

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

Keweenaw County Courthouse

Eagle River, MI, USA

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

(Approved Oct. 3, 2018)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chair Peg Kauppi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Members present: Peg Kauppi, Tess Ahlborn, Todd Holmstrom, Ned Huwatschek, Matt Kero, Joe Miller, Sam Raymond, Kass Simila
- Members excused: Harvey Desnick
- BOC Representative: Don Piche
- Contributing Members: John Sturos, Rob Tarvis
- Guests: Will Cronin (MSUE), Charlie Hopper (Pasty.net), Jeff Radcliffe (KEDA), Jerry Wuorenmaa (WUPPDR)

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Sam Raymond, second by John Sturos. All in favor, *motion carried*.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 1, 2018 meeting minutes by Sam Raymond, second by Todd Holmstrom. All in favor, *motion carried*.

4. Membership

Peg Kauppi announced that she plans to step down from the chair position and remain a voting member on the committee. The committee agreed the best process is for interested voting members to contact Peg before the next meeting. All interested parties will be asked to give a brief statement at the next meeting and a vote will be conducted. Please contact Peg at pkauppi@pasty.net if you are interested in the EDC Chair position.

5. Unfinished Business

5a. Web Presence Update

Todd Holmstrom reported that the county is working to update the web site. Ann Gasperich is coordinating the effort to define the needs and select a contractor. Ann will invite the EDC to participate as the project progresses over the next few months.

6. EDC Mission, Vision and Goals

Will Cronin, MSUE, invited to facilitate a mission, vision and goal setting session, led the EDC through various activities to develop a consensus-based mission statement.

Motion by Todd Holmstrom, second by Ned Huwatschek, to adopt the following mission statement:

“The Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee fosters and facilitates economic growth and development to improve the quality of life.”

All in favor, *motion carried*.

Based on the brainstorming topics identified during the August 1, 2018 EDC meeting, five priority areas were identified:

1. broadband development and communications
2. establish a small business revolving loan fund
3. 100 good paying jobs
4. land use issues including zoning and permanent easements
5. workforce development

The group further evaluated the first topic of broadband development and communications by identifying:

- ASSETS (Charlie, PFN, WUPPDR, fiber to Agate Harbor, available tower sites, ConnectMI?),
- GAPS (mobile cell service, customer concentrations, fiber north of Mohawk, lack of competition, limited existing infrastructure, relationship with AT&T and other providers), and
- LOW-HANGING FRUIT (reestablish relationship with AT&T to seek timeframe for improvements, determine legal and regulatory framework, new customers on existing fiber, vertical asset inventory)

The EDC will revisit other priority and non-priority goals as we plan our future efforts.

7. New business

7a. GMO Land Swap

Don Piche reported that Eric Stier, representing GMO, presented information at the August BOC meeting overviewing a future potential land swap between GMO and the Michigan DNR. Piche described the win-win situation and stated that all county commissioners supported the concept of a land swap with the Michigan DNR.

Motion by Tess Ahlborn, second by Joe Miller, to approve the following statement:

“The Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee supports proposed future land swaps between GMO and the Michigan DNR as presented to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners on August 15, 2018.”

All in favor, *motion carried*.

7b. 1 Million Cups - Copper Country, a crowdsourcing opportunity for entrepreneurs in the Copper Country, hosts meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge on October 10, 2018 at 9am.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm by Tess Ahlborn, second by John Sturos. All in favor, *motion carried*.

Next meeting Wednesday, October 3, 2018 – 6:00 pm, Eagle River, MI