



Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District Will Celebrate its 59th Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2011

The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District (HKCD) Annual Meeting will begin at 6:00 PM with a Silent Auction and Pot Luck Buffet after a regular monthly meeting at 5:30 PM.

An Election to fill two Board positions will follow. Three nominating petitions were submitted: Gina Nicholas, from Keweenaw County, Sandra Palmore, a Hancock resident and Steve Siira of Kearsarge. Gina has been on the Board since 2003 providing her expertise on business, finance, conservation, forestry and grant writing; Sandra has been on the Board since 2002 providing guidance and sound decisions based on her past work experience and love preserving the Keweenaw's natural environment; and Steve Siira, an MTU graduate of Civil Engineering currently serves on the Keweenaw County Planning & Zoning Commission.

A short power point overview on what your Conservation District has accomplished during 2010 and is working on in 2011 will be presented.

Our featured presentation on Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Team of the UP! (RRIP-IT-UP) will be given by Botanist Janet Marr.

RRIP-IT-UP is a UP-wide grant project sponsored by the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development (UPRC&D) with funding of a \$150,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Why should we care about invasive plants?

Invasive plants impact hunting, fishing, boating, gardening, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other recreational activities in our beautiful Keweenaw. Janet will help us understand why we need to become aware of invasive plants and take action to prevent their spread in our private and public lands.



Join us for an enjoyable and informative evening!

**For more information on HKCD activities
and detailed financial reports,
contact the HKCD Office at 906-482-0214**

Statement of Net Assets as of September 30, 2010

Assets	
Cash	68,412
Receivables	18,038
Total Current Assets	<u>86,450</u>
Non-Current Assets:	
Capital assets	833,776
Accumulated depreciation	-6,924
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>826,852</u>
Total Assets	913,302
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	24,512
Non-Current Liabilities	
Accrued compensated absences payable	<u>52</u>
Total Liabilities	24,564
Net Assets	
Invested in capital assets	826,852
Unrestricted net assets	<u>61,886</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>888,738</u></u>

Statements of Revenues, Expenditures And Changes in Fund Balance

Revenues	
Federal grants	63,381
State grants	21,639
Charges for services	28,822
Interest and rents	74
Other revenue	<u>413</u>
Total Revenues	114,329
Expenditures	
Administrative operations	17,416
Central/Winona Grant	63,381
Blueberry Virus Survey Grant	1,300
Emerald Ash Borer Grant	8,591
Forest Commodity Pest Survey	11,748
Cost of charges for service	<u>19,472</u>
Total Expenditures	121,908
Excess of Revenues	-7,579
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>69,517</u>
Fund Balance, end of year	<u><u>61,938</u></u>



Stewards of Bete Grise Preserve (SBGP)

SBGP hosted their Second Annual Picnic during August 2010. It was a perfect day to enjoy with friends and good food at a pristine area preserved in perpetuity.



During December 2010, SBGP held a successful letter writing fundraiser for Bete Grise Preserve improvements.



Hills Creek Stamp Sand Stabilization Project

In 2010 HKCD was awarded a \$415,000 grant project for Hills Creek, a Lake Superior tributary, through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This project will apply innovative approaches to address excess copper concentrations in Hills Creek and to stabilize stamp sand deposits in the watershed. Six local land owners will benefit from this project. This grant was obtained through a competitive proposal process and partners including Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Michigan Technological University (MTU), Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE), local professionals and volunteers, contributed to the proposal effort and are responsible for certain project tasks. Most of the grant funds will be awarded to a local contractor through a competitive bidding process to perform the actual stamp sand stabilization work once engineering plans are developed. Expected project results are a reduction in copper concentrations and stamp sand erosion, restoration of vegetation in barren areas and an improved fishery.

Pilgrim River Watershed Management Grant

The Pilgrim River, a coastal tributary of Lake Superior emptying into the Portage, is a highly regarded cold-water trout stream. It is located just south of the population center of Houghton and as such is more vulnerable to land subdivision and development. In recent years a consortium of interested land owners and groups including Keweenaw Land Trust, Copper Country Trout Unlimited, Copper Country Audubon, City of Houghton, Nara Nature Park, Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Trails Club, Houghton County, Portage Township, DNR, DEQ, HKCD and many others began meeting to find ways to work collaboratively to protect the Pilgrim River and its watershed. To support this grass roots desire to protect the Pilgrim River, HKCD organized and applied for a Watershed Management Grant through the Coastal Management Program administered through the DEQ and funded by NOAA. In January 2011, HKCD was notified that the State of Michigan had recommended this watershed management project to NOAA for funding and are awaiting final approval. Similar to the Eagle River Watershed Management Plan, the Pilgrim River Watershed Plan will establish a comprehensive body of information including land use, topography, geology, roads, trails and crossings, water quality, habitats, wetlands, fisheries, wildlife, etc., and will engage the public to develop a plan for utilizing and protecting this valuable watershed. The approved Pilgrim River Watershed Management Plan will also qualify local units of government for additional grant funding opportunities. Many partners collaborated on the \$102,000 proposal for the Pilgrim River Watershed Management Plan and will also be contributing to the 50% match requirement (\$51,000 grant: \$51,000 mostly in kind match) once this grant is formally awarded by NOAA later this year.



Copper Country Trout Unlimited volunteers working to improve fish habitat on the Pilgrim River during the summer of 2010