

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

September 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by deputy chairperson Dave Sundberg.

Members present were: Dave Sundberg, Ned Huwatschek, Richard Schaefer, John Sturos, Don Secor, Shari Chase, and Commissioner Don Piche.

Members absent: Ray Chase (excused)

The September agenda was approved with a motion by John Sturos, seconded by Peg Kauppi. Motion carried.

A motion by Ned Huwatschek, seconded by Don Secor to approve the minutes of the August 3 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.

Guest speaker Julie Melchiori of the MSU County Extension Office/EDC Director gave a very informative presentation regarding help that she could give on many aspects of not only the Bio Fuel project but on Greenhousing, establishing a project center, business plans, research, grant writing and much more. A lengthy discussion ensued.

In the absence of Ray Chase, Shari Chase reported that the Eagle Harbor trail and the Phoenix to Eagle River trail were complete and a new one was close to being done between Seneca Location and Seneca Lake.

Peg Kauppi will be talking with the person who developed the Marquette app project to get more information for the board to process. She will also contact the CLK schools to see if a class would be interested in a marketing project. Several other ideas were voiced such as more information on the County website, a facebook page, and an entrepreneur workshop by our guest speaker. Peggy will contact Ann Gasperich at the Court House to discuss the possibility of putting "wish list" on the County Website.

The Waterpark idea was discussed very enthusiastically. Shari Chase told the group that one will be developed in Marquette and that she hoped to get a contact from that project. Board members felt that Copper Harbor would be the best location as it is a destination point and there is no beach for swimming anymore. A piece of property in Copper Harbor was identified as being ideal and is for sale but no further info is available at this time.

Dave Sundberg reported that Phase II has been completed by the Brownfield at Mt. Horace Greeley. In their next session they need to determine who's responsible for what. He also said

that the former Mohawk gas station was tested and they are waiting for results. There is a potential buyer for it.

Planning Committee Report: Ned Huwatschek reported that the last two (2) meetings were held in Gay and Copper Harbor respectively and the September 27th meeting will be held in Ahmeek. He also said that permit applications were up.

Commissioner Report: Don Piche is still diligently working on Court House repair with two separate grants being pursued. He also reported that the Mountain Lodge will be closing. There is no money in the budget for maintenance. Nothing new on the lawsuit by Eagle Harbor Township. In the course of the discussion regarding the Mountain Lodge, there were many ideas and thoughts on the prospect of establishing an RV Park on property across U.S. 41 from the Lodge. It was decided to add this to the EDC "dream list".

Robert Froese of the Michigan Tech Forestry Dept. will be our guest speaker at our **NOVEMBER** meeting.

Dick Schaeffer said he will be unable to attend the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. on a motion by Peggy Kauppi, seconded by John Sturos.

Submitted by Shari Chase.