

# *Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee*

## *Meeting Minutes*

*July 6, 2011*

Meeting held at the Keweenaw County Courthouse was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by R. Chase.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Don Secor, Raymond Chase, Shari Chase, David Sundberg, Ned Huwatschek, John Sturos, Darleen Huovinen

Excused: Richard Schaffer, Peg Kauppi, Don Piche

**AGENDA:** Motion by Shari Chase, supported by Don Secor, to approve the corrected agenda and add a Biomass Proposal under New Business. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Ned Huwatschek, supported by Shari Chase to approve the June 1, 2011 EDC Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Bio-mass Technology: Raymond Chase – No report.
  - Short Rotation Forestry: John Sturos/Don Secor
    - Contact made with MTU. Data and statistics presented.
    - Workshop *Energy Farming in the UP* will be held in Ontonagon County. Will share workshop date and location with EDC members interested in attending.
    - Recommendation: Discuss forming a cooperative in the Western UP as a method of sharing costs, capital investments and technology.
    - Recommendation: Order the book *Comminution of Wood and Bark* published by Forest Products Research Society.
  - Short Rotation Forestry-Communications: Richard Schaefer/Ned Huwatschek. No report.
  - Greenhouse Technology: David Sundberg
    - Research started. Carbon dioxide from the chip and dry process will increase growth in greenhouse applications. Availability of sunlight in area adequate to sustain greenhouse operations.

- KC Recreation Trails: Raymond Chase
  - KC Sheriff is eligible to submit grant requests due to recent trail designation.
- Marketing-Explore New Technology To Market KC: Shari Chase/Peg Kauppi
  - Research on-going. Applications are expensive. Will explore partnerships with business entities to fund communications applications and technologies.
- KC Communications Infrastructure: EDC agenda item for periodic review. No updates.
- Projects, Good and Services Needed To Economically Benefit Keweenaw County-Potential Private Business Ventures: Shari Chase
  - Will compile the updates and send electronically to the EDC.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: David Sundberg
  - Environmental firms and engineers active at Mt. Horace Greely. Water and soil samples are being gathered. Phase II of physical study is underway.
- Planning Commission: Ned Huwatschek
  - Building Permits issues have increased.
- Board of Commissioners: Don Piche- No report.

WUPPDR: Discussion related to annual funding by Keweenaw County was tabled until August.

##### BIOMASS PROPOSAL: Raymond Chase

- Presented information and *Development of Feasibility Study/Cost Analysis* documents related to funding a cost analysis for a Bio-Fuels production plant at Mt. Horace Greely. Proposal has been broken into three phases. Letters of commitment to purchase biomass from the potential plant have been received.
- The following proposal was presented for discussion: “We, the Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee, ...request that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners vote to financially support this proposal in the three phases and for the amount as outlined in the attached document, and to request that the Commissioners appoint Gundlach Champion as their consultants in this effort.”

MOTION, David Sundberg, supported by Don Secor, to have Raymond Chase present the *Keweenaw County Bio-Fuels Analysis Proposal* to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners at the July 20, 2011 Board Meeting.

Roll Call:

YES: Secor, Sundberg, Sturos, Huwatschek, Shari Chase, Huovinen, Raymond Chase

NO: None

ABSENT: Piche, Kauppi, Schaefer

Motion passed.

Public Comments: None

***NEXT EDC MEETING: August 3, 2011, 6:30 P.M., Keweenaw County Courthouse***

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. was made by Don Secor.

Respectfully submitted:

*Darleen M. Huovinen*