

*Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee*

***Meeting Minutes***

*November 3, 2010*

Meeting held at the Keweenaw County Courthouse was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Raymond Chase.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Richard Schaefer, Don Secor, Raymond Chase, John Sturos, Ned Huwatschek, Donald Keith, Shari Chase, David Sundberg, Darleen Huovinen

Excused: Peg Kauppi

**AGENDA:** Motion by Shari Chase, supported by John Sturos, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by John Sturos, supported by Shari Chase, to approve the October 6, 2010, EDC Minutes. Motion carried.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- Michael D. Erdman, PhD, District Coordinator, Michigan State University Extension Services
- Julie Melchiori, County Extension/EDC Coordinator/Greening Michigan Institute of MSU

MSU Extension Services have restructured with a focus of economic development in the state. Business and entrepreneurial development, sustainable tourism, new venture and innovation counseling including natural resource, green energy and food business enterprise education services are available.

- Kim Stoker, Executive Director, Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region

Stoker presented a proposal to supplement a \$50,000.00 feasibility study, (one half of the cost will be paid by the State and Stoker is requesting \$12,500 each from Keweenaw and Houghton Counties) for the potential creation of a facility which would utilize stamp sands to manufacture various building products.

- Due to copper content, stamp sands are a natural mold inhibitor ideal for the manufacture of exterior shingles.
- Processing plant may have the potential to create 15 to 20 jobs.
- Study will identify all stamp sands in the area, mostly in Keweenaw County.
- Previous study provided statistical data, but did not provide a market study, start up costs or a business plan for building a production facility.
- Initial plan would be to sell the raw material, receive the money and then build a factory.

- Forty-five to seventy-five percent of the sands would be used for shingles. The rest could be used for other building materials.
- EPA has not identified any environmental issues with removing the stamp sands.
- Study will take approximately six months to complete. No guarantee factory will be located in Keweenaw County.
- David Sundburg: Project would create good synergy with Brownfield.

MOTION, Don Secor, supported by Ned Huwatschek, to recommend to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners an allocation of \$12, 500.00 from the Economic Development Fund for the feasibility study as proposed by WUPPDR.

Yes : 9 Shari Chase, Richard Schaefer, Ned Huwatschek, John Sturos, Don Secor, Don Keith, David Sundburg, Darleen Huovinen, Raymond Chase.

No: 0

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT OBJECTION

**PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:** Raymond Chase

Chase presented information from the October 20, 2010 KC Board of Commissioners Meeting regarding a debt elimination plan presented by Chairman, Joe Langdon. The plan, prepared by Langdon and Bob Mikesch, recommends appropriating \$200,000.00 from the EDC Fund to the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Fund to pay a Revenue Bond.

Motion, Don Secor, supported by Shari Chase, to recommend to the KC Board of Commissions that the EDC does NOT support the use of EDC Fund money to pay a Revenue Bond for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Yes: 7 Shari Chase, Huwatschek, Sturos, Secor, Sundburg, Huovinen, Raymond Chase

No: 1 Richard Schaefer

Abstain: 1 Don Keith

MOTION CARRIED.

EDC members requested Raymond Chase to present the above recommendations to the KC Board of Commissioners at the November Board Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Keweenaw County Economic Development Plan Committee Reports

No Reports Presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: David Sundberg
  - Expect to be approached by the Keweenaw County Historical Society regarding property at the Gay School in Sherman Township.
  - More information from the Green Sand project in Gay, Michigan to follow.
  - GSA owns a “restriction” on property at MHG.
- Trails Report: Raymond Chase
  - DNRE has OFFICIALLY designated the Keweenaw Trail System. More information will be presented at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

***NEXT EDC MEETING: December1, 2010, 6:30 P.M., Keweenaw County Courthouse***

Motion to adjourn was made by Don Secor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Darleen M. Huovinen