DNR GRANTING PROGRAMS

Do you know where your Recreation Plan is? Have you talked about upcoming recreation projects in your community or municipality? Or is there a project your community would like to pursue that is not currently identified in your recreation plan? It may be time to update your plan! A Recreation Plan is a document that assists communities in outlining recreation and conservation goals and objectives to establish recreation eligibility from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). Typically the DNRE announces its upcoming grant cycle at the beginning of each calendar year. Grant applications for these programs are usually due the first of March for Land & Water Conservation Fund grant applications.

These programs can fund a number of recreational development activities or can help acquire land to be placed into public ownership. Projects can include the creation of parks, docks and boat launches, the purchase and installation of playground equipment, and non-motorized trail development.

WUPPDR has successfully worked with many communities to submit applications to the MDNRE. Please visit www.wuppdr.org for samples of our work. For more information on recreation planning and MDNRE grant opportunities visit www.michigan.gov/dnr or call our offices today!

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WUPPDR’s 42nd Annual Meeting: Kangas Honored

“Chip” Chiantello Public Service Award

WUPPDR’s 42nd Annual Meeting was hosted by Ontonagon County and held at Paul’s Supper Club in Silver City, on September 20. John Pelköla, Ontonagon County Board Chairman, welcomed the 53 attendees to Ontonagon County. Bob Rotundo, WUPPDR Commission Chairman, introduced attending political representatives, and Lori Hausworth introduced the WUPPDR officers.

Kim Stoker, WUPPDR Executive Director, presented the agency’s Year in Review, via a prerecorded telecast. The presentation highlighted a number of activities the organization has been involved in over the past year, such as developing the Superior Suppliers Network; creating the Regional Economic Coordinator position; providing technical assistance for the Region’s heritage routes and national scenic byway; administering numerous Economic Development Administration and Michigan Economic Development Corporation projects.

The telecast was followed by keynote speaker Dave Anderson, Project Coordinator of the Copperwood Project for Orvana Resources U.S. Corporation. Anderson presented Orvana’s activities in Gogebic County at the proposed Copperwood site and timeline for mine development.

The evening wrapped up with the presentation of the Oreste “Chip” Chiantello Public Service Award. The 2010 award recipient was Leroy Kangas of Gogebic County. Ed Jenich, Houghton County Commissioner, honored Kangas for his decades of exemplary service to the Western Region serving on numerous boards in multiple capacities, including: Gogebic County Board of Commissioners; Gogebic County Transit Board; Community Mental Health Board; the Economic Development Commission and the WUPPDR Commission.

Providing Rental Assistance in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) contracts WUPPDR as its local Housing Agent for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Homeless Assistance Recovery Program (HARP). HCV and HARP are two programs that offer rental assistance to area residents in need. Since 2004, WUPPDR has been assisting low-income household in Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties.

On November 1, 2010 WUPPDR began administering MSHDA’s rental assistance vouchers in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, due to the retirement of the MSHDA Agent in these counties. WUPPDR staff looks forward to the opportunity to work with the program participants, landlords and human service agencies in these two counties. WUPPDR will continue to use the Houghton Office as a base of operations and will travel to Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties every 3-4 weeks to perform Housing Quality Standard (HQS) inspections. For more information regarding these programs and how to apply, please contact Courtney at 906.482.7205, ext. 313.

Over the last year and a half WUPPDR staff has compiled data to create a Return on Investment (ROI) spreadsheet for each of the six counties in the Western Region along with a consolidated ROI for the Western Region. The project shows how much, in dollars, WUPPDR has brought into the Western Region compared to how much local units of governments contributed to WUPPDR.

The consolidated ROI shows WUPPDR has assisted in securing, such as the $991,088 MEDC grant and $7.665 million private investment for the L’Anse Cernated Bridge project which allowed for the new bridge to be constructed and opened. 33 new positions is included on the ROI spreadsheet. The spreadsheet can be viewed on the WUPPDR website, www.wuppdr.org.

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Return on Investment for the Six County Region

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The consolidated ROI shows WUPPDR has assisted in

Returning 49.1% of the ROI for the Western Region to the opportunity to contribute to the Region.

Taking a look at Transit

Good public transportation services can contribute to economic development and a better quality of life for all citizens. Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR), in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation, is conducting a Coordinated Human Services Public Transit Plan and Accessibility Study for Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

This study will include:
- Examining existing services of public, private and non-profit service providers;
- Identifying gaps and redundancies in existing services;
- Providing recommendations and strategies to fill “needs” identified for the current system; and
- Prioritizing recommendations and potential funding sources for implementation.

The first phase of planning for this project was completed in September 2010 and included a Community Self-Assessment Survey and a Transit Services Stakeholder Meeting. More than 55 individuals from local communities attended the meeting.

For $1 invested: WUPPDR returned $79.16 to local communities.

WUPPDR Commission Meeting

December 20 2010 Full Commission
February 21 2011 Executive Committee
March 21 2011 Full Commission
May 16 2011 Executive Committee
June 20 2011 Full Commission
August 16 2011 Executive Committee
September 19 2011 Full Commission (Annual Meeting—Houghton County)
October 17 2011 Executive Committee
December 19 2011 Full Commission

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT TAKOPO’S RESTAURANT 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.