

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee
March 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairperson Ray Chase.

Members present were: Ray Chase, Shari Chase, Ned Huwatschek, Peg Kauppi, David Sundberg, Jill Protzel, John Sturos, Don Piche, and Don Secor.

Member(s) absent: Richard Schaefer (excused)

The March 7, 2012 meeting agenda was approved with a motion by David Sundberg, seconded by Shari Chase. Motion carried.

Minutes of the February 1, 2012 meeting were approved with a motion by David Sundberg, seconded by Jill Protzel. Motion carried.

Guest Speakers: none

Old Business:

Bio-mass Technology –

- Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) – John Sturos had nothing new to report at this time.
- SRF Communications – Ned Huwatschek had nothing new to report at this time.
- Greenhouse Technology – Dave Sundberg reported that he is trying to set up a meeting with Sam Lockwood and Kraig Mahrley about “Waste-to-Energy” and Greenhousing projects at the Ahmeek Mine location. He also stated that Sam and Julie Melchoire are considering forming a consulting company together and plan to present at the next meeting. Dave also shared that Kraig is looking into moving his hydroponic tomatoes to the Ahmeek location and use the mine water. He is looking into grant opportunities for funding this move.
- Mt. Horace Greeley Fuel Production Project (Mt. H.G.) – Ray Chase had nothing new to report at this time.

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails (KCRT) – Ray Chase shared three articles in national ATV magazines about the Keweenaw. He also stated that there will be a DNR sponsored meeting on April 17th at 6:30 at the Houghton Township Community Center in Eagle River about the full designation of ATV trails on private land.

KC Marketing – Shari Chase & Peg Kauppi had nothing new to report at this time and suggested that this topic be tabled for now. All agreed.

KCCI – Peg Kauppi shared with the committee information about the proposed tower on Brockway Mountain. She said that there is new legislation before the governor to allow co-location on state owned towers. Since there is a state police tower on East Bluff, it might be possible to locate the cell satellite there. Peg also stated that a property owner on East Bluff has offered to house a tower and the cell tower company should investigate the likelihood that Lac Labelle would receive coverage from that location.

Water Park/Playground – Shari Chase and Peg Kauppi met with property owners who seem very enthusiastic about the water park project. They wrote a letter of intent which Shari shared with the committee. Peg has spoken with the neighboring property owners who are also interested in this idea. Iconica has been contacted and has an engineer who will come up this summer to create a plan with economic feasibility for this project.

New Business:

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Dave Sundberg reported that the KC board approved funding to do a title search which he will report on at the next meeting. A letter has been sent to Louisiana Pacific requesting the property be rescinded. Dave also stated that Lassila Insurance is the new owner of the Mohawk Gas Station and that the gas tanks will be removed and the property will be cleaned up.

Planning Commission - Ned Huwatschek reported that Ross Grunwald from the Keweenaw Copper Company presented at the Planning Commissions last meeting. John Sturos will invite Ross to present to this committee.

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners - Don Piche reported that KC got the Americana Grant for \$40,000 and matching funds are required for renovations to the courthouse. He stated that the roof is first priority and then siding.

Additions - none

On a motion by Dave Sundberg, seconded by Peg Kauppi, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.