



# Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District Celebrates its 58th Annual Meeting January 19, 2010

The Annual Meeting was held in the newly remodeled Community Room of the MTU Lakeshore Center in Houghton. All five Directors were present: Chairperson Gina Nicholas, Tom Collins, Mark Klomp, Sandra Palmore and Gary Palosaari.

Chairperson Nicholas opened the meeting with a warm welcome to over forty attendees and turned the meeting over to Administrator Sue Haralson for announcements and presentations.

First, Sue explained the election process for the three Board Members up for election: Tom Collins, Mark Klomp and Gary Palosaari. Volunteers Marsha Klein and Joanne Hannula conducted the election process. All three candidates were unanimously elected.

## 2009 in Review

Sue reviewed key events during 2009. HKCD started 2009 with a Michigan Department of Agriculture Operations Grant of \$11,605. This was cut to \$9,579 mid-year and zeroed out for 2010. A number of Conservation Districts closed their doors due to the lack of funding. HKCD continues to operate due to successful tree sales and grant funding for projects such as Central, Winona, Cliff and Bete Grise Management Grant.

## Bete Grise Management Grant Project completed

As part of HKCD's second management grant for the Bete Grise Preserve, a botany trail with 11 informational signs was designed. A new sign was built and installed at the slough landing and Stewards of Bete Grise Preserve (SBGP) was formed. Board of Directors are: Tom Collins, Chuck Brumleve, Anita Campbell, Sue Haralson, Brian Carlson, Pauline Johnson, Evan McDonald and Jim Sweeting.

SBGP sponsored its First Annual Picnic with over 60 participants and Drummers from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

## SBGP First Annual Picnic—August 23, 2009



For more information on HKCD and SBGP activities contact the HKCD Office at 906-482-0214 or e-mail: [sue.haralson@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:sue.haralson@mi.nacdnet.net)



Volunteers Kim Outinen and Nick Wilson help a customer

**Thank you to our 245 Tree Sale Customers  
and Valuable Volunteers**

## HKCD Grant History 2002-2009

**MDA Operations Grants = \$109,184**

**HKCD Federal and State Grants = \$2,470,702**

**For every \$1,000 of State support, HKCD has brought \$22,629 to Houghton and Keweenaw Counties**



# Central Mine Sites 1 and 2 Stamp Sand Stabilization Projects Completed in 2009



During 2007, HKCD was awarded \$808,714 for the Stamp Sand Stabilization Project at Central and Winona Mines. The Winona Stabilization Project was completed in 2008. During 2009 HKCD completed Central Mine Sites #1 and #2 and was awarded an additional \$394,000 Grant for the 2010 Cliff Mine Site Stream Restoration Project from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), now known as Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

## Summary of Problems in the Eagle River Watershed (ERW)

Beginning in the 1840's copper mines including the Central, Cliff and Phoenix/St. Clair mines discharged stamp sands directly in the East and West Branches of the Eagle River, forming deposits up to 6 feet thick.

A century and a half of water and wind erosion has transported stamp sands throughout the ERW, forming major deposit where the stream gradient is low enough for deposition.

These deposits have smothered in-stream habitat features and resulted in the East and West Branches being designated on Michigan's 303(d) list for poor fish and macroinvertebrate communities and elevated water column copper concentrations that exceed Michigan water quality standards.

## Summary of Restoration Improvements At Central 1 and 2

At Central 1 the East Branch of the Eagle River was modified to flow into a new "natural" channel of 684 lineal feet. At Central 2 the river was routed back into a historic channel of 1,601 lineal feet. The project also:

- Regraded existing stamp sand deposits
- Placed 6" cover material: seed, fertilizer and mulch
- Utilized riprap lining in selected areas
- Installed fencing and gates

Rob Aho was the Project Engineer and MJO Contracting, Inc. did the construction work.



Central Mine Site 1

Before



After

"Director's Team Award"  
Given to the MDEQ  
"Stamp Sand" Team  
for 2009  
For their work on  
Central 1 & 2

Chad Kotke, Joe Rathbun,  
Ralph Reznick,  
John Suppnick, Bill Taft,  
Lindsey Ringuette and  
George Pelkola

NRCS and MDEQ  
Project Team Members  
taking soil borings at Central 1.  
Pictured at right are:

Todd Larson, Rob Aho,  
Nick Wilson, Joe Rathbun,  
Dwight Jerome and Chad Kotke



Photos Courtesy of Gina Nicholas