

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

Keweenaw County Courthouse

Eagle River, MI, USA

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

(Approved August 1, 2018)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Peg Kauppi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee welcomes new committee member Todd Holmstrom.

Members present: Peg Kauppi, Tess Ahlborn, Todd Holmstrom, Ned Huwatschek, Sam Raymond, John Sturos

Members absent: none

Guests: Jim Vivian (BOC rep), Tara Aho (Nuevokas Corp., Mohawk)

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes by Ned Huwatschek, second by Todd Holmstrom. All in favor, *motion carried*.

3. Old Business

3a. Membership: The EDC currently consist of the six present voting members listed above. Six membership interest forms were received in response to the EDC interest survey, resulting in a talented and diverse pool. As such, John Sturos requested a change in membership status from voting member to contributing member. (Note: the EDC defines a contributing member as an active non-voting volunteer that is a valued asset of the EDC.) The committee thanked John for his years of service and look forward to his continued active participation.

Using the general criteria of a) interest, b) residency and c) availability, *motion* by Ned Huwatschek, second by Todd Holmstrom to request the Keweenaw Co. BOC appoint Harvey Desnick, Matt Kero, Joe Miller and Kass Simula to the EDC as voting members, and to appoint John Sturos, Tom Bryant and Rob Tarvis to the EDC as contributing members. All in favor, *motion carried*. Tess Ahlborn will contact each individual and request an agenda item for the next BOC meeting.

3b. EDC Goals and Structure: Tabled until new members are appointed and can participate in the brainstorming discussion. Copies of Keweenaw County's "2017 Land Use Plan - A Blueprint for Tomorrow" was distributed to stimulate ideas economic development activities. The document includes a vision for the county, needs of each township, and several maps depicting natural and cultural resources, zoning and future land use. An electronic copy can be obtained here: http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/docs/Keweenaw_County_Land_Use.pdf

3c. KEDA - Keweenaw County Representation: Jim Vivian expressed interest in stepping down from the KEDA board position representing the county and encouraged someone from the EDC to replace him. *Motion* by Todd Holmstrom, second by John Sturos, to request the Keweenaw Co. BOC appoint Tess Ahlborn as the Keweenaw County representative on the KEDA Board. All in favor, *motion carried*. Ahlborn will request an agenda item for the next BOC meeting.

4. New business

4a. Networking update: Tess Ahlborn reported meeting with a local telecommunications provider to discuss a countywide fiber network opportunity. The EDC can provide assistance by obtaining support letters from townships and businesses, as well as providing county demographics and data to support grant opportunities. Ahlborn will provide updates as the opportunity progresses. Todd Holmstrom reported that Northern Michigan University hosts an Educational Access Network (EAN) but has not reached into Keweenaw County to date. He will follow-up to educate us on the EAN and opportunities that may exist.

4b. Future meeting schedule: In general, the EDC meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm. However, it was agreed that the new board should set the future schedule during the next meeting. With the holiday next month, the EDC will cancel the July meeting. The next EDC meeting will be August 1, 2018.

4c. Wells at Mt. Horace Greeley: Jim Vivian reported that the condition of the water wells and supporting infrastructure, located on non-county-owned property, is being questioned by the land owner. The county is currently having the wells inspected and tested. The EDC discussed the importance of the wells to the future of the Mt. Horace Greeley site and provide the following statement to the Keweenaw County BOC:

The Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee has reviewed the situation at Mt. Horace Greeley regarding the unknown condition of the water wells with Commissioner Vivian. The EDC strongly recommends that the county maintain the water wells and supporting infrastructure as loss of well site will diminish the possibility of future development at Mt. Horace Greeley. Maintaining the site for future use may open many possibilities for economic development throughout the county, including development at Mt. Horace Greeley itself.

5. Public Comment

None

Motion to adjourn by Tess Ahlborn, second by Ned Huwatschek. All in favor, *motion carried*.

Next meeting Wednesday, August 1, 2018 – 6:00 pm, Eagle River, MI