WUPPDR staff and Commissioners have been utilizing high-definition (HD) videoconferencing that was installed this past December in the WUPPDR conference room. The equipment has been used to conduct WUPPDR Executive Committee meetings, to attend Regional Prosperity Initiative meetings, to attend MSHDA trainings, and many others. The money that WUPPDR has already saved in travel costs has been great and will continue to be in the future.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) made HD videoconferencing at the WUPPDR office a reality by helping fund the equipment. The convenience of attending meetings via HD videoconference and the money saved from travel costs is immeasurable and would not have been possible without assistance from EDA. For more information about HD videoconferencing, contact Kim Stoker, Executive Director at kstoker@wuppdr.org or (906) 482-7205, ext. 316.

High-Definition Videoconferencing Installed at WUPPDR
Go! Baraga County Plan Completed

In May 2012, WUPPDR and Baraga County joined to apply for $50,000 in funding, with 70 percent federal and 30 percent local match. Planning began in March 2012 and was completed in March 2014.

Preliminary strategies were released in April 2013. Subsequently the strategies were researched for nearly one year, taking into account expert knowledge and stakeholder feedback. The strategies capitalize on the county’s competitive advantages, natural resources, and recent economic development trends.

The first strategy is to expand and capitalize on local healthcare services. Baraga County Memorial Hospital and other economic development initiatives have much opportunity for improvement. The second strategy is to coordinate and align local economic development activities with the Lambert Road Industrial Park, to create an environment for sustainable growth.

Detailed work plans and lists of resources were created for the strategies in order to aid implementation. Monitoring of progress on the plan is to take place in one, three, and five years. Measurable indicators for each strategy will be evaluated at these points, with the results posted beginning in 2015 at www.wuppdr.org.