



WUPPDR
 P.O. Box 365
 Houghton, MI 49931
 906-482-7205
 info@wuppdr.org

Find us on the Web: www.wuppdr.org

WUPPDR Annual Meeting at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge

Come and join us for the **WUPPDR 39th Annual Meeting** on **Monday, September 17, 2007** at the brand new **Keweenaw Mountain Lodge** Conference Center. Since construction began in 2006, the last nail has been hammered and the last wall has been painted. The Lodge celebrated the Conference Center opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony in May of this year followed by their Grand Opening in July in conjunction with the Thimbleberry JamFest. The new 6,000 square foot addition supports a 250 person capacity, and according to Jennifer Maki, in her article titled *Back Then*: "Comfort, class and ambiance will provide guests with an atmosphere of intimacy and style."

Annual Meeting Program

Social Hour: 5:00 PM (EST)

Buffet Dinner: 6:00 PM (EST)

Welcome & Introduction of Guests

Introduction of WUPPDR Officers

WUPPDR Annual Report

Keynote Speaker: Curt Pianalto from America's Byways Resource Center

Oreste Chiantello Award Presentation

Dinner: \$16.50/person

WUPPDR Commissioners receive a complimentary dinner.

*You still have time to **RSVP!** If you are interested in attending please call the office at 906.482.7205 by **September 10.***



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, CURT PIANALTO, OF AMERICA'S BYWAYS RESOURCE CENTER WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE AMERICA'S BYWAY PROGRAM AND THE POTENTIAL THE COPPER COUNTRY TRAIL CAN BRING TO THE REGION.



THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Letter from the Chair...

Fall 2007



ED JENICH, CHAIRMAN OF THE WUPPDR COMMISSION

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region is pleased to present the first issue of The Westerly View, a quarterly newsletter to provide a glimpse of how WUPPDR serves the Western Upper Peninsula through its many projects, activities and support. This first issue is just in time to welcome WUPPDR's 39th Annual Meeting on September 17, 2007.

As we look at the past year we can be proud of the accomplishments made. In the following pages find out what the WUPPDR staff has been working on: projects ranging from economic development to transportation to housing programs to emergency management. Other exciting activities involve the Copper Country Trail National Byway and The National Map. WUPPDR provides the opportunity for numerous entities to collaborate and benefit communities and the region as a whole.

Special thanks to our dedicated board members, committee members, and partners for their time, participation and investment this past year. I would also like to give special acknowledgement of our diligent, committed and hard-working staff. We will look ahead knowing together we have the capability to provide the best outreach and support to accomplish great things for our region. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Ed Jenich

DID YOU KNOW?

WUPPDR WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968 AS STATE PLANNING REGION 13. THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION IS TO FOSTER STABLE AND DIVERSIFIED LOCAL ECONOMIES WITHIN THE REGION.

WUPPDR STAFF:

KIM STOKER
ACTING DIRECTOR

LORI HAUSWIRTH
ASSOCIATE PLANNER

MEG PACHMAYER
ASSISTANT PLANNER

JIM LAMUTH
ASSISTANT PLANNER-
HOUSING AGENT

COURTNEY ARCHAMBEAU
PLANNING ASSISTANT

KEN MARSHALL
GIS SPECIALIST

STEVE ROUSER
GIS TECHNICIAN

MARY TADDEUCCI
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SUE HARTER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

US Geological Survey: The National Map

The National Map is a consistent framework for geographic knowledge needed by the Nation. It provides public access to high-quality, geospatial data and information from multiple partners to help support decision-making by resource managers and the public. The National Map is the product of a consortium of Federal, State, and local partners who provide geospa-

tial data to enhance America's ability to access, integrate, and apply geospatial data at global, national, and local scales.

In April WUPPDR received funding to work with local partners to host data sets within the region to be posted to The National Map. GIS staff will be working with a number of local, state and federal agencies, collect-

ing public domain data. This will allow communities, businesses, and tourists to view the data via the Internet for general planning purposes.

For any questions or for more information on The National Map please contact Ken Marshall, GIS Specialist at kmarshall@wuppdr.org, or look on the web at: <http://nationalmap.gov/>

The Westerly View



Copper Country Cruisin' on an American Byway

The Copper Country Trail (CCT), a federally recognized American Byway, is US HWY 41 from Houghton to Copper Harbor. The CCT tells the story of the area's rich mining history interspersed with the natural and scenic beauty, and leads visitors and locals alike through the rough and tumble of the mining heyday to a Lake Superior sunset.

The CCT can be a powerful tool, as part of a nationally recognized roadway, to encourage and increase tourism

to the Upper Peninsula. Since its federal designation in 2005 the CCT was awarded two grants from the Federal Highway Association in 2006. Projects include

The CCT was listed in the **National Geographic Book: Guide to Scenic Highways and Byways, The 275 Best Drives in the US.**

Phase I of the Brockway Mountain Enhancement Project and a seed grant to create CCT promotional materials. To date, the logo at left and website have been completed. Future work on Brockway include construc-

tion of the Copper Harbor scenic overlook, repair of the original WPA rock walls, interpretive signage and additional viewing turnouts.

Two new grant applications were submitted by WUPPDR on behalf of the CCT this year with award announcement expected later this fall.

Learn more about the CCT and America's byway at: www.coppercountrytrail.org & www.byways.org

Pedal, Run and Jump onto a Heritage Trail

The Iron County Heritage Trail is a collection of 14 unique heritage sites linked together by a convenient driving tour. Heritage Trail access may soon be expanded to include bicycle-pedestrian traffic thanks to a

feasibility study funded by a FHWA Scenic Byways grant.

WUPPDR is currently working with an ad-hoc committee in Iron County to evaluate potential bicycle-pedestrian linkages between the heritage sites as well as recreational

and scenic sites along the way. The outcome will be a plan for the development of a connected trail that will enhance visitor experience and encourage non-motorized activities along the Heritage Route.

Emergency Management in the Region

WUPPDR staff has been busy working with projects in the Emergency Management Field.

The Flood Mitigation Plan for the City of Wakefield is nearing completion with the final plan on its way to FEMA for approval in November.

Work continues on the Michigan Tech Disaster Re-

sistant University project funded under FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. Drafting of the Michigan Tech Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway.

In June, WUPPDR began inventorying critical assets in the 6 county area and resource typing them to meet state and federal compliance. Resource typing is the cate-

gorization and description of response resources that are commonly exchanged in disasters through mutual aid agreements.

Resource typing enhances emergency readiness and response at all levels of government through facilitating the identity, location, request, ordering, and tracking process of outside resources.



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Economic Development in the Region

WUPPDR works both with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to aid in the economic growth and development of the region.

Current projects include:

- Calumet Township's \$300,000 MEDC grant to assist the FTF L.L.C. manufacturing company

with public infrastructure. The Township will match grant monies with \$100,000 and FTF will invest up to \$2 million in the project to create an estimated 60 jobs.

- A \$1 million MEDC grant to renovate the two existing floors and add a third floor to the Powerhouse Incubator space in the City of Houghton

providing about 13,500 sq ft of office space. It is expected to create 50 full time high tech jobs.

- EDA is presently funding Phase II of the Finlandia University "Portage Campus" Incubator facility in Hancock. The \$950,000 EDA grant will provide renovations including a heating system, windows and roofing.

Under the EDA, WUPPDR also serves as a designated economic development district and maintains a "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" (CEDS) for Planning Region 13.

For more information on the CEDS or any project please contact us at the office or visit our website at www.wuppdr.org

MSHDA Programs

In August, 2006 WUPPDR became a housing agent for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Housing Choice Voucher program, a federal program funded through Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program provides rental subsidies for very low income people. MSHDA administers approximately 24,000 vouchers throughout the state.

WUPPDR serves as a housing agent for Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties facilitating over \$750,000 annually in rental assistance to nearly 200 households.

WUPPDR also continues work with MSHDA's Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Baraga, Keweenaw, Houghton and Ontonagon

WUPPDR serves Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties facilitating over \$750,000 annually in rental assistance to nearly 200 households.

Counties facilitating grant funds of \$550,000 for the 2007-2008 calendar year. WUPPDR also facilitates MSHDA grant funds for the Village of Ontonagon and Calumet Township rehabilitation projects totaling over \$835,000 from 2005-2007.



WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH			
September	17	2007	Annual Meeting (Keweenaw Mountain Lodge)
October	15	2007	Executive Committee
November	19	2007	Executive Committee
December	17	2007	Full Commission
January	21	2008	Executive Committee
February	18	2008	Executive Committee
March	17	2008	Full Commission
April	21	2008	Executive Committee
May	19	2008	Executive Committee
June	16	2008	Full Commission
July	21	2008	Executive Committee
August	18	2008	Executive Committee

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT TULPPO'S RESTAURANT IN BRUCE CROSSING, MI EXCEPT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINS AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 PM (EST); FULL COMMISSION MEETING BEGINS AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 PM (EST).