

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee

July 1, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Keweenaw County Court House was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Ray Chase.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: R. Chase, Sturos, Sundberg, Secor, S. Chase, D. Huovinen, O'Callaghan

Members Excused: Keith , Schaefer

Absent: Huwatschek

AGENDA:

- Sundberg: Add to agenda Brownfield Redevelopment Authority report
- Secor: Delete from agenda guest speaker John Dodge. Speaker agreed to return in August for a presentation related to bio-fuel technology
- R. Chase: Janet Shea not present. Delete presentation from agenda

Per voice vote, agenda approved as modified.

MINUTES: Motion, Sturos, support S. Chase, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2009 EDC meeting as presented. Motion passed without objection.

OLD BUSINESS:

- WIND STUDY DATA UPDATE - Secor: MTU unable to locate data (2000 to 2009) regarding a previous wind energy study. University of Michigan compiled data in 1962 related to a rocket launching facility. Will contact Max Curtis, retired UPPCO Engineer to local MTU data. Secor presented data he obtained and compiled to the EDC which will be filed in EDC records as *ALTERNATE ENERGY-WIND GENERATION*.
Discussion:
 - R. Chase: From information presented to the EDC on June 3, 2009 by Leonard Bowman from MTU, pursuing wind generation as an economic stimulus in Keweenaw County is not viable.
 - Sundberg: Development of alternate energy generation at Mt. Horace Greeley is a long range proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

- GUIDELINES FROM KEWEENAW COUNTY FOR EDC - R. Chase:
 - Requested policies and procedures from Clerk's office. Information not available. Concerned about duties and responsibilities of EDC. Will pursue with Keweenaw County Commissioners.
- BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – Sundberg:
 - Public invited to informational meeting, July 21, 2009, 5:00 PM, KC Courthouse. John D'Addona of ECT presenting information regarding the clean up of polluted sites at no cost to participants.

- UTILIZATION OF WOOD WASTE-ENERGY SOURCE: Melissa Davis, New Power Tour, Inc. owns a business that advocates using wood waste to create energy to fuel greenhouses. Sundberg will contact for presentation at August, 2009 meeting.
- BIO-FUELS – John Dodge:
 - Meeting attendee Dodge, agreed to share information related to bio-fuels.
 - Electrical Engineer-employed by plants who operate in California and Maine who burn wood chips /bio mass to produce energy.
 - Emission standards regulated by EPA. Ability to become economically feasible involve many variables, including contracts with businesses who provide requisite raw materials.
 - Will compile a presentation to present to the EDC with more specific data.
- TRAIL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – Don Kauppi:
 - In order to stimulate economic development in KC, the Trails & Recreation Committee requested the EDC to create and recommend funding of \$5,000 to the following five categories :
 - *A. Complete cross country ski trails and terrain park to support the KML in winter*
 - *B. Development and maintenance of KC recreational property and parks other than KML*
 - *C. Industry & Manufacturing – encourage research, develop economic growth other than tourism*
 - *D. Motorized trail development*
 - *E. Enhance and/or complete non-motorized trail development in KC*

Discussion:

- Kauppi: Volunteer efforts are losing momentum due to personal expenses incurred. Sense of urgency to keep development moving forward. Trail development needs financial assistance to sustain projects. KML needs new products to attract tourists. Snowmobiling peaked 12 years ago – 70% less traffic in 2009. Regulations and requirements making trail maintenance and expansion more costly. Non-motorized trail enthusiasm increasing, specifically *Fat Tire* events. Cooperation needed to capture tourism dollars spent in KC.
- S. Chase: Proposals A and E supported, but other proposals require clarification.
- R. Chase: Supports concept of proposal. Questioned why T&RC included *Industry & Manufacturing* in proposal.
- Kauppi: *Industry & Manufacturing* proposal serves to include Mohawk area interests. Group seeking to broaden county wide economic focus including those interests outside recreational development.
- O’Callaghan: Kauppi and Sam Raymond invest personal money and time in maintaining and developing trails. EDC needs to take this proposal to the KC Board of Commissioners with a recommendation for funding. Without funding trail maintenance and development will fall apart.
- Sam Raymond: Expansion to cross country ski trail designed by Steve Rowe. Request for funding is time sensitive. Need to complete prior to cold weather.

MOTION, Ray Chase, support Tom O'Callaghan to recommend to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners an allocation of funding not to exceed \$5,000.00 to complete the cross-county ski trails and terrain park to support the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in winter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Sturos, Secor, Huovinen, S. Chase, O'Callaghan, R. Chase.

NO: None

Motion passed without objection.

- DISPOSAL OF BUILDINGS AND METAL AT MOUNT HORACE GREELEY: Frank Stubenrauch:
 - Concerned about the decay of buildings and vandalism at MHG. Sale of assets from MHG are earmarked to fund the EDC. Approached the KC Commissioners about selling assets. Advised to discuss proposal with EDC.

MOTION, Darleen Huovinen, supported by David Sundberg, to support the proposal presented by Keweenaw County Commissioner, Frank Stubenrauch, to sell existing buildings at Mount Horace Greeley before the buildings decay or are vandalized and to deposit the funds from the sale in the Economic Development Committee budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Sturos, Secor, Huovinen, S. Chase, O'Callaghan, R. Chase.

NO: None

Motion passed without objection.

MOTION, David Sunberg, supported by John Struos, to support the proposal presented by Keweenaw County Commissioner Frank Stubenrauch, to open bids and sell scrap metal at Mount Horace Greeley and to deposit the funds from the sale in the Economic Development Committee budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Sturos, Secor, Huovinen, S. Chase, O'Callaghan, R. Chase.

NO: None

Motion passed without objection.

Letter will be prepared and presented at the Keweenaw County Commissioners Board meeting on July 15, 2009.

- KATV UP-DATE – R. Chase:
 - Concurrent discussion between DNR, GMO and KATV on-going. Update in August.
- GOODS AND SERVICES NEEDED OR ADVANTAGEOUS IN KEWEENAW COUNTY - S. Chase:
 - Requested EDU to network with community, family and friends regarding the distance Keweenaw County residents drive to acquire goods and services.

Compile a list of addition or essential services or goods that would benefit Keweenaw County and spur economic development.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:30 PM, Shari Chase, support Don Secor.

Motion passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted:

Darleen M. Huovinen