

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

August 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairperson Ray Chase.

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

Member(s) absent: Peggy Kauppi (excused)

The August agenda was approved with a Motion by Ned Huwatschek, seconded by John Sturos. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Sundberg, seconded by Don Secor to approve minutes of the July 6, 2011 meeting as amended.

Resignation of Darleen Huovinen received via email on 7-26-2011. Shari Chase volunteered to record minutes for August meeting. New member/notetaker being sought.

Bio-mass Technology: No reports on Short Rotation Forestry or Short Rotation Forestry Communications. Chairman Chase gave detailed update on Bio-fuel project followed by questions and discussion. Inquiry was made as to why no one from the EDC committee was asked to attend a meeting on Bio-Fuel that was arranged by WUPPDR and held at Michigan Tech. John Sturos and Don Secor will make inquiries regarding that question.

Dave Sundberg gave an in depth report on Greenhousing as end business for Bio project. He invited Julie Melchore to the next EDC Board meeting. He said she is a valuable resource and could also give us ideas on obtaining agricultural grants. Dave also reported on Brownfield progress at Mt. Horace Greeley. Water testing has been done but results not available at this time.

Ray Chase reported that he got 100% approval from the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners to financially support all phases of the Bio-Fuel project. Question and answer period followed. Chase also mentioned that Melissa Davis informed him that Lehnart Johannsen would not be attending any future meeting as of this time to discuss interest in a co-gen facility.

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails: Chairman Chase reported that signs and confidence markers were almost completed from Calumet to Copper Harbor and that work has been done to DNR specifications.

Marketing: Shari Chase referenced an email from Peg Kauppi's daughter regarding information on an application development company in Marquette that develops apps. The company is Prometheus Tree and there was a link to this company as well as to the app "in Marquette". Shari felt that app development would be extremely expensive and have to be backed by local businesses and not by the County. No further action on this will be taken at this time.

Shari also reported on another item on the Board's "goods and services" list. She provided information on an outdoor waterpark that she had seen recently in Washington State. Information and pictures were passed around for board members to look at. It was decided to make this an "action item" with more information to be provided at future meetings.

No report on communications infrastructure.

New Business:

Brownfield: Dave Sundberg said he was expecting a report to be available on Mt. Horace Greeley for the September meeting. He also indicated some interest has been shown in the gas station in Mohawk.

Planning: Ned Huwatschek reported that they were working on a 20 year wish list and would like info from the EDC committee. A verbal list was provided immediately.

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners: Don Piche has been talking to OHM - a company that could potentially put a new roof on the Court House. He will be getting cost of roof as well as information on types of siding that would be available to keep the Court House historically correct. He said there may be grants available next year to help with costs.

Don reported that Eagle Harbor has filed a lawsuit against Keweenaw County regarding PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) money.

Don told the Board to come to the next County Board Meeting on August 17 for full disclosure on the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

He said there have been inquiries to one of the other Commissioners regarding communication towers at the Mountain Lodge. He and Ray Chase will take a look at the towers in the week of Aug. 8 - 12 for informational purposes.

On a motion by Dave Sundberg the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by Shari Chase