

## ***Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee***

### ***June 3, 2009 Minutes***

Meeting held at the Houghton Township Community Building in Eagle River, was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Ray Chase.

ROLL CALL:                   Members Present: R. Chase, Sturos, Sundberg, Secor, S. Chase, Huwatschek, Keith, Schaefer

Members Absent: None

Newly appointed EDC members Shari Chase and Don Secor were introduced.

MOTION , Don Keith, support, John Sturos, to recommend Darleen Huovinen as an EDC member and record keeper to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners. Passed without objection.

MOTION, Ned Huwatschek, support, Don Keith, to nominate Ray Chase to serve as the EDC Chairman for a one year term. Passed without objection.

As a joint EDC and Planning Commission meeting, members of the Planning Commission were introduced: Soper, Schaefer, Keith, and J. Huovinen.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS:

*To facilitate discussion regarding ideas and proposals that may economically benefit Keweenaw County, Leonard Bowman, Michigan Technological University Electrical Engineering Professor, with expertise in electrical power systems with an focus on "renewable" energy system, and David Taivalkoski, MTU Energy Manager, were invited to address the EDC. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:*

- Bowman: Mt. Horace Greeley may serve as a site to create an alternate energy source for Keweenaw County in the form of wind generation. Transmission lines from the former radar base are on site (15 to 20 KW capacity). From available statistical data, it appears wind turbines could be placed on the site. The number of turbines needed to generate sufficient energy to make such a project economically feasible would require further study based on topographic issues, wind speed, turbine heights and other issues. Standards recommend placing turbines five times the height as a distance apart.
- Curtis: MTU prepared a wind profile in approximately 2000. That data is available. Current wind generation sites place turbines closer together than old standards.
- Kisiel: Questioned what parcels are being considered and who owns that land. KC owns seventy-nine of the 100 acres. Townships own the remaining property. Deed restrictions exist. Questioned number of wind turbines required to make project economically feasible.
- Shea: Federal grant is required to change deed restrictions.
- Bowman: Recommends updated wind study data as first step.
- Sundberg: Revenue KC would realize would be a negotiated price. Keep in mind utilizing alternate energy for potential uses to stimulate the economy or to supply low cost power to KC developers.

- Secor: Alternate energy resource contact-John Dodge, KC resident has expertise on Bio-fuels.
- Kisiel: Opposed to incurring costs to benefit others south of KC. No property tax would be realized on the site and a drastic decrease in surrounding property values would result.
- Vivian: Inquiry: What is electrical consumption north of Calumet?
- Curtis: Three to four megawatts. One or two turbines would provide that energy.
- Kisiel: KC has no zoning jurisdiction on that site. Townships retain zoning control. House Bill addressing those issues. Previous attempts to pursue wind generation at Horace Greeley violated Open Meeting Act, false information presented and collusion occurred. Jurisdiction issues specifically exclude installation of wind turbines on this site.
- Chase: EDC pursuing information related to economic development not to argue history.
- Bowman: New regulations implemented in bi-directional meters are favorable to owners. Main issue remains, economic viability.
- Huovinen: With inflationary trends related to electrical power, 41 Lumber is installing wind turbines at their locations and is marketing residential wind turbine units in the area.
- Curtis: Rising fuel costs and inflation will change the complexion of how municipalities view renewable energy resources.
- Bowman: Wisconsin Electric is retiring many generation units at Presque Isle due to costs. Governmental mandates will require ten percent of generation from renewable energy. Need to study data prior to committing to project, but time to begin is now. Many options regarding lease agreements, establishing a local municipal power district.
- Kiesiel: Opposed to EDC promoting wind turbine project.
- Schaefer: EDC is utilizing resources and information offered free of charge from MTU as an information format. Incorrect assumption that EDC is promoting wind turbines. Meeting focus is fact finding not planning.
- Huovinen: Inquiry: MTU available to provide wind study?
- Bowman: MSU Extension loans wind measurement instruments for studies in agricultural areas. Would recommend discussing a short term/long term approach in possible collaborative relationship between KC and MTU. Dean of Business School interested in multiple-disciplined approach for studies involving students.
- Sundberg: Planning is key. Using intellectual capital at MTU for KC development is one avenue.
- Taivalkoski: Gather data first. Verify if enough wind capacity for 30 percent, or end up like Mackinaw City with 17 percent capacity. Get data, then direct focus.
- Secor: Will locate previous MTU wind study data for EDC review.
- Bowman: In conclusion: Organize methodology, explore, study, plan.
- Sundberg: Advocates utilization of KC land to generate business in KC.

TRAIL REPORT: Chase reviewed information with EDC.

MOTION to adjourn , Sundberg, support Huwatscheil. Passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted:

Darleen M. Huovinen