

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee
November 2, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairperson Ray Chase.

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

Member(s) absent: none

The November 2, 2011 meeting agenda, with additions by Peg Kauppi and Dave Sundberg, was approved with a motion by John Sturos, seconded by Dave Sundberg. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting were corrected and approved with a motion by Dave Sundberg, seconded by Ned Huwatschek. Motion carried.

Guest Speakers: none

Old Business:

Bio-mass Technology –

- Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) - John Sturos- nothing to report at this time
- SRF Communications – Ned Huwatschek- nothing to report at this time
- Greenhouse Technology - Dave Sundberg reported that he has the “non-disclosure” paperwork in progress and that Calumet Main Street (CMS) is very interested in Greenhousing because they already have access to the mine shafts. Dave suggests a feasibility study should be explored by CMS. Ray Chase suggested that Dave contact the MI EDC and continue to gather information.

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails - Ray Chase reported that the Keweenaw ATV Club continues to apply for grant money to fund projects.

Marketing - Peg Kauppi reported that she spoke with Pat Black from Marquette regarding mobile apps. She believes that creating a mobile app. for KC will be very expensive and a large coordinated effort, but she will continue to do research. The topic of mobile apps. was tabled until January. Shari Chase reported that she met with Julie Melchiorre and they are planning on holding a marketing workshop in the area.

KCCI: Ray Chase reported that Verizon has three new towers “in the works”. They have applied for permits to build towers at Delaware, Medora, and Brockway locations. There will be a public hearing in December.

EDC Dream/Wish List – nobody had anything to report at this time and this item has been tabled until next year.

Water Park/Playground - Shari Chase reported that she met with Julie Melchione where they focused on next steps: 1) decide who will claim ownership of the project; the mine Shaft in Houghton has been talking about doing a water park. 2) identify location; the property has been identified and is for sale, Shari will contact the property owner, and 3) explore approvals; Richard Schaefer suggested contacting the Copper Harbor DDA and Utility Board. Ray Chase has set up a meeting with Ken Stigers, the Grant Township Supervisor. Ray and Shari shared photos of the water park they visited.

New Business:

Brownfield - Dave Sundberg reported that there is no phase two approval yet from Louisiana Pacific. An extension was approved for the usage of EPA funds to do the Brownfield study.

Planning - Ned Huwatschek had nothing new to report at this time. There was a discussion about the KC's "Vision of Tomorrow".

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners - Don Piche reported that the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge (KML) is officially closed for the season. The KML made enough money this year to make a partial payment to the county and re-open next year.

Addition – Dave Sundberg wrote a draft letter stating that the KEDC supports the continuance of operation of the Ahmeek Post Office branch. He provided copies of the letter for all members to read, and he made a motion to send the letter to our Senators. Jill Protzel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Addition – Peg Kauppi stated that with the closing of the KML there is a gap left and the Copper Harbor Trails Club does not have the money to keep the trails groomed. A lengthy discussion ensued. Don Piche said that he would bring this up at the next Board of Commissioner's meeting and this subject will be discussed further at the next meeting.

On a motion by Chairperson Ray Chase, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.