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UPEDA Spring Meeting

The Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance will be hosting its spring meeting in Houghton this year. The meeting is planned for Thursday, May 2nd from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm EST at the Magnuson Franklin Square Inn. The featured speaker for the day will be the Western U.P.'s own Marilyn Clark, CEO from the MTEC SmartZone. In addition, other high-impact presentations will be given by fast-growing companies from the region. Networking opportunities are built into the agenda, and attendees will have a chance to hear one-minute updates from their peers throughout the U.P. Registration is live at www.upeda.com.



UPEDA May 2, 2013 Meeting

Where?
 Franklin Square Inn
 Houghton, MI

When?
 Thursday, May 2, 2013
 9:00 am—2:00 pm EST

Members—\$25.00
 Non-Members—\$40.00

Register at www.upeda.com



THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

Volume 6, Issue 3

Spring 2013

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UPLink Takes Big Step Forward

On March 21, a historic event occurred at a Michigan Senate committee meeting: People from six different U.P. locations attended it. Why was this significant? Because typically one would need to drive for hours (in some cases 11 hours each way), pay a bridge toll, stay the night, and then drive for hours back to the U.P. to attend such a meeting. Not anymore. With the help of the proposed UPLink high definition video conferencing, these residents were able to attend from the comfort of a local community center.

This is all part of the proposed marketing for UPLink, which is being spearheaded by WUPPDR and supported by Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance, Intermediate School Districts, and the bridging capabilities of Northern Michigan University. Michigan Technological University, Lake Superior State University, and Bay College have also helped support the project.

The event was possible because of support from Senator Tom Casperson, who has long advocated for using technology to resolve the geographical challenges the State presents.

Casperson, R-Escanaba, noted that the benefits of UPLink include financial savings and increased government efficiency; both of which benefit taxpayers throughout the State. Introduced by Casperson, Senate Bill 50 was being taken up by the Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee on the morning of March 21.

Residents at the following locations used UPLink to attend the committee meeting:

- Bergland-Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD
- Escanaba-Michigan Works! Service Center
- Hancock-Copper Country ISD
- Iron Mountain-Bay College West
- Manistique-Manistique City Hall
- Ironwood-Gogebic Community College

This event was a huge step in the right direction for the proposed UPLink. Not only is it helping businesses and organizations conduct work more efficiently in the U.P., but also the government. With Senator Casperson's and others support, UPLink has the capability to help all residents of the U.P. make this region a better place to work and play. For more information, visit www.linkupmichigan.com.

WUPPDR Staff Updates



New Planner Katie Keller joined the WUPPDR staff in March.

Lori Hauswirth, AICP Principal Planner resigned from her full-time position to become Executive Director of the Copper Harbor Trails Club and Associate Director of the International Mountain Biking Association Upper Midwest Region. Hauswirth continues to work for WUPPDR on a part-time basis. Her office hours vary from week to week, but she can still be contacted via e-mail at lhauswirth@wuppdr.org or at 906.482.7205, ext. 314. Hauswirth will continue to work with local units of government in the region and looks forward to serving

the area in her new position. **Meg Pachmayer, Planner,** resigned from her full-time position in December 2012 to pursue further education and to focus on her family. She continued working on WUPPDR projects in a part-time capacity through March 2013 to ease the transition with the new planner. WUPPDR wishes Meg the best of luck in the future.

Katie Keller, Planner, was hired in March 2013. A few of her projects include the Cop-

per Country National Scenic Byway and master planning research. Katie is originally from central Illinois and received her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010. Katie both volunteered and worked as an Interpretive Ranger at Isle Royale National Park for the last three summers. WUPPDR is excited to welcome her to the staff and region. Katie can be contacted via e-mail at kkeller@wuppdr.org or at 906.482.7205, ext. 315.

Recreation Planning Review

Community recreation planning is a valuable way to range for improvements to recreation facilities and programs. When outside funding assistance is needed for a project, many communities apply for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR requires that the need for a project be indicated in a recreation plan created or updated within the past five years. Recreation planning is one of the most frequent requests for technical assistance that WUPPDR receives from local governments.

WUPPDR has much experience in assisting with developing these plans, but many communities do not realize how early the planning process must start. Most MDNR grant applications for projects in any year must be submitted by April 1. Each year, new or updated recreation plans must be adopted by communities and submitted to the MDNR by March 1. Due to the multiple planning phases and MDNR timelines involved, the planning process should be started no later than October 1 of the preceding year. Although WUPPDR charges reasonable fees for recreation

plan development for individual communities, a further money-saving opportunity may be found by sharing a plan with other communities. WUPPDR has developed consolidated recreation plans for the Village and Township of Ontonagon and for L'Anse Area Schools, Village, and Township. WUPPDR may be able to make similar arrangements anytime adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions see their recreation needs align. Due to the need to coordinate multiple jurisdictions, these plans must be started particularly early.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RECREATION PLANNING, PLEASE CONTACT JERALD WUORENMAA AT JWUORENMAA@WUPPDR.ORG OR BY CALLING 906.482.7205, EXT. 319

Transportation Website Improvements

Get Around the Western U.P., the transportation resources website WUPPDR launched in September 2012, has had a great reception. Human services and other transit providers have found new ways to assist their clients, and the general public has discovered new opportunities to reduce the need to drive.

Along with transit information and a carpool matching application, a third component, non-motorized trans-

portation, has been in place to serve a distinct group. This set of resources is now being expanded with county-specific descriptions of local and long-distance trails. Updates and redesign of the county maps showing non-motorized routes and facilities are also moving along. Trail use has always been a part of the website's vision, but since the major goal of promoting transit has been met, it is time to

move beyond to put into place a truly multi-modal set of alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle.

Keep in mind that both current and future information will continue to be updated periodically. To see what is now available, visit www.getaroundwup.org. For additional information contact Jerald Wuorenmaa at jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org or by calling 906.482.7205, ext. 319.

Baraga County Planning Continues

Go! Baraga County, the County's strategic plan for economic development, is moving from the research phase into strategy development. Research, or information-gathering, involved a major survey of the public, nine focus groups, and consultation with key individuals to create a picture of the County's social and economic conditions and its

most pressing issues. A research summary was recently wrapped up with a two-hour meeting of the "Java Group" of community leaders.

Strategy development will continue to involve the same community leaders in deciding what issues need to be addressed and how to address them. By the end of summer 2013, a single or a few projects will be rec-

ommended and outlined through a detailed work plan. Baraga County has seen many previous strategic plans not come to fruition, but the current process will ensure that tangible change can be effected through community ownership of realistic objectives. For more information contact Jerald Wuorenmaa at jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org or by calling 906.482.7205, ext. 319.

WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

| | | | |
|-----------|----|------|----------------------------------|
| May | 20 | 2013 | Executive Committee |
| June | 17 | 2013 | Full Commission |
| August | 19 | 2013 | Executive Committee |
| September | 16 | 2013 | Full Commission (Annual Meeting) |
| October | 21 | 2013 | Executive Committee |
| December | 16 | 2013 | Full Commission |
| February | 17 | 2014 | Executive Committee |
| March | 17 | 2014 | Full Commission |
| April | 21 | 2014 | Executive Committee |

Save the Date!

What?
Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) Annual Meeting

When?
July 8-July 9, 2013

Where?
**Keweenaw Mountain Lodge
 Copper Harbor, MI**

Featured Speakers
**Jeannette Tamayo,
 Chicago Regional Director of Economic Development Administration**

**Marilyn Clark, CEO
 MTEC SmartZone**

*This last time WUPPDR hosted the 14 State regional planning agencies was in 1991! For more information contact **Mary Taddeucci** at mtaddeucci@wuppdr.org or 906.482.7205, ext. 310.*

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT TWILY'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.