



WUPPDR
PO BOX 365
HOUGHTON, MI 49931
906.482.7205
info@wuppdr.org



THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

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Houghton County To Host WUPPDR Annual Meeting - September 26



Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center along the Portage Lake Shipping Canal.

Houghton County will host WUPPDR's 43rd Annual Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2011 at the Community Room (first floor) of the Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center in the City of Houghton. We hope you will be able to join us. Please see the schedule of events for a list of Annual Meeting activities. This year's keynote speaker is Scott See, Executive Director of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission. See will be high-

lighting the remediation activities and planning that have been taking place recently at Quincy Smelter.

We look forward to seeing you and your spouse/guest there. Please RSVP to Mary at mtaddeucci@wuppdr.org or 906.482.7205, ext. 310, by September 16, 2011 if you are interested in attending

The Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center is at 600 East Lakeshore Drive in Houghton, located one block north of Shelden Ave (US-41) in Downtown Houghton. Off of Shelden Avenue, turn right onto Isle Royal Street at the stoplight near the Library Bar and Restaurant.

Schedule of Events

Business Meeting: 5:00 PM EST
(4:00 CST)

Social Hour: 5:00-6:00 PM EST
(4:00-5:00 CST)

Buffet Dinner: 6:00 PM EST
(5:00 CST)

Program to Follow Dinner :

Welcome and Introduction of Guests
 Introduction of WUPPDR Officers
 WUPPDR Annual Report
 Keynote Speaker: Scott See
 (KNHP Advisory Commission)
 Oreste Chiantello Award Presentation

Dinner: \$18/person
 WUPPDR Commissioners receive a complimentary dinner

You still have time to RSVP!
 Call the office at 906.482.7205, ext. 310
 by September 16, 2011

WUPPDR STAFF

KIM STOKER
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LORI HAUSWIRTH
 ASSOCIATE PLANNER
 AICP

MEG PACHMAYER
 PLANNER

COURTNEY ARCHAMBEAU
 HOUSING AGENT

KEVIN MANNINEN
 REGIONAL ECONOMIC
 COORDINATOR

JERALD WUORENMAA
 ASSISTANT PLANNER

STEVE ROUSER
 GIS TECHNICIAN

MARY TADDEUCCI
 ADMINISTRATIVE
 ASSISTANT

SUE HARTER
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AMY SPAHN
 FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

LAURA NAKKULA
 HOUSING SPECIALIST

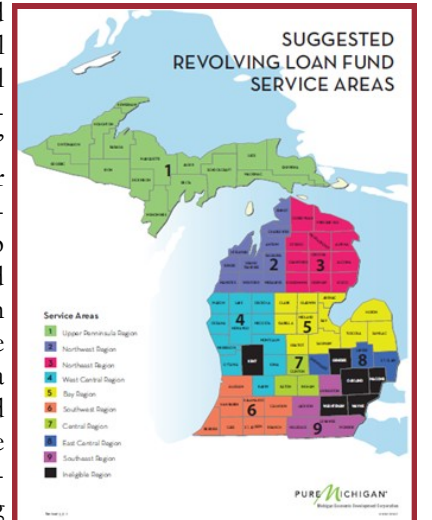
ASHLEY CURTIS
 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WUPPDR
 393 E. LAKESHORE DR.
 HOUGHTON, MI 49931

906.482.7205

Redrawing the Lines for Economic Development?

Michigan is once again undergoing a significant change in the way we do business. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is transforming the State into nine new Regions to deliver services. This transformation is being led by the new Community Development Collaborative Council (CDC), under the direction of Governor Snyder. The goal of the CDC is to form "a partnership between local and Regional Economic Development agencies and the MEDC." Currently, there is only one representative from the Upper Peninsula on the CDC, Ms. Amy Clickner, the Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) based in Marquette. The LSCP in turn has invited local economic development organizations to participate in creating a proposal for delivering business services in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). To date, the three Upper Peninsula Regional Planning Commissions' (WUPPDR, CUPPAD, and EUPPDR) staff have not been formally invited to participate in the proposal of the delivery of services for the CDC's Region 1 which represents the entire U.P. Rather, the Planning Regions have been asked and allowed to attend the monthly meetings that take place in Marquette to discuss how and what services are needed to help drive our economy forward.



Proposed boundaries for the nine CDCs and Revolving Loan Funds in Michigan. Image courtesy of the MEDC

From WUPPDR's Executive Director's Point of View

There are presently fourteen Economic Development Districts served by the Regional Planning Commissions in Michigan; WUPPDR serves the six counties of the Western Upper Peninsula. The regions have been serving as a liaison between MEDC and local communities for decades. Since the CDC has already agreed to fund a position at the LSCP, which will help deliver services to the entire U.P., the jury is still out on whether this is a move in the right direction or not. As this effort moves forward, there are a number of questions that need to be asked:

- How will the CDC Region 1 effectively serve all communities of the Upper Peninsula in an unbiased manner? (The LSCP was set up to serve Marquette County.)
- What does this mean to our local economic development organizations?
- Why have the regional planning commissions not been invited to the table?

Michigan's Regional Planning Commissions were set up to deliver services *regionally*, we are not organizations formed to serve one county in the *region*. Only time will tell how this initiative will serve the counties and communities of the U.P. and if one organization can best serve the interests of our fragile and diverse economy. The current action reminds me of the Governor Blanchard era when they tried to change the way we did business in Michigan through the formation of "Community Growth Alliances," which in my opinion, failed miserably. WUPPDR staff will be monitoring the CDC initiative and the role of the LSCP in order to ensure our region's communities are being served effectively under the new structure.

Staff Comings and Goings



Jerry Wuorenmaa, Assistant Planner, started at WUPPDR in July

Jerald (Jerry) Wuorenmaa, Assistant Planner, joined WUPPDR in July, 2011. Jerry was born and raised in Ishpeming. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Northern Michigan University he went on to study Urban Planning at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He completed his Master of Arts in 2010 and his Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science in May, 2011. Jerry is currently assisting with the CEDS update and a number of other projects. He can be contacted at (906) 482-7205, ext. 319, or by email at jwuorenmaa@wupdr.org.

Molly Belinski, Grants Coordinator, left the WUPPDR staff in late July in search of a bigger city to call home. Molly has been working with WUPPDR since June 2009. While at WUPPDR, Molly developed several applications for EDA and MEDC and provided administrative assistance to a number of economic development and infrastructure projects in the Region.

Kevin Manninen, Regional Economic Coordinator, will also be leaving in mid-September. Kevin was hired at WUPPDR under a one-year contract with special funding from the MEDC

and EDA with match from private enterprise and local units of government. The position was created in response to the closure of Smurfit Stone Container in Ontonagon and the high unemployment rates in Baraga County. Kevin has been instrumental in coordinating activities to support the existing businesses in these counties including a number of internet workshops and most recently the Biofuel Workshop (see opposite page).

Thank you Molly and Kevin for your commitment to the Region and best of luck with all your future endeavors! You will be missed.

Project Submission to Change for Updated CEDS

WUPPDR is completing the first major revision to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) since 2003. Rather than the brief annual updates done over the past several years, this year the full document will be updated to incorporate 2010 Census data, revised goals and objectives, and a new action plan.

The process and document, guided by the CEDS committee (WUPPDR Executive Committee), secures eligibility of the Region's communi-

ties for EDA's investment programs. These programs include public works and economic development, economic adjustment assistance, planning, technical assistance, research and evaluation, trade adjustment assistance for firms and communities, and the Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund.

In 2011, for the first time we are asking municipalities with internet access to submit projects using an online form. The form can be

found at www.wupdr.org. When selecting anticipated funding sources under item 11, please be specific in order to help WUPPDR determine what programs a project is eligible for. This will enable WUPPDR to make the CEDS work as effectively as possible for your community.

For more information on submitting projects, please contact Jerald Wuorenmaa at (906) 482-7205 ext. 319 or jwuorenmaa@wupdr.org.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY'S PROJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2011 CEDS AT WWW.WUPPDR.ORG BY SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

Biofuel Workshop Informs Local Landowners

On July 27, 2011, over 70 participants attended a workshop at Michigan Technological University on utilizing idle and retired agricultural lands to grow biofuel crops. The workshop was organized by WUPPDR and funded by a grant from the Michigan Biomass Energy Program. Local sponsorship was from the L'Anse Warden Electric Company LLC, White Pine Electric Power LLC, and UP-PCO. The workshop's purpose was to raise awareness and interest among agricul-

tural landowners in the region of the possibility to grow biofuel crops on their land. Presenters included Bill Cook from the MSU Extension Office in Escanaba, Dr. Robert Froese from Michigan Tech's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences, and Mike Reid, Vice-President of White Pine Electric Power.

The audience learned what different crops can be grown in the region as well as opportunities, challenges and

profitability of different biocrops. In addition, there was a presentation on research projects underway in the U.P. and L'Anse Warden Plant's current use of biomass for generating electricity.

WUPPDR is planning to further promote biocrops in the region and is exploring the formation of a biomass cooperative. For more information regarding this workshop, contact Kim Stoker at kstoker@wupdr.org.

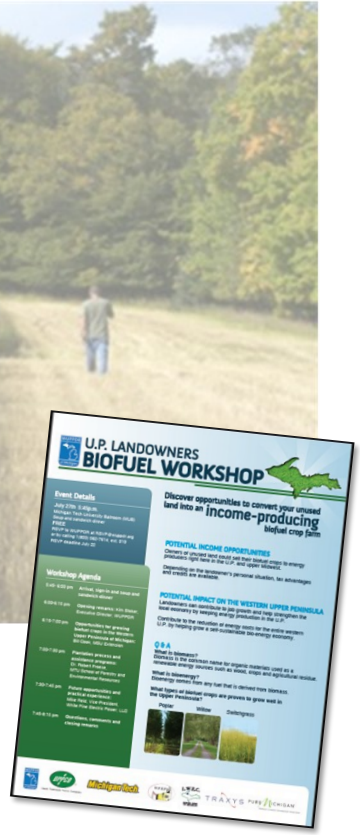
Japanese Delegation Visits UP Mines

With copper at more than \$4 a pound, the Western Upper Peninsula's copper deposits are gaining international attention. On June 27th and 28th, a Japanese delegation representing some of Japan's largest corporations as well as the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Japanese Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC). On the first day of their visit, the delegates toured Rio Tinto - Kennecott

Eagle Minerals and Cliffs Natural Resources mine sites in Marquette; visited Michigan Technological University to learn about the geology, mining expertise and research capabilities of the region; and met with Kim Stoker to become acquainted with the region's population and economy. On day two, the group toured the Caledonia Mine in Mass City; visited the Village of Ontonagon and Lake of the Clouds and finally visited

White Pine where they toured the White Pine Electric Plant, the White Pine Copper Refinery and Mine.

The visit was organized by Greg Andrews, Governor Snyder's U.P. representative and Kuninori Matsuda, the Consul-General of Japan in Detroit. Donna LaCourt from MEDC and Bob Niemela from New Generation Technologies (in Ontonagon County) planned the agenda with WUPPDR's assistance.



WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

September	26	2011	Full Commission (Annual Meeting—Houghton County)
October	17	2011	Executive Committee
December	19	2011	Full Commission
January	16	2012	Full Commission
February	20	2012	Executive Committee
March	19	2012	Full Commission
May	21	2012	Executive Committee
June	18	2012	Full Commission
August	20	2012	Executive Committee
September	17	2012	Full Commission (Annual Meeting—Baraga County)

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT TWILLY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL IN BRUCE CROSSING, MI, EXCEPT THE SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FULL COMMISSION MEET AT 5:00 PM (EST).

MINUTES & RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE WUPPDR OFFICE.