

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date September 15, 2026

Manistee Regional Fire Initiative Announces Rescheduled First Community Engagement Session

MANISTEE, Mich. — The Manistee Regional Fire Initiative (MRFI) has announced a new Community Engagement Session following the cancellation of the previously scheduled public meeting.

The original public engagement session was canceled after Manistee Township elected to withdraw from the MRFI Steering Committee process. While the change in participation required adjustments to the initiative's outreach schedule, the remaining participating municipalities remain committed to providing residents with information and opportunities to engage in discussions regarding the future of Fire and EMS services in the greater Manistee area.

The Community Engagement Session has been rescheduled for:

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Stronach Township Hall

Address: 2471 Main St, Manistee , MI 49660

The session will provide residents with an overview of the work completed to date, information about current Fire and EMS service delivery throughout the region, and an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the initiative. Subject matter experts will be in attendance to provide factual information and facilitate community discussion as participating municipalities continue evaluating potential long-term service options.

Since the initiative was announced earlier this year, project partners have completed several foundational milestones. These efforts have included collecting and reviewing operational and financial information, analyzing regional Fire and EMS service trends, conducting stakeholder surveys, developing educational materials, and creating tools to help communities better understand current service delivery challenges and opportunities.

Community members are encouraged to visit www.mrfi.info, where they can access project updates, frequently asked questions, educational resources, and information regarding current Fire and EMS operations throughout the region. As additional information becomes available, the website will continue to be updated to provide residents with timely and factual information.

Municipal leaders emphasized that the initiative remains focused on education, transparency, and public engagement. No final decisions have been made regarding future service models, governance structures, or funding mechanisms. Any future proposals would continue to be considered through public discussion and action by the participating municipalities.

"As this initiative continues to move forward, it is important that residents have access to factual information and meaningful opportunities to ask questions and provide input," said Phil Vadeboncoeur, Stronach Township Supervisor. "This community engagement session will help ensure that residents understand the work completed to date and the options being evaluated for the future."

For additional information, visit:

www.mrfi.info

or contact:

info@mrfi.info