5. Challenges and proposed solutions:

Engagement with municipalities, as there are many more in our area than others in Michigan, with limited ability to communicate.

Proposed solutions involve extensive travel, developing a network with adjacent municipal leaders, and building of advocacy groups to gain support from people local to the harder-to-reach municipalities.

### 6. Description of reimbursement requests during this reporting period:

Reimbursement for county to pay DPA (WUPPDR) for in progress portions of Y1 of WUPPDR work plan.

Reimbursement for Interlocal Agreement development, Notice of Intent, and Committee formation.

### 7. Other additional comments, as appropriate:

N/A

## MMP Grant Quarterly Progress Reporting Form

**8. Budgetary changes:**

**N/A**

**9. Are there any tasks you need assistance on?**

**None**

**10. Documents submitted with this progress report (please check all that apply):**

☒ FSR with expenditures and supporting documents. *(A separate FSR with expenditures and its supporting documentation will be required for each county of a multicounty group)*

☒ Reports (please list)

Quarterly Progress Report

☐ Other (please list)

---

For EGLE Grant Manager Use Only:

**Comments?**

**Changes/Amendments Needed?**

**Disallowed Expenses?**

***Date Reviewed:***



## MMP Grant Quarterly Progress Reporting Form

---

People with disabilities may request this material in an alternate format by emailing [EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov) or calling 800-662-9278.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

This form and its contents are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be released to the public.

# MINUTES:

## BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

*Tuesday, July 15th, 2025 5:00 PM - BCMH Main Conference Room (ABCD)*

---

**Present:** Cathy Wadaga, Jayne Walbridge, Burt Mason, Carole LaPointe, Jim Loman, Kate Beer, Shirley Younggren

**Admin/Guests:** Rob Stowe, Thomas Van Ess, Todd Peltola, Gail Jestila, Gregg Fisher, Kelly Engle

**Absent:** None

### 1. Call to Order – Beer

Ms. Beer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda \*\* - All

Motion: Loman, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Board Briefing of June 12th , 2025\*
- b. Closed Session of June 12th, 2025\*
- c. Board of Trustees Meeting of June 17th, 2025\*

### 4. Medical Staff –Beer

- a. Medical-Dental Staff Meeting Minutes of June 11th, 2025\*\*

Motion: Mason, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Medical-Dental Staff Executive & Credentials Committee

- i. Medical Staff Appointments, Reappointments, and Deletions of July 2025\*\* - Belpedio

Motion: Mason, Second: LaPointe - All in favor, motion carried.

### 5. Financial Update - Jestila

- a. Approval of June 2025 financial statements\*\*

Ms. Jestila presented the financial statements. Cash increased to \$12.3 million. Operating revenue for the month came in just under \$4.7 million, with year-to-date revenue at \$41.4 million compared to \$41.6 million last year—an increase of \$809,000 over the prior year. Pharmaceutical costs were higher in the retail pharmacy this month. Expenses for the month were \$2.8 million against a budget of \$2.7 million. Year-to-date expenses stand at \$24.4 million, which is right on budget. Net income for the month was \$30,000, bringing year-to-date net income to \$359,000. Ms. Beer asked about accounts receivable (AR) days and

*Consent Agenda Item \**

*Action Item \*\**

*To be distributed at meeting \*\*\**

how the revenue cycle work is going. Ms. Jestila shared that there are some issues with Blue Cross and their payments, but noted that the team has been doing a good job getting charts completed and sent out. She also stated they are having good luck with Richter. Overall, it looks like we're remaining stable.

A motion was made by Ms. Wadaga and seconded by Mr. Younggren to approve the financial statements. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**6. Bayside Update - Stowe/Jestila**

**a. Approval of June 2025 Bayside financial statements\*\***

The June 2025 Bayside financial statements were not yet ready, so they will be presented at next month's meeting. Mr. Stowe provided an update that Ms. Beeler will be sending out an email that they will be doing interviews for the Administrator position next Monday. There are currently two applicants.

Bayside remains in a status where they will not be compensated if we take any new Medicaid patients in. They received a citation for an issue that occurred in May. A corrective action plan cannot be submitted until the formal citation is received. Bayside has been in this status for approximately 60 days. Mr. Stowe also shared that when Mission Point was handling tax filings, an error was made that led to an erroneous submission. As a result, a payment had to be made to avoid a tax levy, and then they will file to get reimbursed.

**7. Wound Care Update - Peltola**

Mr. Peltola provided an update on the wound care project. Today, a meeting was held with Closner Construction, UP Architects (Shane), and Bay Electric to go over the ground rules and walk through the building. Closner is expected to be onsite early next week to begin work. Kami Cholette is still working to make space in her area in Purchasing to accommodate the project. The project timeline has been set, and there are a few outstanding questions for AirGas. According to the contract, Closner is required to complete the work by October 1st.

**8. Mayo Telestroke Update - Engle**

The Mayo Telestroke program is scheduled to go live on August 20th, with credentialing to take place on August 19th. All necessary equipment has arrived. This program will be a valuable source of support for our physicians in caring for patients who present with acute strokes.

**9. Physician Group Update - Van Ess**

The Physician Group has started using a new chart documentation tool called Clinical AI Agent through Oracle. Providers can use an app on their phones to select a patient, record the conversation, and have a clinical note generated from that recording.

Jody Jinkerson started on June 23rd, is now seeing patients, and things are going well.

## **10. Quality Update –Peltola**

Bay Electric will be onsite Thursday to complete the final phase of the backup generator project. This work will affect the trauma bay in the Emergency Department, as power will need to be temporarily shut down. However, power can be restored within five minutes if the ED calls.

## **11. Management Update (attached)**

- a. CEO Report\*: Marketing, Employee Recognition, Home Care and Hospice, Corporate Compliance, Senior Life Solutions, Human Resources, Pharmacy
- b. CFO Report\*: Finance, Revenue Cycle, Purchasing, Information Technology, DME
- c. DON Report\*: Acute, Emergency, Surgical Services, Ambulatory, Social Services, Utilization Review/Infection Prevention, Education
- d. Director of Provider Services Report\*: Physician Group, Telemedicine, Specialty Clinic
- e. Director of Ancillary Services Report\*: Imaging, Laboratory, Therapies
- f. Director of Quality Management Report\*: Maintenance, Housekeeping, Dietary/Dietician, HIPAA/Risk

## **12. Other:**

Mr. Stowe handed out the Winkler feasibility study and asked board members to review it at their convenience. One key finding was that, while it was originally thought the existing structure could be used as a foundation with new construction built above it, that's no longer an option. All of the interior walls are non-load bearing. The study includes a 14-unit, 15-unit, and 16-unit housing design. These are just initial plans for contractors and community members to consider. To date, the group has spent \$20,000 on various studies. Mr. Menge added that building more than 16 units would significantly increase the cost, so it's best to keep it at 16 or fewer. If anyone has feedback on their preferred design, they should share it with Mr. Stowe, who can pass it along.

Mr. Stowe also shared that he and Ms. Jestila had a conversation with the representative who was onsite for the AI product implementation. They asked about the best time to migrate in order to get the best Oracle pricing. The rep advised that the end of Oracle's financial quarters is typically the best time. There are a couple of things that are very important to us. First, there is a lot of value in being in the same domain as Schoolcraft. Second, a plan is needed to postpone payments until we are actively using Oracle and no longer using our current EHR. We may lose the opportunity to join Schoolcraft's domain if we don't commit within the next four months. There is a call scheduled with another Oracle contract contact tomorrow during the Directors' meeting.

Gregg Fisher reported that therapy visits are currently down 22% compared to last year. Staffing has been a challenge, though it's starting to improve. Space has also been an issue. They're looking into converting an unused shower area into storage and combining two bathrooms into one to free up space. He noted that about 7% of patient volume is leaking to Portage. Redesigning the rehab space is a major step toward retaining more patients locally.

Mr. Peltola shared that on July 30th, the risk manager and assistant from Schoolcraft will be visiting to observe how we prepare for the Joint Commission.

**13. Public Comment- none**

**14. Next Meeting: August 19th, 2025 5:00pm –BCMh Main Conference Room**

**15. Adjournment –Beer**

Ms. Beer adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Motion: Younggren, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Carole LaPointe, Secretary CL/lmb

**ABOUT BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL:** BCMH is a 15 bed critical access hospital. Founded in 1952, BCMH is a thriving rural healthcare system focused on addressing the needs of community members of Baraga County. Employing over 200 people, BCMH houses a family medicine clinic, walk-in convenient care clinic, specialty clinics, surgical services, 24/7 emergency services, imaging, rehab, laboratory, and social services.

**MISSION:** BCMH partners with patients to educate, coordinate, treat, and manage the health of the community.

**VISION:** To improve the well-being of the community.

**CORE VALUES:** PREACT- Patients First, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Compassion, Teamwork

**ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY:** BCMH educates the community, coordinates care, and treats and manages disease.



**STACY LOAR-PORTER, Berrien County Clerk**  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court—Vital Records Division**

County Clerk's Office, Administration Center, 701 Main St., St. Joseph MI 49085  
269-983-7111, Ext. 8233, Fax 269-982-8667

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bills 293 and 294 would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process that would apply when an animal is seized due to a pending or active court case involving a violation of Michigan law prohibiting animal neglect (MCL 750.50) or cruelty (MCL 750.50b) by the animal's owner; and

**WHEREAS**, the inclusion of an effective bond-or-forfeit process in those statutes, which would require a defendant/owner charged with animal neglect or cruelty to forfeit the animals to the seizing agency or pay for the costs of the animal's care and housing with a bond, would benefit both animals and the people in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the current bond-or-forfeit process applicable in cases of animal neglect or cruelty, creates a burden for seizing agencies such as Berrien County Animal Control, as the one holding the animal, responsible for housing, food, veterinary care, and other costs as the animal is held for the duration of criminal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, without an effective process, animals continue to be victims and when they have to remain in a shelter for an extended period of time, it is not only detrimental to the animals, but to the staff and volunteers of the facility also; and

**WHEREAS**, precedent has been set in that the bond-or-forfeit process that is being proposed for MCL 750.50 and MCL 750.50b, is already included in MCL 750.49, Michigan's animal fighting statute; and

**WHEREAS**, Berrien County Prosecutor Amy Byrd and Animal Shelter Manager Ashley Herr are asking the Berrien County Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for the Senate Bills.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners support Senate Bills 293 and 294 that would create an effective bond-or-forfeit process for animals seized due to pending or active court cases involving violations of animal neglect or cruelty by the animal's owner.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, all Michigan counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks to be a posted communication in each county.

Roll call vote: 10 Yeas: Bell, Curran, Freehling, Hinkelman, Ott, Leahey, Pitchford, Tyler, Yarbrough, and Elliott. 0 Nays. Motion carried.