



THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

Volume 2, Issue 4

A Letter from the Director...

Summer, 2009



I first read and heard the phrase “The Stimulus Package” just after the onset of 2009. Little did I know what it would mean to me or our organization. To be brief (which some think I never am), I believe the public interpreted this phrase to mean they were going to receive another check from the government. WUPPDR office phones starting ringing in late January from people looking for their piece of the stimulus—to date, these calls have not stopped. Most of the calls have been for things like replacing fire hall roofs or money to start a small business.

In reality, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009 outlined how these dollars would flow to the State government and be distributed through “conventional funding sources”. When U.S. Governors (including Jennifer Granholm) called for communities to submit their “shovel ready projects” the details of the Recovery Act were not known. Michigan’s response to the call included 17,000 projects totaling over \$59 billion dollars. However, on April 13, 2009 the State of Michigan sent out letters explaining that the vast majority of these projects would not be eligible for State funding.

We are still receiving calls about stimulus money (I mean ARRA monies), but they have become less frequent. There are many projects being funded by ARRA monies such as sewer and water projects in addition to a new round of Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. We encourage you to contact us at anytime regarding the ARRA and we will do our best to help you.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

WUPPDR STAFF

KIM STOKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LORI HAUSWIRTH
ASSOCIATE PLANNER

MEG PACHMAYER
PLANNER

JIM LAMUTH
PLANNER/
TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR

COURTNEY ARCHAMBEAU
HOUSING AGENT

NELS ANDERSON
GIS SPECIALIST/
ASSISTANT PLANNER

STEVE ROUSER
GIS TECHNICIAN

MARY TADDEUCCI
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

SUE HARTER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AMY SPAHN
FINANCIAL AIDE

WUPPDR Commission Meeting Schedule

June	15	2009	Full Commission
July	20	2009	Executive Committee
August	17	2009	Executive Committee
September	21	2009	Full Commission (Annual Meeting Iron County)
October	19	2009	Executive Committee
November	TBD	2009	Executive Committee
December	21	2009	Full Commission
January	18	2010	Executive Committee
February	15	2010	Executive Committee
March	15	2010	Full Commission
April	19	2010	Executive Committee
May	17	2010	Executive Committee

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT TULPPO'S RESTAURANT IN BRUCE CROSSING, MI EXCEPT THE SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FULL COMMISSION MEET AT 5:00 PM (ET) EXCEPT ANNUAL MEETS AT 4:30 PM (CT). MINUTES & RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE WUPPDR OFFICE.

THE WESTERLY VIEW

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Planning, Eco-municipalities, Sustainability, and You?

With so much buzz about global warming, climate change, carbon emissions, and going green, it's overwhelming to decide how, if, when and what to change in our daily lives.

This past May, the *Keweenaw Sustainability Project* helped give guidance to individuals, businesses, and municipalities interested in becoming more sustainable by hosting two public workshops in Hancock. Presenters from Ashland and Washburn, Wisconsin, shared their experiences working to develop their communities into eco-municipalities by using the Swedish-developed *Natural Step Framework*.

The Natural Step Framework uses a systems approach, focusing on widespread community aware-

ness-raising and integrated municipal involvement, incorporating a common “sustainability language”. This common language provides a shared understanding of what sustainability means and how to achieve this throughout all sectors of municipal government and the wider community.

Overwhelmed yet? Don't be. Even a few changes can have a positive impact on the environment (and the bottom line). Don't expect to go off the grid next year—becoming sustainable is a process not a destination. See insert below for more details on how to get started.



Helpful Websites

- www.keweenawsustainability.org
- www.naturalstep.org
- www.wisconsinplanners.org/Ecomunicipalities
- www.instituteforecomunicipalities.org/
- www.allianceforsustainability.org

- **Become Informed:** Resources are available online, there are books and publications available and groups that can help municipalities become more sustainable.
- **Start Small:** Make sustainability a priority by putting it on your agenda for each board meeting. Upgrade light bulbs with energy efficient ones like compact fluorescents or LEDs, and replace light switches with motion sensors.
- **Develop a Purchasing Policy:** Explore sustainable options and take into account long-term savings over the initial low price. Examples include: tank-less water heaters, low flow toilets, and high efficiency heating systems—costing more upfront, but providing long-term savings over the product's life.
- **Buy Closer to Home:** Goods produced regionally support local jobs and reduces the need for fossil fuels dually supporting the health of the region and environment.

Take Advantage of Construction—GPS Utilities

Summer is here and with it comes construction season—the perfect time for municipalities to collect great utility and infrastructure data using a GPS unit and a camera.

Acquiring this data is especially helpful in modeling infrastructure and utilities using geographical information systems (GIS) for fu-

ture planning and maintenance. GIS can then help to identify asset locations and keep record of asset attributes such as location, size, age, system condition, and recent maintenance.

With this information public works and municipal employees can determine best courses of action based on the GIS analysis. It will

prove extremely useful when it comes time for scheduling maintenance, replacing infrastructure in addition to enhancing a community's emergency preparedness.

To discuss the benefits of GPS and GIS please contact Nels Anderson at nanderson@wuppd.org or 906.482.7205 ext. 318.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

Iron County Heritage Route

WUPPDR staff, Jim LaMuth and Lori Hauswirth, have been busy in Iron County lately hosting a number of strategic planning workshops with representatives from the Iron County Heritage Trail.

Iron County Heritage Trail (ICHT) was designated as a State Historic Heritage Route in 2000 and stretches from Iron River to Crystal Falls encompassing 16 miles of US 2. ICHT is promoted by the *Friends of the Iron County Heritage Trail*. The Friends group is a 501(c)3, and promotes ICHT as a perfect place to explore the iron mining, logging, and cultural history of the area.

Through the recent workshops, participants revisited ICHT's vision, mission, goals and partners.

"It's encouraging to see people who still take such pride in what their community has to offer and that they want to share it with others."

James Lake
Superior Communications
Representative—MDOT

The group is working to redefine the purpose, value, and role ICHT plays in the communities of Iron County, which will help to define future goals and ac-

tivities for the committee. "It's encouraging to see people who still take such pride in what their community has to offer and that they want to share it with others," James Lake, Superior Communications Representative, MDOT, said about the recent May 12, 2009 workshop.

Past projects along the Heritage Trail include a bicycle path feasibility study, comprehensive signage at heritage sites, and brochure and website development. Learn more about the Iron County Heritage Trail online at www.ironheritage.org.

Road Counts for Hire

In October 2008, WUPPDR purchased five Apollo Road Counters from Diamond Traffic Products to replace our deteriorated existing counters. Each year WUPPDR performs a number of road counts throughout the western region for the MDOT Highway Performance Monitoring System.

Our new Apollo counters allow us to collect information beyond vehicle volume including: determining vehicular direction, capturing individual vehicle speeds,

and classifying vehicles based on their axels. Vehicle data is useful when planning for your communities; learning the use of your roadways and tracking trends can help municipal leaders make informed decisions.

Our cost to conduct road counts are based on the types of counts you need and project location. If you have questions please contact Jim LaMuth at jlamuth@wuppdr.org or at 906.482.7205 ext. 312.



WUPPDR staff recently set up road counters on Lake Annie Road to gather data for the City of Hancock in Houghton County. If you have a need for road counts please contact Jim LaMuth at our offices.



WUPPDR
PO BOX 365
Houghton, MI 49931
906.482.7205
info@wuppdr.org

Find us on the Web: www.wuppdr.org

Thank You Larry Menard for Your Many Years of Service



Mike Koskinen (right), WUPPDR Treasurer, presents Larry Menard (left) with a proclamation of appreciation on April 14, 2009.

Larry Menard has proven himself to be a true public servant after serving the people of Baraga County for almost 32 years—spending 25 of those years on the Board of Commissioners. Larry recently retired from the District 5 seat on the Board in January.

Kim Stoker, WUPPDR Executive Director, and Mike Koskinen, Baraga Board Chairman (and WUPPDR Treasurer) presented awards of appreciation and recognition to Larry at a special Baraga County meeting on April 14, 2009.

Over the years Larry served on numerous boards representing Baraga County including the Board of Public Works, Western UP District Health Board, Western UP Substance Abuse and Family Planning Committee, and our very own WUPPDR board. Larry began his tenure with WUPPDR in 1978, served as 2nd Vice Chair in 1984, and in total spent 17 years contributing to the success of our region

through his service on our board.

We imagine Larry will continue to stay busy as he continues to own and manage the L'Anse Ace Hardware store on Main Street downtown with his wife Virginia. In addition, Larry will continue his relationship with civic duty by continuing to serve on the Jury Commission as he was recently re-appointed by the board.

The WUPPDR staff and Commission would sincerely like to thank Larry for his commitment, contributions, and support to the regional planning commission.

Larry, a L'Anse native, and his wife Virginia reside in L'Anse and have three sons and five grandchildren.