

**MEETING MINUTES
WESTERN REGION RC&D COUNCIL
UPPCO BUILDING, HOUGHTON, MI
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006**

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Peterson-NRCS, Sue Haralson-Houghton/Keweenaw CD, Dave Anderson-Gogebic CD, Mike Brzoznowski-Iron CD, Bill Menge-Baraga Co Bd of Comm, Bob Larson-Baraga CD, Don Keith-Keweenaw Co Bd of Comm, Justin Murawski-WUPPDR, Paul Luoma-Houghton Co Bd of Comm, Karen Endres-HKCD, Steve Albee-HKCD, Jim Stingle-WUPPDR, Frank Fiala-KNHP, Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Albee/Luoma).

BUSINESS ITEMS:

New Coordinator: Bruce Petersen reported that the new UP RC&D Coordinator is Marilyn Shy and she will be starting her new job on February 21, 2006. Marilyn is currently the Director of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts.

Increase Partner Participation/Needs Assessment: Steve Albee expressed interest in stimulating more participation in UP RC&D at the Regional level by reaching out to new partners (i.e. Land trusts, TU, DU, etc) and showing them how they may benefit from working with RC&D. There was agreement that this would be beneficial to everyone already involved and that it needs to start with the UP Council. A motion was passed (Anderson, Keith) to place this item on the agenda for the next UP RC&D Council Meeting in March. It was suggested that a letter go out from the UP Council inviting new partners to participate.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Dave Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report, which was approved (Albee/Luoma). As of 1/25/2006 the balance is \$585.17. The only activity in the past month was a small interest payment.

NPS: Frank Fiala reported that the NPS is still formulating plans for the Smelter Site – it will not be utilized as a joint visitor center for ISRO/KNHP as had previously been considered. The Seaman Mineral Museum project is moving and construction will begin this summer on Quincy Hill at the Mining Office, which will get a new slate roof. NPS is still in the process of defining the Heritage Site (spent last 1.5 years establishing criteria for cooperating sites). Some other areas in the country have a historic park and surrounding Heritage Area. They are also working with DOT on signage for the Park (way-finding and boundary) and coordination of signage with literature being distributed to public. NPS/WUPPDR are looking at a Scenic Highway. Steve Albee would like to see the Heritage Site expanded to include the entire Copper Range of the Western UP.

There is concern among members that land sales/exchanges in the Copper Country might have significant impacts on the current status of land access there.

Gogebic County: Dave Anderson reported that the County Board is getting frustrated with continued problems and lack of NRCS movement on Little Girls Point.

Ontonagon County: No rep present

Houghton County: Paul Luoma had to leave before presenting any report

Keweenaw County: Don Keith reiterates what has been expressed by other members regarding the accelerating changes in land ownership in the Keweenaw. There needs to be a sense of urgency in making the most of existing opportunities, and doing them right. He reported seeing a proposal for a trail system at Hunter's Point done by UP Engineers that was impressive. Also, mentioned the important history in Poor Rock Piles that may be lost to development.

Karen Endres, Watershed Manager for the HKCD reported that she is writing a watershed plan for the Eagle River. She recommends that before any remediation is done on a stream, a watershed plan be completed to prevent any unintended results downstream of the remediation. The DEQ is now requiring a full geomorphic survey be completed before work can begin.

Frank Fiala expressed frustration with several independent groups meeting to develop plans for the Copper Country, but no over-riding group that can pull it all together and make things happen. The Land Use Plan for Houghton Co. has been released and it is hoped that this can be used as a starting point for townships.

Baraga County: Bruce Petersen provided updates on several Baraga Co projects along with other projects in his area – see “New Measures/Cancellations/Completions/Updates” below. Bill Menge provided information for the group regarding the recent mercury spill/cleanup in Skanee.

WUPPDR: Justin Murawski and Jim Stingle summarized the many projects that staff from WUPPDR are involved with (including but not limited to KBIC Response Plan, Rec. plans for several cities and townships, FEMA grant/City of Wakefield flooding) and reported that the state staff from FSA are now touring the UP. WUPPDR received a grant to look at 4 roadside parks in Keweenaw County, and MDOT is requiring they utilize native species for all revegetation.

DNR/KBIC/USFS/RD/FSA/EXTENSION: No Reps Present

NEW MEASURES – CANCELLATIONS – COMPLETIONS – UPDATES

Twin Lakes Berm Project - Bruce Petersen reported that the Twin Lakes/Penegor Mill Berm Project is moving forward. NRCS has completed surveys and the DNR is involved to help determine property boundaries.

Dault's Creek – Potential new project. Bruce Petersen met with a landowner who was concerned about erosion that will effect US 41 (Creek is near the L'Anse Golf Course). Bruce is working with an MDOT engineer and helping the landowner complete the project application.

Huron River Watershed Council – still waiting for 501(c)3 status. There is egregious erosion from Big Erik's Bridge to the mouth of the Huron River. Bruce is also trying to get money to assist KBIC which would help this project.

Otter River CAT – Trout Unlimited had special attachment to the landowner who was killed at this site and would still like to investigate if there is potential to improve the erosion problem there. They would like to involve the watershed council. Live Fascines may be helpful at this site.

NAWCA Phase II Completion – Final Report done, final payment received from FWS, news release still pending.

Other Information: Bruce Petersen reported that he was contacted by Norm West of the Federal Transportation Dept (who reviews grant proposals) and informed that they will be requiring that native species be used for roadway remediation and they are using the local CD's as source of expertise for these projects. Also – Chuck Brumley has been hired to be a consultant for the KBIC on the Eagle Project (proposed sulfide mine).

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 6, 2006, at 10 am - tentative location is Best Western Lakeside Motel in Baraga. Will invite Todd Warner, KBIC to attend and update council on KBIC conservation projects/concerns.

**MEETING MINUTES
WESTERN REGION RC&D COUNCIL
BEST WESTERN BARAGA LAKESIDE
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006**

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Peterson-NRCS; Marsha Klein-Houghton/Keweenaw CD; Dave Anderson-Gogebic CD; Don Keith-Keweenaw Co Bd of Comm, Justin Murawski-WUPPDR, Gina Nicholas-Houghton/Keweenaw CD; Marilyn Shy-UP RC&D Coordinator; Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Keith/Nicholas).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted (Keith/Klein). As of 4/6/2006 the balance is \$586.63. The only activity in the past month was a small interest payment. Dave resigned his position as treasurer and turned in the checkbook and treasurer's records. They will be stored at the UP RC&D office until a new treasurer can be elected (hopefully at the next meeting). Dave also resigned as the appointee for the Gogebic Conservation District.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

New Coordinator: Marilyn Shy introduced herself, gave a brief synopsis of her background and distributed a summary of the projects she has been working on since she began work on February 21st.

Election of Treasurer/Elect Representative to UP Council: Tabled.

Update of Dues: Darcy reported that Gogebic, Iron and Baraga Counties have paid their dues to UP RC&D and also paid their \$25 dues to the Western Regional Council.

REPORTS:

Baraga County: Bruce Petersen reported that he has been spending a lot of time helping folks prepare applications before Farm Bill deadline of March 15th. The Sand Point project work has gone out for bids and a borrow-site has been agreed upon. The Walleye Rearing Facility is awaiting an Army Corp. permit before further work can be done. The Torch Lake project is nearing completion and a "Last Acre Ceremony" has been scheduled for August 17, 2006. NRCS State Conservationist, Jack Bricker, will be in attendance as well as other state and local elected officials. Bruce gave a brief summary of the project for those not familiar with it: original site was stamp sands in Lake Linden, added north entry, Scales Creek, Dynamite Hill and others inside the Superfund site. Many dozens of sites still need remediation in Keweenaw and Houghton Counties.

Keweenaw County: Don Keith reported on the Bete Grise Reserve progress – formulated a management plan, implementing detailed botany study, ATV barriers, signage listing partners, public education/outreach/stewardship, beach clean-up. Funded with DEQ Coastal Mgmt. Grant of \$20,000 with \$21,000 County match. Also reported

that Northwoods Conservancy partnered with Keweenaw County to expand holdings at the mouth of the Gratiot River. UP Engineering is working on a management plan including footbridge at old stone weir and barricade for parking area to keep vehicles off beach. County provided \$5,000 seed money to WUPPDR to develop trails (motorized and non-motorized). Don pointed out that there is not much public land in Keweenaw County and “they sold his County” in a recent land deal. A huge portion is in CFR and the re-authorization of the CFR bill is ongoing. Charlie Eschbach has been a watchdog of the CFR lands in that area.

Gogebic County: Dave Anderson spoke of his resignation as Gogebic CD appointee/treasurer for Western Region UP RC&D. Sandy Lahtinen will be the new Gogebic CD appointee. He plans to stay active on the CD board, and will continue working to see some of the important Gogebic County projects move forward. These projects include Little Girls Point (Dick Bolen is good contact person) which needs a design plan before they can apply for grants. The Gogebic Co Bat Enclosure Project is also a priority. Flintsteel Restoration voluntarily surveyed abandoned mine shafts, but progress with enclosures has been stalled. The group agreed that these abandoned mine shafts pose safety, ecological and health issues, but acknowledge there is reluctance to map the sites for fear of public removal of artifacts. Alan Johnson at MTU has done considerable work in this area.

WUPPDR: Justin Murawski, GIS Specialist, reported that WUPPDR has been working on the following projects in the western UP: updating the Chassell Twp, Arvon Twp, and City of Hancock parcel mapping; doing PASER ratings; working with MDOT on system for rating road conditions for planning repairs; Osceola Twp boating map; Keweenaw Co zoning map; multipurpose mapping for Kew. Co. trail system (focus on property owners near trail by using tax roles); City of Wakefield flood mitigation plan; Iron Co. Bike Trail. Don Keith commented on the urgency of trail mapping in the Keweenaw and the lingering questions of who will own, operate/maintain, and enforce regulations on this trail system. There is frustration that plat books are out of date before going to publication.

NEW MEASURES

Chassell Flood Protection Project – Bruce Petersen reported that the culvert on Hamar Creek is completely filled with sediment and that a high snowmelt or rain event would threaten the post office and nearby homes as well as a portion of US 41. DEQ granted MDOT permission to clean out the culvert as a “temporary fix”. He noted that all drainage courses that flow through Chassell have problems and deserve scrutiny and UP Engineers have been hired by the township to look at the problem. Bruce would like NRCS engineers to survey the problem as well. This new project was approved (Keith/Klein).

Dault’s Creek C.A.T. – This creek is changing course and threatening the US 41 roadway. MDOT is the sponsor and the goals are to protect public infrastructure, lessen

stream sedimentation and protect wildlife habitat. The project was approved (Klein/Keith).

PROJECT UPDATES

Twin Lakes Berm Project – Marilyn met with Jim Sauer from the Twp, DNR and local reps. Both DNR and MDOT are in favor of the project, now waiting for formal permission. The next step will be locating funding for berm construction and vegetating.

Lake Superior Huron River Restoration, Inc. – This group is currently waiting for non-profit status to be granted. Marilyn will contact the leaders of the group when time permits to get an update.

Biomass Utilization – This area has been addressed in the past by this group and members feel that it should be a continued topic of discussion. Those in attendance mentioned Mike Reed at White Pine Power, John Pelkola, Scott Robbins and JR Roberts (all from Smurfit Stone ?) as possible resource people regarding this issue.

Seneca #3 Mine Shaft – Don Keith may be bringing this to the UP RC&D as a future project. Louisiana Pacific is gifting this approx. 5 acre parcel to Keweenaw Co. Seneca #3 is the northernmost shaft of the Centennial Mine. This led to the suggestion that the Cooperating Site Committee needs to consider sites in addition to those they are now focusing on. Gina mentioned that there is a need for consistency in site selection – a blueprint or prescription for new sites needs to be developed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am (Keith/Nicholas).

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 6, 2006, at 10 am – UPPCO Building, Houghton.

**MEETING MINUTES
WESTERN REGION RC&D COUNCIL
HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2006**

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Peterson-NRCS; Sandy Lahtinen-Gogebic CD; Don Keith-Keweenaw Co Bd of Comm, Gina Nicholas, Sue Haralson & Steve Albee-Houghton/Keweenaw CD; Bob Larson-Baraga CD; Frank Wardynski-Ontonagon CD & MSU Extension; John Pelkola, Ontonagon Co Bd of Comm; Dennis Rich-Northern Environmental; Marilyn Shy-UP RC&D Coordinator; Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Bob Larson at 10 am and those present introduced themselves. The agenda was approved (Albee/Pelkola) with the addition of “Northern Environmental” under Reports and “Complete Project Listing for Western Region” under Project Updates.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Pelkola/Albee) with the following corrections: Keweenaw Co. Report-Gina Nicholas reported on the Bete Grise Reserve and Don Keith reported on the Northwoods Conservancy partnership with Kew. County. Under Project Updates/Biomass Utilization-remove John Pelkola as a resource person and add Kim Stoker from WUPPDR and JR Roberts should be JR Richardson.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Darcy Rutkowski presented the Treasurer’s Report, which was accepted (Wardynski/Albee). As of 6/30/06 the balance is \$663.17. The only activity in the past three months was interest payments totaling \$1.56, maintenance fees totaling \$10.02 (which the bank will be crediting back in July), deposits totaling \$125.00 for CD dues and one check for \$40 for room use at the Baraga Best Western.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Election of Treasurer: Frank Wardynski was elected to the position of secretary/treasurer and Don Keith was elected as a second authorized check signer in the event that Frank was not available (Pelkola/Albee). Only one signature will be required for all checks.

Elect Representative to UP Council: Chairman Bob Larson asked for volunteers to represent the Western Region on the UP RC&D Council. None of the members present were able to fill this position so this will be placed on the agenda for the October 5th meeting. This council currently has two representatives to the UP Council – Bob Larson and Steve Albee, but could have a third representative. Members suggested that someone from WUPPDR would make a good representative for the UP Council.

REPORTS:

Baraga County/Houghton County: Bruce Petersen reported on a new project “Lightfoot Bay Coastal Wetland”, sponsored by the Baraga CD (which is working with

the Keweenaw Land Trust) to acquire 204 acres of sensitive land adjacent to MNA land on Huron Bay in Skanee. This tract of land is considered critical fish and wildlife habitat and would ensure permanent public access to Lake Superior, prevent land fragmentation, and raise public awareness to the value of coastal wetlands. The approximate cost to purchase the land is \$596,500 and a NAWCA grant in the amount of \$398,300 has been applied for. This new project was approved (Albee/Keith).

Bruce also gave updates on the following projects:

Walleye Rearing Ponds – Army Corp denied permit to construct pond, but has since met with the tribe to address their original concerns and the permit approval looks more favorable at this time.

Twin Lakes Berm – This project is moving forward, Marilyn is working to secure funding to vegetate the berm. Permits from MDOT and MDNR have been secured. The Twp. would be responsible for the earthwork.

Chassell Flood Protection – UP Engineers have completed study for Twp on this project which will protect homes/businesses/US 41 and alleviate the flood threat.

Last Acre Ceremony for Torch Lake – August 17, 2006 – While officials from Army Corp, DEQ, etc. are in the area for this ceremony there is the hope that they can meet to discuss “orphan stamp sands” that are still unremediated. Marilyn toured some of the sites with DEQ officials on June 21. The DEQ has some unallocated funds that may be available for this project this fiscal year. Gina Nicholas reported on her conversation with Steve Casey and the possibility that the Houghton/Keweenaw CD would be the local sponsor, but much of the work would be done by NRCS. They would try to have the funds committed prior to Oct. 1, but the work would be done in 2008. Central Creek and Hills Creek are two of the critical sites. Marilyn will meet with Steve Casey and try to see that all interested parties can be involved.

Sand Point – bids for the work have been accepted, the area cleared, a borrow site established and now are awaiting the tribal council’s choice of a contractor.

Gina Nicholas reported on progress on the land gift from Louisiana Pacific at the Seneca Mine Site. John Lammi from LP is willing to donate 40 acres, but this is dependent on insurances that the bat site is indeed within the boundaries and there are no pollution concerns. Negotiations are still underway.

Ontonagon County: Frank Wardynski reported on the MSU Extension evaluation process to determine priorities for the region. The economy and alternative fuels were determined to have high priority and an advisory group was formed to explore alternative fuel options. Canola seed is of interest because it can be grown in the UP and its addition to the pelletizing process yields 6% greater BTU’s. The biodiesel plant in Gladstone is of interest to them (it currently uses Illinois-produced soy bean oil). There has been a drop in the beef market and they are looking at alternative farming systems (orchards, honey,

etc) as replacements. The CD now has the services of Bob Maki as forester shared by Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties and he is doing a super job.

Keweenaw County: Don Keith reported that work under the Bete Grise Management Grant is still progressing.

Gogebic County: Sandy Lahtinen reported that she and Marilyn visited the Little Girls Point Project site with Dick Bolen and NRCS engineers have been on site. This is such a huge erosion site that work will be done in stages. Abandoned mines are another priority for Gogebic County and there has been some news in the press recently regarding FEMA money awarded to the MDNR to make safety repairs at abandoned mines in four UP counties. The funding will be for mine shaft backfilling, capping, cages to allow bat entry and fencing. Marilyn mentioned that WHIP money can legitimately be used for remediating mine enclosures.

RC&D Coordinator Report: Marilyn distributed a written report on recently funded projects - St. Mary's River Rapid Watershed Assessment (watershed assessment project that will hopefully be followed by an implementation phase), UP People and Land Community Forums (make research findings available to the public from MTU and MSU regarding how the sale/exchange of large land tracts effects the UP) and Ford River Streambank Stabilization (funded at \$345,000 for streambank erosion control) and gave updates on the UP Native Plant Restoration Project and Stabilization of Inland Stamp Sands in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

Dennis Rich – Northern Environmental: Dennis Rich introduced himself as a civil engineer and currently the only employee at the recently opened Copper Country office of Northern Environmental. This company has been in existence since 1988 and has other offices in Wisconsin and Lansing. They are currently working with Naterra Land Company and UPPCO.

NEW MEASURES

Lightfoot Bay Coastal Wetland – Approved as a new project (see report under Baraga County)

Inland Stamp Sands C.A.T. – Although no written proposal was available for the meeting, the Houghton/Keweenaw CD agreed to be the sponsor for this project. This was approved as a new project pending the submission of a written proposal (Pelkola/Wardynski).

PROJECT UPDATES: A full project listing for the Western Region was distributed with the current/open projects highlighted for each county. Members were invited to spend some time looking at this list prior to the next meeting. Some of the open projects have been “on the books” for many years without any activity. Any information regarding these open projects that members can provide would be extremely helpful.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 5, 2006, at 10 am – Ford Forestry Center, Alberta.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm (Wardynski/Pelkola).

**MEETING MINUTES
WESTERN REGION RC&D COUNCIL
BARAGA, MICHIGAN
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2006**

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Peterson-NRCS; Sandy Lahtinen-Gogebic CD; Don Keith-Keweenaw Co Bd of Comm, Steve Albee-Houghton/Keweenaw CD; Bob Larson-Baraga CD; Bill Menge-Baraga Co Bd of Comm; Rich Miskovich-Ontonagon CD; John Pelkola, Ontonagon Co Bd of Comm; Dennis Rich-Northern Environmental; Ralph Miller-Ottawa National Forest; Marilyn Shy-UP RC&D Coordinator; Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Bob Larson at 10 am. The agenda was approved (Albee/Lahtinen).

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Keith/Albee) with the following correction: Keweenaw Co. Report-Change "Bete Grise Management Grant" to "Gratiot River Park".

TREASURER'S REPORT: Darcy Rutkowski presented the Treasurer's Report, which was approved (Albee/Pelkola). As of 10/4/06 the balance is \$674.33. The only activity in the past three months was interest payments totaling \$1.14, and credits of maintenance fees totaling \$10.02.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Elect Representative to UP Council: Chairman Bob Larson asked for volunteers to represent the Western Region on the UP RC&D Council. Sandy Lahtinen, Gogebic CD Administrator, expressed a willingness to serve in this capacity. A motion to nominate Sandy Lahtinen to represent the Western Regional UP RC&D Council on the UP RC&D Council was made and passed unanimously (Miskovich/Keith).

Newsletter Mailing List:

Members present were asked to suggest people who are not currently on our newsletter mailing list, but might be interested in receiving future newsletters and meeting notices. The group suggested Todd Warner-KBIC Natural Resource Manager, George Madison and Don Mankee of the MDNR, and Dan Larson. Bruce Petersen and Bob Larson will provide contact information for these folks to the UP RC&D Council office.

Re-establish Forestry Committee?:

Marilyn gave a brief background on the Forestry Committee and reported that she has had several requests regarding the status of that committee from partners. All three regional councils are being asked for their ideas regarding the re-establishment of the committee and what their charge would be. Suggestions were: the Forestry Comm. should be an instrument of the UP Council and get their direction, charge and limitations from the UP Council; they could focus on sustainability of the forest resource and invasive species; they might fill gaps that aren't being filled by other entities. Ralph Miller, Ottawa Nat. For., supports the re-establishment of the committee and was asked

to send the UP RC&D office ideas for the focus of the committee and also suggestions for other stakeholders (i.e. investment groups like Forestland Group or Plum Creek) that might participate on the committee. The Western Council passed a motion (Pelkola/Menge) that they support the re-activation of the Forestry Committee with a broader group of stakeholders included. They would like the UP Council to be informed of their support.

Silent Auction/Goody Bags: Members present were asked for suggestions for possible items which could be purchased or donated to the UP Council for the silent auction which is to be held at the NCRCDC Regional meeting in Frankenmuth in March. Every council is responsible for providing at least one item for this auction. Suggestions included: a bat house, “copper art”, and wood carvings.

REPORTS:

Baraga County/Houghton County: Bruce Petersen gave updates on the following projects:

Walleye Rearing Facility – KBIC has applied for federal permit (4 months ago) and has not been given an answer – this is holding up the project. It was suggested that a letter of inquiry be sent to determine the status of the permit. (not required to apply for Michigan DEQ permits, only do it as a courtesy, and will implement if they think it is meritorious).

Chassell Flood Protection (Hamar Creek) – The culvert under US 41 will be cleared in the next couple weeks as a stop-gap measure.

Sand Point – This project to remediate 38 acres of stamp sands which resulted from sands moving down the coast from a mill 7 miles north of Sand Point, is near completion at a total cost of \$330,000. It is a unique situation because GLIFWC has seeded wild rice in the wetland and tribal members utilize it.

Seneca Creek – The Houghton/Keweenaw CD would like to acquire land on Seneca Creek and will be meeting with Louisiana Pacific to consummate an agreement soon.

Huron River Watershed – There will be a meeting on Oct. 18 to start setting up a watershed council. The sediment plume at the mouth of the Huron River is tremendous. George Madison and Lindsey Ringette from the MDEQ are involved.

Inland Stamp Sands CAT – Bruce, Marilyn, Gina Nicholas, and Charles Eshbach met with Lindsey Ringette (MDEQ) to visit sites (Central Sands in Keweenaw Co., Hills Creek, Winona Mine). Steve Albee asked about Scales Creek and the priority of sites for remediation. The priority of the DEQ is based on the visibility of the project, and water quality impacts.

Ontonagon County: Shallow floodings are in progress, the soil survey has been completed, the forester being shared with Gogebic County, Bob Maki, is working out well, and the Adventure Mine owner is possibly interested in a bat enclosure.

Keweenaw County: Don Keith reported that the county would like Hills Creek to be a priority for DEQ remediation (currently not a DEQ priority, but it is an NRCS priority and Marilyn will be working to secure some funding). If the county owned the property they would limit ATV use to a corridor to keep ATV's from using other sensitive areas.

Gogebic County: Sandy Lahtinen reported that the county is in the process of hiring a mine inspector, and that abandoned mines are a serious problem for Gogebic County. She agrees that the shared forester is working out well. NRCS engineers will be working on Little Girls Point this winter. She has an interest in sponsoring more workshops like the apple orchard workshop they sponsored that was very successful.

USFS: Ralph Miller reported that the revised forest plan is available to the public. A change in the new plan is that ATV's will only be allowed on designated trails (free maps for the public will be ready in April and on their website), cross-country travel will be limited. For now, the current policy is in effect. The local ATV riders are usually educated, it is the out-of-area riders that are the problem. Members present suggested that the USFS make "mud holes" available and their locations known to the public to prevent the public from developing their own and damaging the resource further.

This brought up some discussion of the ATV regulations and how they differ by local units of government. Both Ontonagon and Baraga allow ATV's on the shoulders of roads, Keweenaw Co. does not allow ATV's on County Roads (Keweenaw Co has the least amount of public access lands of any UP County).

Northern Environmental: Dennis Rich reported that his company will be sponsoring a seminar on brownfield and other natural resource issues that his company deals with on October 23. It is free but reservations are required. He will send an announcement to the UP RC&D office which can be forwarded to the membership of the western region.

RC&D Coordinator Report: Marilyn distributed a written report with updates on several projects.

NEW MEASURES: No new projects were submitted.

PROJECT UPDATES: This was included in various county reports.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 10 am – in Kenton.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm - several members proceeded to a tour of Sand Point led by Bruce Peterson.