



THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION



WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

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Season's Greetings

*We feel privileged to work with you
towards our Region's goals and
achievements. We wish you a happy, safe
and peaceful holiday season.
We look forward to serving the Region in the
New Year!*



The WUPPDR Staff



Pictured left to right: Laura, Mary, Ashley, Courtney, Meg, Amy, Lori, Jerry, Sue, Steve, and Kim

Pathway Funds Awarded for Iron County Project

A paved non-motorized trail from Iron River to Crystal Falls is one step closer to completion thanks to nearly \$1.5 million in grant funds awarded to the project in 2011. A \$500,000 grant from the DNR – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, a \$995,600 grant from the National Scenic Byways Program, and local match of \$122,300 (cash, labor and materials) will be used to construct the ~6-mile, 10-foot-wide pathway from the City of Caspian to Iron County's Pentoga Park. The ~6-mile segment will be an extension of the existing Apple Blossom Trail that connects the City of Iron River to the City of Caspian. The phased pathway project is a primary goal of the Friends of the Heritage Trail of Iron County (Friends), the non-profit collaborative organization guiding efforts along the US-2: Michigan Heritage Route.

WUPPDR provides administrative support to the Friends and has worked closely with the group to prepare and submit the grant applications for the pathway project. With two grant sources at stake, WUPPDR engaged representatives of the MDOT-Heritage Route/Scenic Byway Program and the DNR-MNRTF to coordinate the timing of the grant application process. Since the announcement of the grant awards, Melissa Powell, Iron County Prosecutor, has been helping coordinate the project within Iron County. Grant awards are now being finalized and a project engineer will be selected in the coming months.

Key partners in the project include the Friends, MDOT, MDNR, Iron County Board of Commissioners, Iron County Road Commission, City of Caspian, City of Gaastra and Stambaugh Township. Future phases will connect Pentoga Park to Bewabic State Park, and the recently constructed Crystal Falls Pathway to Bewabic State Park.

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WUPPDR's 43rd Annual Meeting: Pelkola Honored

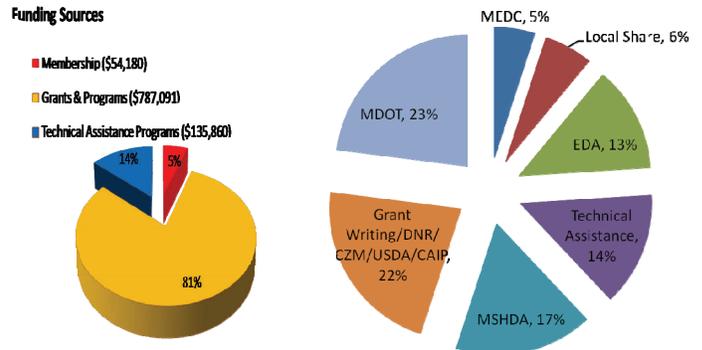


John Pelkola (right) receives the Oreste "Chip" Chiantello Public Service Award from Ed Jenich at WUPPDR's 43rd Annual Meeting in September

WUPPDR's 43rd Annual Meeting was hosted by Houghton County and held at the Lakeshore Center in Houghton on September 26. Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board Chairman, welcomed the 40 attendees to Houghton County and Glenn Mroz, President of Michigan Tech welcomed the attendees to the Michigan Tech campus. Rosalie King, WUPPDR Commission Vice-Chair, introduced attending political representatives, while Kim Stoker, Executive Director introduced the WUPPDR officers and staff.

Stoker presented the agency's Year in Review. The presentation highlighted a number of activities the organization has been involved with over the past year, such as continuing development of the Superior Suppliers Network; providing technical assistance for the Region's Heritage Routes and National Scenic

WUPPDR's 2011 Budget



Byway; and administrating numerous Economic Development Administration and Michigan Economic Development Corporation projects.

The presentation was followed by keynote speaker Scott See, Executive Director of Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission. See presented information on the Quincy Smelter and the work being done to restore the property.

The evening wrapped up with the presentation of the Oreste "Chip" Chiantello

Public Service Award. The 2011 award recipient was John Pelkola of Ontonagon County. Ed Jenich, Houghton County Commissioner, honored Pelkola for his decades of exemplary service to the Western Region serving on numerous boards in multiple capacities, including: Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, Western U.P. Health Department, Michigan Works! Administration, the Ontonagon Pellet Group and the WUPPDR Commission.

Housing on the Rise

For around 20 years, WUPPDR has administered the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority's Community Block Grant Homeowner Rehabilitation Program (HRP) for four counties in the Region. Following public hearings and approval by the Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon County Boards, WUPPDR recently assisted those counties in applying for new two-year periods of funding.

HRP provides low- to moderate-income homeowners with funding to complete certain necessary repairs and upgrades to their property, such as for weatherization and utility systems. Applicants must meet income standards in order to be placed on a list for selection by lottery.

HRP will soon need to meet new state requirements, passed down from the Department of Housing and

Urban Development, with the goal of furthering economic opportunity for low- to moderate-income residents. Jerald Wuorenmaa and Sue Harter attended a training session in Marquette in mid-October to learn how to incorporate the new requirements into the current process—just one example of WUPPDR staff staying up-to-date on today's ever-changing programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION PROGRAM, CONTACT JERALD WUORENMAA AT 906.482.7205, EXT 319

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Staff Welcome

WUPPDR recently welcomed Executive Assistant/Planning Aide Ashley Curtis to the staff in September. Ashley was born and raised on a dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2011

with a B.S. in Marketing Communications and a minor in journalism. After her August wedding, she moved to the Copper Country with her husband, Jon. At WUPPDR Ashley keeps busy editing the newsletter, updating our on-line pres-

ence, working on the Homebuyer Purchase & Rehabilitation program, assisting with grants, and helping in any way she can.

Ashley can be reached via email at acurtis@wuppdr.org or by phone at 906.482.7205, ext. 320.



Ashley Curtis, Executive Assistant, started at WUPPDR in September

Copper Country Trail National Byway Grant News

WUPPDR is pleased to announce that two Copper Country Trail National Byway organizations were successful in obtaining a 2011 National Scenic Byways Grant award. Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission will complete the third phase of its Historic Resource Inventory. The project will identify historic properties in the byway corridor (the Keweenaw Peninsula north of the Portage Canal) deemed eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. Properties will be assessed on several conditions. This has been completed in part of Baraga, all of Ontonagon and southern Houghton Counties. The 2011 funding will bring together the

research in the entire project area under one plan and will help direct preservation activities of the National Park Service, the Advisory Commission of Keweenaw National Historical Park, the Byway Committee, and other local agencies.

The second project includes interpretation and accessibility improvements at nature preserves on the byway that are owned and managed by Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT). KLT will conduct the project and the following activities at their Boston Pond and Paavola Wetlands Preserves:

1. Facility improvements that enhance site access and

provide opportunities for recreation and education;

2. Amenities which include improved parking and trails, viewing platforms, privies and a small pavilion; and

3. Production and installation of interpretive signage to help tell the story of historic land uses and present conditions.

WUPPDR was pleased to assist both agencies in submitting successful applications and will administer both grants, which are slated to commence in spring 2012. For more information or details regarding either of these projects, please contact Meg Pachmayer at 906.482.7205, ext. 315.



WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

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)
October	15	2012	Executive Committee
December	17	2012	Full Commission

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT TWILLY'S 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.



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Website to Broaden Knowledge of Transit

This month WUPPDR is concluding work on a two-year MDOT grant-funded study on public transit needs and accessibility in Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties. The draft version of the study is available for review at our website. Also look there for details on an upcoming public forum in the Houghton-Hancock area to take input on the study and its recommendations! Contact Jerald Wuorenmaa at 906-482-7205 ext. 319 for details on that study and the project below.

As the transit study comes to a close, we begin a second project encompassing the entire region. The centerpiece of this project is development of a website bringing together information on all area transit services and related amenities for users who require or are interested in utilizing transportation modes other than the single-occupant vehicle.

The website will include:

- A database to filter users' needs, locations, and other factors to find the services that best meet their requests
- Transit service information including schedules, bus stops, fares, services, and contacts along with printable documents
- Education materials such as park-and-ride sites, environmental benefits, and "how to ride" public transit,
- Non-motorized connections throughout the region, depicted through maps, which will show designated routes, paths, and facilities
- A carpooling tool for users to match with each other based on their needs, schedules, starting points, and destinations.

Development of this website will be supplemented by an outreach and educational campaign including local presentations and promotional materials. This effort will streamline information on local transit agencies and support services and infrastructure. Currently such information, if available, is widely disbursed and difficult to locate, discouraging use of alternate forms of transportation. This project has received support from a diverse array of human service agencies and local governments in the Region.