

Next Generation “Strengthening Our Niche” Work-Group Meeting Notes of March 1, 2010

Present

Will Andresen, Tom Bergman, Annette Burchell, Sam Davey, Jeff Ebsch, Scott Erickson, Melanie Fullman, John Garske, Charlene Jordan, Kim Mattson, Morgan Grasso, Gemma Lamb, Lily Palmer, Christine Rector, Gayla Salmi, Charlie Supercynski, Dick Swanson, Anna Tingstad

Background and Purpose

Will Andresen gave a short background on the Next Generation Initiative and the purpose and goals of the Strengthening Our Niche work-group to the new members in attendance. He also announced that the next “big group” gathering will be held on March 15, Room B-21 at GCC.

Heritage Tourism

Christine Rector from Northern Initiatives explained a new “Rural Community Development Initiative” grant that will assist Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties related to a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan. Proposed work-items include community collaboration, mapping of assets, baseline survey, branding, web-development, radio advertising customer service work-shops and a social media campaign.

One facet of the project will be similar to the heritage tourism project this work-group is pursuing. All parties agreed to work together on this effort.

Charlie Supercynski presented a list of 23 sites throughout the two-county area for the proposed “Gogebic-Iron Heritage Trail”.

Gemma Lambe presented a history of Ironwood, along with three possible tours (historic tour, mining tour and park tour).

Trail Mapping Sub-Committee Report

Annette Burchell stated that they will be presenting the proposed regional trail map and resolution to the city of Ironwood Parks and Recreation committee that night.

Melanie Fullman said that she and John Garske and Annette met with Bob Avery from the Gogebic Range Trail Authority and Gordy Koski the recreation officer with the Gogebic County Sheriff’s Department. She explained that they were very supportive of the two trail system proposal. There was a good discussion of options and ideas that will help the group as it moves forward.

The proposed map and resolution will be presented before the Gogebic County Board for their review and approval in March.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, April 5th, 12:00 Noon, Board Room of the Iron County Courthouse