

Keweenaw County
Economic Development Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2008

Keweenaw County Courthouse
Eagle River, Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Janet Shea - Aaron Rogers - Richard Schaffer
Members absent: Tom O'Callahan - Fritz Kesan - Jim Vivian, Jr. -
County Commission Present: Frank Stubenrauch - Joe Langdon - Don Keith
County Commission Absent: Randy Eckloff - Jeff Turnquist (replaced Al Gunnari)

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda carried.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the November 12, 2007 and February 19, 2008 meetings were approved. (March 2008 meeting was cancelled)

Guests:

Phil Musser, KEDA, reviewed the results of his meeting with consultants from American Wind & Energy Group and their proposal to place test wind towers on Mt. Horace Greeley. The Eagle Harbor Township 3-year moratorium on wind towers would curtail their interest; their letter for data collection was inadequate to protect the County; there would be no job creation. MHG's value is that there are transmission lines available for wind power distribution. No further action will be taken.

Bill Griffin, U.P. Engineers & Architects presented the Brownfield Assessment Cooperative Agreement to be submitted to the EPA, in follow-up to the previously submitted application. Shea will present to the County Commission at their next meeting for approval and signature.

Chairman's Comments/Correspondence: Shea reported on the National 2008 Brownfield Forum, information package will follow.

Project Reports

Website Development

Purchased Acrobat Software required for website maintenance.
Information gathering continues.

Mt. Horace Greeley

Langdon opened a discussion regarding an industrial use by Keweenaw Scrap Metal. They expressed interest in purchasing MHG for shredding rubber tires for playgrounds, and also use the housing area as a gated community for snowmobile and ATV users. Review at May 13 meeting.

ADA Requirements at Courthouse

Langdon reported on ADA requirements under Title 2, Sec. 35149 and 35150. They state that the services of the courthouse must be available, not access to a particular room. An audio/visual system (only audio is required) would be considered a reasonable accommodation for access to the proceedings of a meeting. He will pursue and report.

Eckloff will continue to pursue feasibility of a new building to accommodate ADA requirements, approximately 80 x 40 feet.

Trails

The Americore Volunteer Group will have eleven people in Keweenaw County working for five weeks on trails. Rogers discussed an application due July 1 for Keweenaw Point trail development. (However, the Gratiot River grant curtails any eligibility for trails until it has been closed.) A purchase agreement, and letter of intent are needed; also a State Certified Appraisal of GMO property. GMO will lease interim use of trails before purchase if we show serious intent. Motion by O'Callahan, second by Rogers to use \$4,000 of EDC funds for the appraisal by Steigerwalt (\$3200) and trail promotion (\$800), to be repaid in 90 days. Keith will work with Joel Tuoriniemi to establish an account that will receive the funds.

Nature Center/Tourism Info Center, Ahmeek/Green Thumb personnel - Vivian - No report.

Unfinished Business

Keweenaw County Sign Lights: Motion by Schaffer, second by Langdon to allow Don Keith to purchase solar lights for the sign. Motion carried

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) long-term solutions - Remove from agenda; a responsibility of the Planning Commission.

New Business - None

Public Comment - None

Adjournment