



WUPPDR  
P.O. Box 365  
Houghton, MI 49931  
906-482-7205  
info@wuppdr.org

Find us on the Web: [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org)

## Job Creation in Aviation: GE Moves to Houghton



*"It takes people to make things like this happen...people who can come together for a common goal, and that goal is job creation."*

-Carlton Crothers, MTEC Smartzone CEO

A \$1 million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) funded the renovations of the Powerhouse building located near the Portage Lake Lift Bridge in downtown Houghton. WUPPDR is administering the grant for the applicants, MTEC Smartzone and the City of Houghton. Two floors were added to the building tripling the usable space to 15,000 square feet.

GE Aviation, the Evandale, Ohio-based aircraft engine producer has moved into

employ 50 people, of which 40 are expected to be Michigan Tech engineering students who would work under senior technical specialists and junior graduate engineers.

Job creation is the result of the expansion which provides the opportunity for engineering students to remain in the area to work instead of feeling the push to leave. Carlton Crothers, MTEC Smartzone CEO, praised the commitment and participation of the state and

local groups in realizing this project. "It takes people to make things like this happen...people who can come together for a common goal, and that goal is job creation."



Powerhouse photos courtesy of Adam Johnson of Brockit Professional Photography



# THE WESTERLY VIEW

## NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

Volume 1, Issue 3

### A Letter from the Chair...

Spring 2008



ED JENICH, CHAIRMAN OF THE WUPPDR COMMISSION

Welcome to our third issue of the *Westerly View*, just in time to greet the spring season. This year marks WUPPDR's 40th year of working with local government to promote regional cooperation in Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula. As someone who has been involved with WUPPDR for a part of those 40 years, I have been honored to serve as Chairperson for the 2007-2008 term. It is a privilege to lead this organization as we embark into our fifth decade. Today's issues are as complicated, if not more complicated, than in past years, resources are limited, and critics vocal. The dedicated board and staff continue to work tirelessly to bring progress to our region.

The status of today's economy, especially the Michigan economy, requires us to strive, think, and work critically and creatively to ensure our future success. As we look back on our 2007 efforts we reinforce our commitment in 2008 by assisting the region in various ways. A complete listing of our activities can be found in the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report* available online at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) or at our office.

Finally, to help us achieve our goals we are pleased to introduce two new staff members, Courtney Archambeau as a full-time Housing Specialist and Amy Spahn as a part-time Financial Aide. We welcome all of you to stop by the office to meet our staff, pitch your ideas, or to just see what is new. The WUPPDR board and staff extend our deepest thanks to you our partners, supporters, and friends for promoting success in our region.

Sincerely,  
Ed Jenich

#### DID YOU KNOW?

WUPPDR WILL CELEBRATE ITS 40TH THIS YEAR! ESTABLISHED IN 1968, WUPPDR HAS SPENT 4 DECADES WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERATION.

#### WUPPDR STAFF:

KIM STOKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LORI HAUSWIRTH  
ASSOCIATE PLANNER

MEG PACHMAYER  
ASSISTANT PLANNER

JIM LAMUTH  
ASSISTANT PLANNER/  
TRANSPORTATION  
COORDINATOR

COURTNEY ARCHAMBEAU  
HOUSING SPECIALIST

KEN MARSHALL  
GIS SPECIALIST

STEVE ROUSER  
GIS TECHNICIAN

MARY TADDEUCCI  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SUE HARTER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AMY SPAHN  
FINANCIAL AIDE

### A Welcome to Our New Staff



**Courtney Archambeau** joined WUPPDR in June 2007 as an Intern working primarily on the Region 8 Critical Asset Inventory. Courtney proved to be a critical asset herself learning the Section 8 MSHDA voucher program from Jim LaMuth after the Re-

gion 8 project was completed. Courtney was promoted to full time status as Housing Specialist January 1, 2008. Courtney has a B.S. from Michigan Tech in Social Sciences and lives with her husband and three children in Houghton.

**Amy Spahn** started with WUPPDR as a part-time Financial Aide at the end of January, 2008. Amy holds a



B.S. from Northern Michigan University in Finance and spent several years working as a Compliance Assistant and Paraplanner for Joe Evans, an Ameriprise Financial Advisor in Houghton. Amy lives with her husband and son in Chassell.

# The Westerly View

## New MDOT Projects



The region began work on two new projects with the Michigan Department of Transportation this past quarter.

WUPPDR is working with MDOT to conduct a study on the Portage Lake Lift Bridge connecting Houghton and Hancock. The study will identify and complement contingency planning needs and efforts in the event the bridge becomes inoperable. Please contact Meg Pachmayer at [mpachmayer@wuppdr.org](mailto:mpachmayer@wuppdr.org) or call the



office for more information. WUPPDR is also working with MDOT to develop a comprehensive, regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy for the Superior

Region in conjunction with the Central and Eastern U.P. Regions. Community and user input will be compiled throughout the U.P. to create the guide that will help MDOT along with local officials prioritize projects, identify funding and guide non-motorized investments within our region and the U.P. A non-motorized 'summit' to gather stakeholder input is tentatively planned for August, 2008. For more information contact Lori Hauswirth at [lhauswirth@wuppdr.org](mailto:lhauswirth@wuppdr.org) or by calling the office.

## MDOT, Asset Management and WUPPDR

Asset Management as defined in Michigan is "an ongoing process of maintaining, upgrading, and operating physical assets cost-

effectively, based on a continuous physical inventory and condition assessment." In December, the Senate unanimously passed HB 4979 which requires that any road agency that has jurisdiction over a federal-aid eligible road must use a pavement management system in managing their federal-aid roads.

our Region through coordinating the Road Condition Survey, the Annual Report, and the Multi-Year Program recommended by the State's Asset Management Council. Additionally, WUPPDR has provided asset data collection and analysis to the Cities of Wakefield and Hancock and the Village of Ontonagon. WUPPDR also worked with the City of Wakefield to complete their Capital Improvement Plan, only the 2nd completed in the U.P. and 16th in the State. For more information about Asset Management or Capital Improvement Plans contact Ken Marshall at [kmarshall@wuppdr.org](mailto:kmarshall@wuppdr.org) or by calling the office.

*Asset Management is an ongoing process of maintaining, upgrading, and operating physical assets cost-effectively, based on a continuous physical inventory and condition assessment.*



Since 2003, WUPPDR has assisted the State in facilitating the Asset Management program in

## WUPPDR Gets National Attention

An article featured in the First Edition of the Westerly View (Fall 2007) will be included in the national newsletter of the Federal Geographic Data Committee. The article gave background information on the National Map project and what WUPPDR is doing for the Region. WUPPDR was awarded grant monies in April, 2007 from the U.S. Geographical Survey to conduct work on the National Map.

For more information on the Federal Geographic Data Committee or to view their Newsletter please visit [www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov) To view past Westerly View Newsletters please contact the WUPPDR office. For information on the National Map please visit [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) or <http://nationalmap.gov> or contact Ken Marshall by calling the office or at [kmarshall@wuppdr.org](mailto:kmarshall@wuppdr.org).

## Copper Country Trail News

In December, 2007 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced grant awards under the National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP) for the 2007 fiscal year. It was announced the Copper Country Trail will be awarded monies to create a Master Interpretation Plan of the Scenic Byway Corridor.

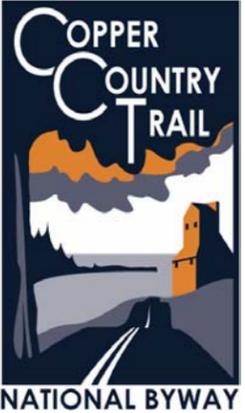
ber, 2007, a 3.67 acre parcel on top of Brockway Mountain



Drive was purchased by Keweenaw County from Clyde Wescoat III. A scenic overlook above Copper Harbor is slated

to be constructed on the site when funds become available from a NSBP grant award received in 2006. Mr. Westcoat donated a portion of the parcel value to the County as part of the grant agreement.

The Copper Country Trail Advisory Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss projects and issues concerning the byway. For more information visit [www.coppercountryrail.org](http://www.coppercountryrail.org) or contact Meg Pachmayer at [mpachmayer@wuppdr.org](mailto:mpachmayer@wuppdr.org)



## Homeless Assistance Recovery Program (HARP)

In October, 2007 WUPPDR started to issue vouchers for the Homeless Assistance Recovery Program (HARP), another program through the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA), which is funded through Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

HARP vouchers are rental housing subsidies that gives preference to those who are homeless or have special needs. Although the process is similar to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, also facilitated by WUPPDR, there is a special criterion that needs to be met in order to qualify for this program.

WUPPDR became the MSHDA housing agent for the HCV program, also known as Section 8 in August, 2006.

For more information on either program please contact Courtney Archambeau at [carchambeau@wuppdr.org](mailto:carchambeau@wuppdr.org) or Jim Lamuth at [jlamuth@wuppdr.org](mailto:jlamuth@wuppdr.org) or by calling the office.



## WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH			
March	17	2008	Full Commission
April	21	2008	Executive Committee
May	19	2008	Executive Committee
June	16	2008	Full Commission
July	21	2008	Executive Committee
August	18	2008	Executive Committee
September	15	2008	Full Commission (Annual Meeting-Gogebic County)
October	20	2008	Executive Committee
November	17	2008	Executive Committee
December	15	2008	Full Commission
January	19	2009	Executive Committee
February	16	2009	Executive Committee

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT TULPPO'S RESTAURANT IN BRUCE CROSSING, MI EXCEPT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FULL COMMISSION MEET AT 5:00 PM (ET). MINUTES & RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE WUPPDR OFFICE.