

**Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee**  
**November 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by chairman, Dan Harri.

Members present: Dan Harri, Don Piche, John Sturos, Jill Protzel, Don Secor, and Ned Huwatschek

Member(s) absent: Peg Kauppi and Gina Nicholas

The November meeting agenda was approved with a motion by John Sturos, seconded by Ned Huwatschek. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting were read and approved with a motion by Don Secor, seconded by John Sturos. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker(s)-

Jeff Ratcliffe: Executive Director, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) was present to introduce himself and explain KEDA's role in the area. He stated that the primary focus of KEDA is working with small businesses with gaining attention, expansion, and retention. The goal of the Regional Prosperity Initiative is to reduce duplication of efforts by creating a collaborative environment between organizations such as MEDC, MI Works, Northern Initiatives, PTAC, etc. KEDA is also interested in aiding projects involving infrastructure that effect all businesses in the tri-county district (BHK).

Sam Raymond: Owner, Keweenaw Adventure Company was present to request support for his travel to the Outdoor Adventure Expo in April to promote the Keweenaw. As in the past years, Sam has sought monetary support from the EDC, CHIA, and the KCVB for travel expenses. Last year, the KCVB denied funding for this convention. The Keweenaw Adventure Company has picked up that portion of the expences. Dan Harri made a motion, seconded by John Sturos, to support Sam with \$411.67 from the EDC. All in favor. Motion carried. Don Piche will present the request to the county board at the next meeting. Sam is also interested in becoming a member of the EDC and will submit an application to the county board.

Old Business –

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails (KCRT): Don Piche had nothing new to report at this time.

KC Communications Infrastructure: Don Secor reported that PastyNet is applying for grant money to get fiber to everyone in Keweenaw County. More details to follow.

KC Marketing: Dan Harri reported that the Octoberfest event at the KML broke even for the first year, but next year should be more profitable because less will need to be spent to put on the event. It was well attended with around 700 people. Dan stated that events like this are a

good way to stretch the season and get people out to the Keweenaw during the shoulder seasons. Dan Harri will contact business owners for any changes to the KC Lodging and Dining Guide before reprinting 3000 copies.

Planning Commission: Ned Huwatschek reported that the PC had a very well attended and informative meeting in Copper Harbor concerning zoning issues. Unfortunately, the process is going slowly due to legalities and no decision was made. The PC is concerned with protecting the interests of all property owners involved.

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners: Don Piche reported the new entrance to the courthouse is currently under construction. The septic system has failed. A new septic field, which will serve both the courthouse and jail, is going in and since it is under \$20,000, no bid is needed. Don also reported that the board will give Don Kilpela Jr. \$500 for the lights display in the Grant Township Park as agreed to last year (\$1500 over 3 years).

New Business: none

Public Comment: none

On a motion by Dan Harri, seconded by Don Secor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.