

## **Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee June 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Ray Chase.

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

Member(s) absent: Ned Huwatschek and Richard Schaefer (both excused)

The June 6, 2012 meeting agenda was approved with a motion by David Sundberg, seconded by John Sturos. Motion carried.

Minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting were approved with a motion by Shari Chase, seconded by David Sundberg. Motion carried.

Guest Speakers: none

Old Business –

Bio-mass Technology: due to lack of availability of raw materials this project will be stricken from the EDC's agenda.

Short Rotation Forestry (SRF): John Sturos stated that we should continue to encourage land owners to plant. GMO and Traxis will purchase seedlings and plant on their properties.

SRF Communications: Ned Huwatschek was absent. No report sent.

Greenhouse Technology: Dave Sundberg suggested that the name of this subject be changed to "Agricultural Technology" because it is moving beyond greenhouses. He also reported that Kraig Mahrley and Sam Lockwood are in the grant writing phase of their project.

Mt. HG Fuel Production Project: Ray Chase reported that this project will no longer be pursued and can be removed from the agenda.

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails (KCRT): Ray Chase reported that the Keweenaw ATV Club had their spring ride last weekend. He stated that the ride was a great success with many out of the area participants. Peg

Kauppi added that the Copper Harbor Trails Club had a ribbon cutting for the new trail head in Copper Harbor. The CHTC system is now one of 9 IMBA Ride Centers in the world.

KC Communications Infrastructure: Don Secor reported that fiber lines are being installed along HWY 41. Ray Chase suggested that we get Charlie Hoper to come to an EDC meeting to explain plans for expansion and improvement to the infrastructure. David Sundberg reported that he did some research about Natural Gas. He found that SEMCO is going as far as Centennial Heights as part of their development. The cost will be absorbed by the new customers; not the current. However, SEMCO is being purchased by a larger company that does deliver compressed natural gas.

Water Park/Playground: Shari and Ray Chase received a new quote from Jeff Lococo. He is asking for \$5000 to travel to the area and do a site evaluation and a feasibility assessment. David Sundberg made a motion that Ray Chase go to the KC Board of Commissioners to ask for this money. John Sturos seconded the motion. All in favor.

New Business –

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Dave Sundberg reported that the BRA was asked to complete and evaluation for the Mohawk Gas Station project. The BRA will fund this evaluation. Also, the lease information for the Mt. HG property has been located and is being evaluated currently.

Planning Commission: Ned Huwatschek was absent. No report sent.

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners: Don Piche reported that he met with Bill Olson, Paul Lehto, and Laurie Hausworth about the creation of a recreation committee to serve both Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Both counties have approved exploring the concept of this proposed Houghton & Keweenaw Recreation Authority. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Additions: On a motion by Ray Chase, the July meeting will be cancelled. The next EDC meeting will be August 1, 2012. The motion was seconded by David Sundberg. All in favor.

On a motion by David Sundberg, seconded by Don Secor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57p.m.