

## **Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee November 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman David Sundberg.

Members present: Peg Kauppi, Don Piche, Jill Protzel, Don Secor, John Sturos, Ned Huwatschek, Richard Schaefer and David Sundberg

Member(s) absent: none

The November meeting agenda was approved with a motion by John Sturos, seconded by Don Secor. Motion carried.

Minutes of the October 3, 2012 meeting were read and approved with a motion by Richard Schaefer, seconded by Ned Huwatschek. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker(s): Don Secor invited Charlie Hopper of PastyNet to this meeting in order to report on the status of the KC Communications Infrastructure. Charlie reported that Peninsula Fiber is laying fiber to the Centennial School site and on to the Hut after the first of the year. This will triple the internet speed in the Keweenaw. He stated that he is hopeful for getting fiber all the way to the Courthouse in Eagle River as a branch from the Phoenix fiber, but this may take some grant money. The committee offered help with grant seeking.

Old Business –

Short Rotation Forestry(SRF): David Sundberg suggested that we get the information out to the public about SRF opportunities. John Sturos said he will try to get one of the professors from the forestry department at MTU to present to the committee.

Greenhouse Technology: Dave Sundberg reported that Kraig Mahrley is still working on the logistics of the geothermal concept for hydroponic greenhousing at the Ahmeek # 3 & #4 shafts.

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails (KCRT): Don Piche reported that both county lawyers are happy with the joint trails committee draft. The committee met for the first time last week and Laurie Hausworth was going to put an ad in the paper for interested parties and to get public input.

KC Communications Infrastructure: David Sunberg suggested that we form a subcommittee headed by Don Secor. Don stated that he will be in California from

January to March, but that he will be willing to gather more information in the mean time.

#### New Business –

**Brownfield Redevelopment Authority:** Dave Sundberg reported that BRA will be focusing on getting clean-up grants. They have asked UPPCO to help with the grant writing. He also stated that he is in the process of making contact with the Army Corps of Engineers to see what programs they have available to us.

**Planning Commission:** Ned Huwatschek reported that the Centennial Mining Facility currently employs 30 people full-time and those jobs will be kept through the winter. He is going to try to get Ross Grunwald to present to the committee.

**Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners:** Don Piche reported that the board has set aside \$10,000 for the KCEDC budget. David Sundberg stated that we will discuss the spending of this budget during the review of our charter.

**Additions:** David Sundberg presented a charter draft to the committee for review. A lengthy discussion about the EDC's mission statement, goals, objectives, and purpose ensued. The charter was accepted by the committee.

On a motion by David Sundberg, seconded by Jill Protzel, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m.