

*Keweenaw County*  
*Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*March 3, 2010*

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Raymond Chase, John Sturos, Richard Schaefer, Ned Huwatschek, Donald Keith, Shari Chase, David Sundberg, Tom O’Callaghan, Darleen Huovinen

Excused: Don Secor

**AGENDA:** Motion by Shari Chase, supported by Tom O’Callaghan, to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Don Keith, supported by Shari Chase, to approve the February 3, 2010, EDC Minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:** Raymond Chase

- At the request of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners, Raymond Chase finalized ownership issues of a communications tower located in Grant Township. Interest in renting tower space has been received by a utilities company.
- Copper Country Intermediate School District: Request for a letter of support regarding an application for a Regional Broadband Grant Initiative. Shari Chase requested to research application data.
- Keweenaw County Recreation Plan: Raymond Chase will serve as the EDC Representative on the Recreation Plan Committee to update the Recreation Plan.
- Keweenaw County Web Site Enhancement: A pull down menu on the web site was recommended to add seasonal photos on a quarterly basis.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- New Power Tour, Inc.: Biomass/Energy Efficiency Proposal- Mountain Lodge – Melissa Davis
  - Problem Analysis/Statement was presented. EDC will review.
  - Garn® Smokeless Wood Heating System being investigated by the Keweenaw County Road Commission for potential use at the Lodge.
- New Power Tour, Inc.: Compensation Proposal – Melissa Davis
  - Proposal and Letter of Recommendation received. Future agenda item.

- Keweenaw County Economic Development Plan

#### Bio-mass Technology

- Subcommittee: David Sundberg, Raymond Chase, Tom O'Callaghan-Don Secor
- Focus: Energy efficiency at Mountain Lodge - Wood chippers and dryers - Potential utilization of Mt. Horace Greeley as a production site for wood pellet production - Explore new wind generation technology including related state mandates for compliance- Methane gas generators- Trash burners - Geographic study of available locations.

#### Keweenaw Recreational County Trails

- Subcommittee: Don Keith, Richard Schaefer, Tom O'Callaghan, Ned Huwatschek
- Focus: Explore the acquisition and purchase of properties to secure trail right-of-ways to keep trails in the county open for recreational use.

#### Keweenaw County Communications Infrastructure

- Subcommittee: Shari Chase, Don Secor, Darleen Huovinen
- Focus: Explore expanded internet, cellular and communication services.

#### Keweenaw County Court House Renovation

- Sub-committee not appointed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: David Sundberg
  - Property ownership issues continue to be explored. Ground water contamination issues in Keweenaw County are must be addressed. Contaminated water negates development. USAF must be held accountable.
  - Brownfield Authority will sponsor a dinner meeting and presentation at the Mountain Lodge in May, 2010. Business leaders and entrepreneurs are being contacted. Purpose of meeting is to develop ideas for potential uses and partners for the Mt. Horace Greeley Airbase site in order to encourage the US Government to support Brownfield investigation and potential grants of land and activity. Requested EDC input to identify business leaders and entrepreneurs.
  - Keweenaw County waste transfer station being investigated. Site requirements include access to a water system and a centralized location.
- TRAILS REPORT: Raymond Chase - Report made in President's Comments (See Above)

- GRANT AVAILABILITY: Tom O'Callaghan
  - To date, research on grant availability for small businesses indicate Federal grants are rare or non-existent. State grants focus on low interest loans or minority ownership.
  - Will continue research. EDC recommended exploring grants related to energy efficiency and green technology.
- COMMENTS FROM DON KEITH: (Added agenda request)
  - Attended workshop at Finlandia University presented by MSU Land Policy Institute. Data from workshop publication, WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT IN COSTAL MICHIGAN presented.
  - Copper Country Trails Committee has received approval of a \$288,000 grant.
- KC COURTHOUSE RENOVATION: Raymond Chase – No report
- Keweenaw County Leadership: David Sundberg – Keweenaw County needs to generate champions to identify projects and carry through.

***NEXT EDC MEETING: April 7, 2010, 6:30 P.M., Keweenaw County Courthouse***

Motion to adjourn, David Sundberg.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Darleen M. Huovinen

**Minutes approved: April 7, 2008**