WUPPDR celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year and looking back on all the changes we have seen in the world, the nation, and the region during these forty years is awe-inspiring.

Forty years ago, the majority of WUPPDR’s current staff had yet to be born and cannot relate to the realities of 1968. They do not know what it was like to watch man take his first step on the moon. They have no concept of the realities of the Vietnam war, of witnessing the civil and women’s rights movement, or watching in horror the assassinations of some of our country’s great leaders.

Do you remember in 1968 that Lyndon B. Johnson was President and that the Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl II? Do you remember what life was like before cell phones, personal computers and the Internet?

As an organization can we begin to sum up all of our accomplishments, setbacks, and achievements in the western region in the face of forty years worth of change?

As WUPPDR enters its fortieth year, I enter my second year as Executive Director, and I would like to take a moment to reflect. Have we done our predecessors proud? Do we continue to be mindful of our purpose and vision in our regional activities? Are we achieving what our founders set out to accomplish?

In order to better serve you, the western region, WUPPDR has committed to revisiting our past in order to successfully shape our future. Throughout the next year WUPPDR will take a step back to self-evaluate. We will re-examine our mission, realign our vision, and assess our purpose. We like to think that WUPPDR is dynamic, progressing in response to ever-changing political, economic, and social climates.

Advancing technology accelerates change and we can only imagine what the next forty years will bring. We do know that the WUPPDR Commission and staff are committed to ensuring our region’s future success.

Holding the position of WUPPDR Executive Director has been and continues to be a privilege. I look forward to building on my 28 years with this organization and the region. We are thankful for your continued support and I hope to see you at our annual commission meeting in Gogebic County on September 15, 2008.

Respectfully,

Kim J. Stoker
Executive Director

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
At a Glance: WUPPDR Funding Sources

Annual Budget of $734,972 (2008)

- Membership ($54,080)
- Grants & Programs ($561,446)
- Technical Assistance Programs ($199,446)

WUPPDR staff has provided the catalyst to develop the fourth high-tech incubator in the City of Houghton at the former Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) building. Michigan Tech University purchased the building in July, 2008 and is leasing the entire first floor to the Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation (MTEC) to operate the Advanced Tech Center.

WUPPDR staff helped secure a $500,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and is currently working on securing a $3.2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration. The project is in its tenth month and if it progresses accordingly, the building will become LEED certified after particular green renovations will be made. LEED is the acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

You may be asking yourself, Why Houghton; why high-tech; and why another incubator?

The State and National economy is seeing a shift to the knowledge based industries, especially the high-tech industry. Michigan Tech University, located in the City of Houghton, is producing graduates and employing research staff and faculty who are dedicated to technological based endeavors. Gapping industry and education is an important aspect of MTEC’s purpose.

These incubators attract local and national companies creating jobs that allow area residents to apply their education and knowledge locally instead of feeling the push to leave the Upper Peninsula.
Recreation Plan Reminder

In our last issue of the Westerly View we gave you the top 5 reasons why you think about updating your recreation plan sooner rather than later. The most important reason is that recreation plans must be submitted to the DNR no later than April 1, 2009. Prior to this you need to consider the preparation time and the mandatory 30-day review period. Time flies quicker than you know it. If you are interested in WUPPDR’s assistance for your 2009 recreation planning needs please contact the office by October 1, 2008!

Making the Connection: Non-Motorized Trail Summit

WUPPDR has been working with the Michigan DOT on a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy for our region. The information gathered and prioritized for our six counties will be incorporated into a U.P. wide strategy that will guide non-motorized improvements and funding in the upcoming years. Local community input is crucial to this planning effort therefore, the Western U.P. Non-Motorized Trail Summit will be held on September 8, 2008, to gather input and begin identifying priority projects for the Region. The meeting will be held in Houghton from 1-4 PM at the UPPCO building located at 600 East Lakeshore Drive. If you would like to attend or have any questions please contact Lori Hauswirth at lhauswirth@wuppdr.org or 906.482.7205 ext 314.

WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

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DID WE MENTION YOU MUST HAVE AN UPDATED AND APPROVED RECREATION PLAN IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR DNR TRUST FUND GRANTS?
Gogebic County will host WUPPDR’s 40th Annual meeting on Monday September 15, 2008 at the Lac Vieux Desert Resort Casino in Watersmeet, MI. We hope you will be able to join us in continuing our celebration of WUPPDR’s 40th anniversary. The regular business meeting will be followed by a social hour and buffet dinner.

**Annual Meeting Program**

- **Business Meeting:** 4:30 CST (5:30 EST)
- **Social Hour:** 4:30-5:30 CST (5:30-6:30 EST)
- **Buffet Dinner:** 5:30 CST (6:30 EST)

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Introduction of WUPPDR Officers

WUPPDR Annual Report

Keynote Speaker: Ron Yesney, MDNR-Rails to Trails Initiative

Oreste Chiantello Award Presentation

**Dinner:** $16.50/person

WUPPDR Commissioners receive a complimentary dinner. You still have time to RSVP! Call the office at 906.482.7205 ext. 310 by September 8.

Keynote speaker Ron Yesney of the MDNR will present the Rails to Trails Initiative and you won’t want to miss the Oreste Chiantello award presentation. We do look forward to seeing your there. Spouses/guests are of course welcome. Please RSVP to Mary by September 8, 2008 if you are interested in attending at mtagdeucci@wuppdr.org or 906.482.7205 ext. 310.