

**'KEWEENAW AREA SILENT SPORTS PARTNERSHIP'  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
7:30 PM - MTU SDC ROOM 237**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT/REPRESENTING**

John Diebel, KNSC  
Evan McDonald, KLT  
Aaron Rogers, CHTC  
Sam Raymond, CHTC  
Charles Eschbach, Michigan Nature Assoc.  
Steve DeLong  
Terry Kinzel  
Caleb Wendel  
Bruce Pletka, Red Jacket Cycling  
Bill Marlor  
Craig Hughes, Keweenaw CVB  
Marc Norton, Great Deer Chase  
Mike Abbott, Michigan Tech  
Jim Tervo, Chassell Recreation  
Terry Smythe, KMFC, Copperman, Michigan Tech Rowing, Portage Lake Rowing  
Jeff Parker  
Lori Hauswirth, Chain Drive

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Lori Hauswirth opened the meeting. Introductions followed.

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Minutes were reviewed from the previous meeting and some minor corrections were made: date, typos and Northwoods Conservancy changed to North Woods Conservancy.

**REPORTS FROM LOCAL TRAIL GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

Mike Abbott representing Michigan Tech, Craig Hughes representing C.I.S.C & Keweenaw Trails Council, Marc Norton representing Deer Chase, Charlie Eshbach for MNA, Sam Raymond for CHTC, Evan McDonald for Keweenaw Land Trust and John Diebel for KNSC, all reported favorable support for the 'trails partnership'.

Charlie reported that MNA was about to publish a trail guide for the Keweenaw and was considering whether it might be wise to hold back to make sure every trail was represented. At this time he thought that the publication was about 95%. The guide would replace the "Walking Paths of the Keweenaw" that included 8 trails. There's now 6 more trails to include and many of the original trails have changed.

Sam reported that CHIA would be meeting the next week and he would discuss the project with them. He also noted that WUPPDR was working on a MNRTF application for Keweenaw County that includes the acquisition of land to the east and west of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Evan discussed how recreational trails are a land use and that the KLT could provide information and opportunities for land owners and this group provides a great partnership forum. He also noted that there may be an organization already existing that could champion the trails cause in order to not create another with ongoing funding challenges.

### **ORGANIZATION NAME DISCUSSION**

Name discussion was tabled until we developed our mission. (Chicken and egg.)

### **MISSION DEVELOPMENT EXERCISE**

Attendees were split into 3 groups and given 5 minutes to brainstorm on a mission. The participants were then given 6 minutes to network with the other groups. The next 10 minutes were spent in the original groups developing draft missions. The missions from the group discussions included:

“A partnership of outdoor enthusiasts promoting planned expansion of opportunities for sustainable, outdoor, human-powered, multiuse recreation”

“Grow a planned interconnected, sustainable, year-round non-motorized land & water trail network in the Keweenaw.”

“A partnership that fosters, develops, and maintains a network of trails in the Keweenaw for the purposes of recreation, health, transportation, economic development, environmental and cultural preservation.”

“Enrich the Keweenaw by providing a network of human-powered trails for recreation, health and environmental preservation.”

Working with the draft missions, the group discussed and revised the statements into a tentative mission for the group:

**“A partnership fostering a network of sustainable trails for recreation, health, transportation, economic and environmental stewardship throughout the Keweenaw. “**

The group was to contemplate the mission and it would be revisited at the next meeting.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR WORKING GROUP**

It was decided that everyone would be invited to upcoming meetings because of the great attendance and enthusiasm.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE(S)**

A working meeting was scheduled for: **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the SDC** (Mike Abbott’s Conference Room) in order to establish a name for the trails group and continue with mission and goal development.

The next regular meeting of the ‘partnership’ group was scheduled for **Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will once again be held at the SDC beginning at 7:30pm. Future meetings will tentatively be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.