

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2009

Meeting held at the Keweenaw County Court House was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Raymond Chase.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: R. Chase, Sturos, Sundberg, Secor, S. Chase, D. Huovinen, O'Callaghan, Keith, Schaefer

Member Excused: Huwatschek

AGENDA:

R. Chase: Delete presentation on Mount Horace Greeley. MOTION Keith, support, O'Callaghan to approve agenda as modified. Per voice vote, agenda approved as modified.

MINUTES- JUNE 2, 2009:

- Change "...MTU has no current data..." to "... MTU wind study data was not located..."
- Change: Add Tom O'Callaghan as present at the July 1, 2009 EDC meeting.

Motion, O'Callaghan, support, S. Chase, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2009 EDC meeting as amended. Motion passed without objection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bio-Fuels: John Dodge

Given recent legislation passed in Michigan requiring 10 percent of electricity sales to come from renewable sources by 2015, biomass, sustainability and renewable energy resource implementations will see growth in Michigan. **Statistical data presented is on file in the EDC office. See: *Alternative Energy Generation Report, John Dodge, 7-1-09.***

Related discussion subsequent to presentation:

- INFORMATION SOURCES: Dr. Robert Froese and Maria Janowiak, MTU, and Mike Reid, L'Anse Warden Electric Company, Western UP Resource Conservation & Development Council, Kim Stroker of WUPPDR ,Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Committee.
- Keweenaw Mountain Lodge: Is heating with bio mass boiler rather than propane gas feasible? Issues presented/discussion held.
- Utilization of "waste" logging operations leave behind and grinder equipment technology.

- Ninety-five percent of Michigan’s CFR are in the UP. Keweenaw County has 148,000 acres in CFR land. Access to GMO management plans not available. Distance to mills a major issue in Keweenaw County.
- John Dodge will continue research and make periodic presentations to the EDC.

NEW BUSINESS-PROSALS:

Keweenaw County Website: Janet Shea

Proposal presented to allow Charlie Eshbach, publisher of *The Keweenaw Traveler* and an on-line internet site, www.kewtra.com, to assist Keweenaw County in developing a tourism portal on the official Keweenaw County website. Access would be limited to only that tourism portion of the website so that no one else has to be inconvenienced by having to act as a pass-through approver before *Opus* posts the information. Accessibility allowed can be on any level the EDC determines appropriate. The only requirement to free services is to allow a link to Eshbach’s website. **Complete proposal as presented is on file in the EDC office. See: *Tourism Update Proposal-Keweenaw County Website-Janet Shea7-1-09.***

Related discussion subsequent to presentation:

- In the conception of the official KC website, the EDC was authorized to make decisions and implement updates. Shea wondered if EDC rescinded that authority.
- EDC is an advisory board. How proposal recommendations are handled will rest with the KC Board of Commissioners. Total access should not be recommended, nor allowed.

MOTION, David Sundberg, supported by Darleen Huovinen , to recommend to the Keweenaw County Board to positively support Charlie Eshbach’s proposal to update and enhance the Keweenaw County Website as a “portal” for tourism with web site accessibility restrictions.

- Roll Call Vote: Yes: Sturos - Secor - D. Huovinen - S. Chase - O’Callaghan – Schaefer
Sundberg- Keith – R. Chase Excluded: Huwatschek

Motion passed without objection.

Pasty.Net Grant Application To Update Services: Charlie Hopper

Verbal proposal presented by Charlie Hopper, Owner of ISP servicing Keweenaw County. *Pasty.Net* is seeking funding via the *American Recovery Reinvestment Act* to grow, expand and update internet services in KC. Hopper requested EDC to submit a letter of support to submit with his grant application.

MOTION, Richard Schaefer, supported by Shari Chase, that the EDC write a letter of support, which Charlie Hopper will submit with his federal grant application to improve and update internet service connections in Keweenaw County. Additionally, the EDC recommends that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissions provide a similar resolution of support for the *Pasty.Net* grant application.

- Roll Call Vote: Yes: Sturos - Secor - D. Huovinen - S. Chase - O’Callaghan – Schaefer -
Sundberg- Keith – R. Chase Excluded: Huwatschek

Motion passed without objection.

Keweenaw County Trail System – Liability Insurance Proposal

Keweenaw ATV trails discussion presented by Raymond Chase. The future accessibility of Keweenaw ATV trails is contingent upon the requirement to insure trails on private land. Chase recommends using EDC funds to purchase needed insurance. The option as to whether a legal opinion is needed, to relieve KC of liability, will be left to the discretion of the KC Board of Commissioners. The EDC took the following action:

MOTION, Tom O’Callaghan, supported by David Sundberg, to recommend to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners that EDC funding, not to exceed \$2,600.00, be used by the Keweenaw ATV Club to purchase liability insurance to insure t he Keweenaw ATV trails.

- Roll Call Vote: Yes: Sturos - Secor - D. Huovinen - S. Chase - O’Callaghan – Schaefer
Sundberg- Keith – R. Chase Excused: Huwatschek

Motion passed without objection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – David Sundberg

Community outreach continues. Solicitation of community involvement is on-going.

EDC Proposals to KC Board of Commissioners –Raymond Chase

KCB approved EDC proposal to allocate funding not to exceed \$5,000.00 to expand ski trails at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge (passed on a 3 to 2 vote).

KCB approved the sale of scrap metal at MHG. Frank Stubenrauch to watch scrap metal prices and sell when market is higher. Metals are to be sold on a percentage basic rather than at a flat fee. Monies from sales to be deposited in EDC account.

Sale of houses at MHG: KCB approved. Advertisements to be placed in the Daily Mining Gazette listing a minimum bid of \$500.00 per building.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Keith: Trails & Recreation Committee meeting August 6, 2009, 4 P.M. at the KML. Recommended EDC solicit committee approval for ATV Club’s EDC proposal. Would advocate trails recreation as a line item on the KC budget. Shari Chase: Requested to move discussion of good and services needed in KC, to the September meeting due to time constraints.

MOTION TO ADJOURN, Don Secor, support, Shari Chase. Passed without objection. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Darleen M. Huovinen

Minutes approved: September 2, 2009