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

Spring 2013
Volume 6, Issue 3

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.
The Westerly View
News & Happenings From the Western Region

WUPPDR Staff Updates

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 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 Copper 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 arrange for improvements to recreation facilities and programs. When outside funding assistance is needed for a project, many communities apply for grants from the local government in the region and looks forward to serving the area in her new position.

WUPPDR has much experience in assisting with developing these plans, but many communities do not realize how mny may be found by sharing early the planning process with others and considering a full MDNR tie. WUPPDR has developed project applications for projects including consolidated recreation proposals to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). MDNR requires that the proposals be addressed by communities and submitted to the MDNR WUPPDR may be able to work with these multiple planning phases and any time adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions see their planning processes.

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

Baraga County Planning Continues

Got! 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 recommended 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 Jered Wurenema at jwurenema@wuppdr.org or by calling 906.482.7205, ext. 319.

WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

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