

**Downtown Development Authority  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 3:00 pm  
MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP HALL**

- 1. Meeting Called to Order.**
- 2. Roll Call.**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda.**
- 4. Public Comment.**
- 5. Business.**
  - a. Presentation: US 41/M28 Corridor Native Species Pilot Project.
  - b. Consider Revision to April 12, 2022 Motion for UPEA Opinion of Probable Cost.
  - c. Consider Approval of Final Development Plan.
- 6. Public Comment.**
- 7. Announcements.**
- 8. Adjournment.**

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 3:00 pm



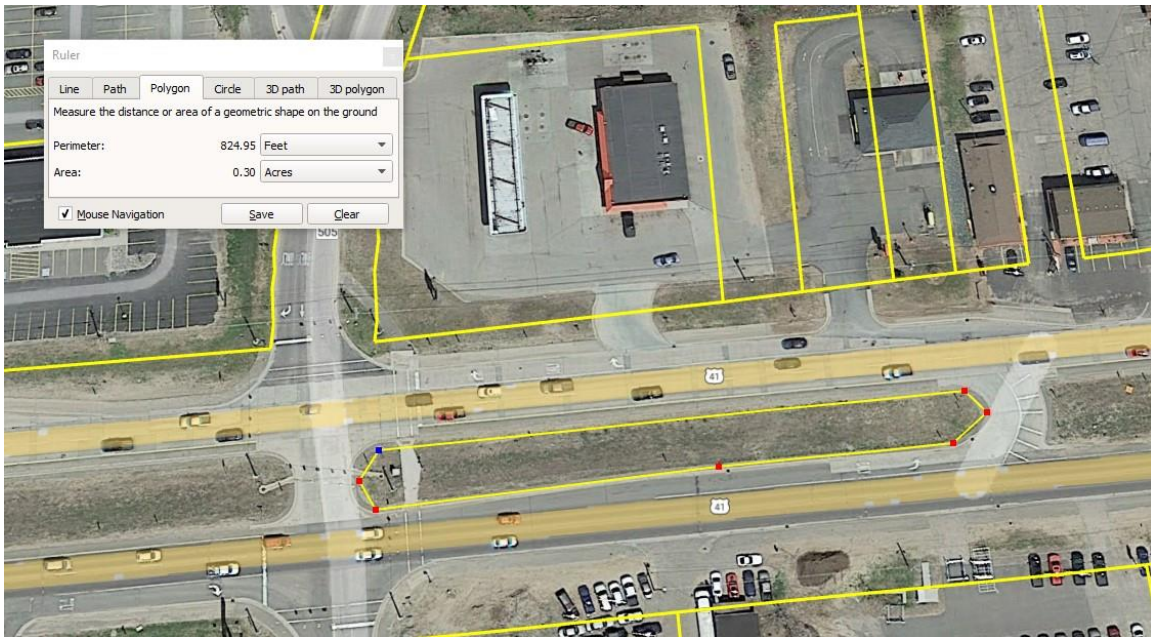
## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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[www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org)

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**To:** Brian Johnson, Permit Agent – MDOT Ishpeming TSC  
**From:** Jon Kangas, Manager  
**Date:**  
**Regarding:** US 41/M 28 Native Species Pilot Project – 0.3 Acres in Median East of Commerce Drive

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Marquette Charter Township wishes to plant a native species plant mixture along the US 41/M 28 median, starting with a 0.3-acre area just East of the Commerce Drive intersection, as shown above.

### Project Plan

#### **2022**

- Mow the median pilot project area on a monthly basis during the growing season to ensure invasive species are kept at bay. All mowing to be conducted by Township staff with side-discharge riding mower. All clippings will be discharged into the median to avoid a mess on the roadway and potential issues with passing vehicles. Mowing activities will occur after the morning or noon rush hour and employee will always wear high-vis vest and other PPE as needed. Advance warning signs will be placed as required by permit, if work is authorized. No other equipment will be parked in the ROW during this activity.
- Over-seed with pre-mixed native seed mixture in September with mix per weblink. Seeding will be performed by Marquette County Conservation District

#### **Mission Statement:**

*“Recognize and meet the needs of the Township Community.”*



staff using a broadcast spreader and assistance from Township staff as needed. (<https://www.prairiemoon.com/shortgrass-echinacea-prairie-seed-mix-prairie-moon-nursery.html>)

## 2023

- Mow twice early in the growing season, one time per month in May and June OR June and July, depending on when growing season starts. Same mowing procedure as 2022. Mowing would increase to monthly during entire growing season if inspection reveals excessive growth of invasive species.
- During growing season, evaluate growth of new native species to determine success of over-seeding.
- Evaluation will include the diversity of native plants to ensure the plantings are visually pleasing, beneficial to pollinators, and beneficial to filtering of stormwater runoff, yet not overly distracting to motorists. If any of the above-objectives are met, seed mixture will be modified accordingly for future projects.
- Begin project plan for future phases, depending on success of pilot project.

## 2024

- Mow twice early in the growing season, one time per month in May and June OR June and July, depending on when growing season start. Same mowing procedure as 2022 and 2023.
- After second cut, let nature take its course.
- Evaluate success of pilot project throughout growing season.
- Finalize future project locations/phases, according to results of pilot project and availability of resources.

Pilot project to be 100% funded by Marquette Township utilizing Township and Conservation District staff. During the pilot project, annual highway maintenance mowing by MDOT/MCRC should only be needed for the “first pass” beyond the roadway shoulder, if at all. Future maintenance mowing would be determined by the results of the pilot project and performed according to the expectations of the MDOT Maintenance unit. However, it is assumed that any vegetation within the “first pass” area of the vegetated median may be mowed as part of annual highway maintenance. Regardless, Marquette Township will assume maintenance responsibilities of any native-vegetated areas to the expectations of MDOT. It is the ultimate desire of the Township that native species will be relatively maintenance free once growth has been established.

Each work activity will require an advance notice by the Township under the individual permit.

Goal: provide a visually pleasing, but not distracting corridor that will improve stormwater runoff quality, pollinator improvements and low-cost long-term maintenance.



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2022 Marquette Township and US-41 Corridor native planting pilot project seed mix recommendations:

- Little bluestem grass (*Schyzachyrium scoparium*)
- Black eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)
- Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
- Native cover crop (<https://www.prairiemoon.com/regreen-cover-crop-prairie-moon-nursery.html>)

Additionally, a pre-mixed native seed mix including all species listed above can be found at the link below:

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/shortgrass-echinacea-prairie-seed-mix-prairie-moon-nursery.html>

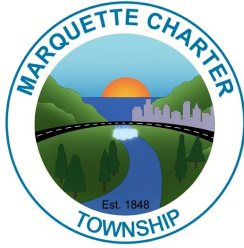
This mix is one of the more costly options, however provides a greater diversity of species. The shortened list above would be excellent candidate species were we to source our own mix to keep in-line with existing budgets.

Regards,

Elise Desjarlais, Coordinator for Lake to Lake CISMA, Marquette Conservation District







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**To:** DDA  
**From:** Jon Kangas, Manager  
**Date:** May 23, 2022  
**Regarding:** April 12, 2022 Motion for UPEA Opinion of Probable Cost

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At the regular April 12, 2022 meeting of the DDA, a motion was made to allocate \$500 of DDA fund balance to pay UPEA for an opinion of probable cost for the south DDA border pathway that is planned to run approximately parallel to US 41/M 28.

Since that meeting, Frank Stabile has informed me that he and his neighbors have already procured consulting services through Sanders and Czapski for portions of this pathway behind their properties. Based on this newer information, I thought it would be a good idea to avoid duplicating efforts. My recommendation is to rescind that motion from April and consider a new motion that would allocate the DDA funds to the efforts already in motion with Sanders and Czapski.

### Recommended Motions

1. Rescind the motion from April 12, 2022 that allocated \$500 to UPEA for a preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost.
2. Reallocate the \$500 to the work that Sanders and Czapski has already been procured to complete, assuming the end product will be the same as the original expectation for an Opinion of Probable Cost for a pathway from Brookton at Commerce to Brookton at US 41/M 28.

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