Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Projects

By Alice Karsama

On a warm August day, I visited Jesse Luttenton, Grant writer and Tribal Planner for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. We met to discuss several major projects being undertaken by the tribe with the $5.5 million in grant monies she has recently obtained.

The projects are part of a tribal initiative to strengthen economic development and improve community services. They include a water and sewer project, a sewer extension project, establishing a Tribal conservation district, integrating resource management planning, community and day-care facilities, child care programming, and an expanded diabetes program. Additionally, high school youth have constructed a three-bedroom family home, through a building trades program, and hope to build two more this year.

Part of the initiative involves coordinating with the villages of L’Anse and Baraga, located on opposite sides of Keweenaw Bay. Grant funds, and a low interest loan, were obtained by the Tribe and villages to augment the water and sewer projects. Sewer and water services will be jointly owned through established Authorities between the Tribe and the villages.

At the time of our meeting, projects were held up pending legal agreements. Funding agencies often require legal agreements for projects, such as the water and sewer project to be undertaken jointly by the tribe and villages. Jesse’s advice regarding legal agreements is (1) you can never start too early, (2) the history of a project is important and means a lot to its development, and (3) be consistent with names and terms.

Although Luttenton has been at her job five years (and loves it,) January marked the official start for the tribe’s Office of Planning and Development. It combines the departments of real estate, economic development, planning and funding. The Office of Planning and Development makes recommendations to the Tribal Council; the Council then decides what is in the best interests of the community.

Infrastructure development is five years out in terms of planning. “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. That’s my motto,” says Luttenton. She is willing to share information with other tribes about planning and funding. They can call her office: (906) 353-6623, voice extension 4205; or e-mail her at jlutten@up.net.

“Relationships are what I’m all about,” Jesse says. “They’re as important as the funds.” Developing relationships with community partners and funding agencies is crucial. “If they can put a face with your name, they’ll pay more attention to your proposals and applications. Networking can be as important as the quality of your proposals. If you don’t all work together,” she says, “it just won’t happen.” Read Jesse’s article on page 3.
Greetings... from the TTAP

This issue of Pathways highlights development initiatives at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Baraga, Michigan, with an article graciously offered by KBIC Grant Writer and Tribal Planner, Jesse Luttenon. She is very professional and competent; in keeping with glowing reports from other tribal members. But, she won't accept credit, saying, "I didn't do anything. The community did it all."

Our recent program manager, Robert Gagnon, has taken a new position in Marquette, Michigan. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors, and are happy that he can now spend more time with his family. Thanks for everything, Robert. Contact TTAP for the new TTAP Manager job posting.

This issue of Pathways also contains information on upcoming training and technical resources. There are a lot of interesting events coming up, so check the events calendar. Also, watch for announcements by fax from our office. If you would like to be on our fax notice list, please give us a call. We hope you benefit from the information offered here, and enjoy the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Alice Karsama, Editor

Visit our Internet Home Page at: http://www.ttap.mtu.edu

Pathways

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KBIC Infrastructure Projects for Summer 2001

By Jesse Luttenton, KBIC grant writer

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will have two infrastructure projects during the Summer months of 2001 - one on each side of L'Anse Bay. Extension of the Village of Baraga sewer and water service will be made to include the Ojibway Industrial Park on M-38.

Through a cooperative effort of the Village of Baraga, the Wastewater Authority Board, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, grant funds were awarded to the Tribe from the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), and from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration (RDA). The grant funds support the efforts of the three organizations to provide infrastructure improvements to serve approximately 139 acres of the 367-acre industrial park owned by the Tribe. When successfully completed in late 2001, the Ojibway Industrial Park will be a more viable location for business and industry to locate within Baraga County. Improved infrastructure will not only provide water for operation, but for fire protection as well. Sewer and water access is generally a requirement sought by larger employers seeking to locate industry or manufacturing businesses. The Ojibway Industrial Park is an integral part of Keweenaw Bay's plans for economic development and diversification.

The project will expand Baraga sewer lines up M-38 to Industrial Park Road, and north within the Industrial Park to Guy Road. The sewer lines will then continue east along Guy Road to Beartown Road, and then south back to M-38. A lift station will assist water lines to provide service within the Ojibway Industrial Park, the focus of the project. In total, the $1,085,000 project will provide 2,500 feet of water main, a lift station and 9,200 feet of sewer line. A majority of the funding was received in grant monies from the EDA as a Public Works grant (to the tribe) in the amount of $759,000. The remaining $326,000 was loan funds to the Village from the RDA's Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program that will be issued as bonds through the Village of Baraga. Baraga Village Manager, Tom Chatel, was supportive and instrumental in working with the Tribal Grant Writer to access the funding. The project director for this initiative will be Arlan Frisival, Tribal Maintenance Department.

A second infrastructure project was also funded through USDA, and represents a collaborative effort between the Village of L'Anse, L'Anse Township, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. This project involves a sewer extension from the Village of L’Anse system along Brewery Road and Vuk Road in L’Anse Township. This project will assist a minimum of fourteen Tribal families with failed or failing septic systems living on Tribal trust lands in this area. Improved sewer service will also allow for development and additional home sites for Tribal members in this area. The $414,000 project is funded with $393,000 in grant funds from Tribal set aside funding specifically for infrastructure improvements in residential areas of the Reservation. The remaining $21,000 was in matching funds, committed by the Tribal Council in Resolution. Indian Health Service engineers assisted the Planning and Development staff in the preparation of this grant application. Jeff Swartz, Construction Project Manager for the Tribe, will be the contact for this project.

Meanwhile, the Planning and Development staff is busy with Indian Health Services, Rural Development, and the Economic Development Administration in the planning process for future infrastructure improvements on the Reservation. The planning process includes long range plans to complete sewer and water development that is both residential and industry/business related. Addressing infrastructure needs is important to the future development of the Community, and provides lasting improvements for generations to come.

Below: KBIC's Industrial Park is currently home to six businesses, but hopes to attract many more through federal, tribal (and hopefully state) business incentives.
The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) Annual Board of Directors' Meeting & EXPO will be hosted by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida October 22 through October 25, 2001 at the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center, Miami, FL. Travel days for the meeting are October 21 and October 26.

Forms
The following forms are available on the USET internet website: http://www.usetin.org/october2001/index.html
- Participant Registration Form
- 2001 EXPO Brochure
  (includes EXPO Space Contract)
- Crafter's Form
- Audio / Visual Request Form

Board of Directors' Meeting
The Board of Directors will meet Monday, October 22 through Thursday, October 24.

Committee Meetings
The USET Committees are tentatively scheduled to meet Monday, October 22 through Wednesday, October 24. Additional time is available Thursday, October 25 if needed.


USET EXPO 2001
The Annual USET EXPO “Unity, Vitality, Prosperity” will be held October 23-24 in The Dome at the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center. This year’s EXPO will contain a variety of vendors, including medical, industrial and technological fields. The EXPO will open Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. and everyone is encouraged to attend. A reception will follow at 5:00 P.M. It will continue Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. with a luncheon hosted in the EXPO area from 12:00 - 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Site/Hotel Accommodations
All USET Meetings will be held at the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center. Rooms have been reserved at the Miccosukee Resort at a rate of $60.00 per night plus 8.75% tax and a porterage charge of $3.00 per person. Please call (877) 242-6464 by October 5 and reference “USET” to receive the group rate.

Additional rooms are reserved at the Inter-Continental Miami Airport West Hotel. A rate of $139.00 plus 12.5% tax will be available for the nights of October 22-24, 2001. The Hotel is six (6) miles from the Miami International Airport and ten (10) miles from the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center. Please call (305) 468-1400 and ask for Reservations to reserve your room. The block will be held until October 15.

Shuttle Service and Rental Cars
The Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center will offer complimentary shuttle service from/to the Miami International Airport on an hourly basis. The van (white with black lettering) will be available at the 2nd level (Departure Level) of the airport.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car is available on-site at the Miccosukee Resort. Call (305) 388-4747 to reserve your vehicle prior to arrival (make sure you mention that you are a guest at the Resort). If you rent through Enterprise on-site, it will be necessary to ride the shuttle from the airport to the Resort. Upon arrival at the Resort, your vehicle will be available.

Pre-Registration & Onsite Registration
A pre-registration fee has been set at $75.00 p/person for those registering by October 8, 2001. Thereafter, registration will be $90.00 p/person payable on site.

Return your registration form to the USET Office with check or purchase order by October 8, 2001. Participants can sign-in and pick up meeting materials beginning Sunday afternoon, October 21, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. (tentative). Registration will be held Monday and Tuesday beginning at 8:00 A.M.

Board and Committee Agendas
A draft agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting and each Committee Meeting will be available at the USET website by October 12, 2001. Periodic updates will be reflected until the meeting date. Feel free to access the site at www.useitin.org at your convenience.

Tribal Crafters
Tribal crafters are encouraged to purchase booths to sell their Indian-made arts, crafts, jewelry, clothing, etc. To reserve a booth, return the appropriate form along with payment of $100.00 to the USET Office by October 8, 2001. Booths will be displayed Monday through Thursday.

Special Events
Social functions and/or special events are being considered by the Miccosukee Tribe. Complete details will be provided when available.

Special Note
A boxing event will be held Friday, October 19, 7:00 P.M. at the Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center. This event is not considered part of the USET function, but USET urges anyone traveling to the area to consider arriving early to attend the event. Tickets are available from the Miccosukee Resort for $15.00 to $50.00. At this time, the contenders have not been confirmed. You may call (305) 222-4600, ext. 4648 to purchase tickets.

For more information call Wanda Janes, Tribal Liaison Officer at (615) 872-7900 or email: wjanes@bellsouth.net.
Highway Technician Certification Program

By Alice Karsama

Keith H. Lundin, Director of the Highway Technician Certification Program at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, visited Michigan Technological University on July 3, 2001 to speak about his program.

The Wisconsin certification program conducts training in contractor and state labs, where instructors teach Federal Highway Administration Specifications to the students. Regular training courses are conducted in Milwaukee, Superior, Rhinelander and Green Bay. New manuals are printed in two year intervals, with re-certification testing offered every three years.

"We’re certifying comprehensive skills," said Lundin, adding that “all projects use qualified personnel.” The certification program is funded on user fees of $150 per attendee. Students can be re-certified every three years at their highest level, by passing a test on FHWA specifications.

Most states recognize his program’s certification, according to Lundin, but students completing the training program can retest in other states to become certified there, as well. To do so, students completing the training course and certification for the State of Wisconsin should contact the Secretary of Transportation of each state DOT to arrange for that state’s certification test.

Although there is a move to establish a national certification program, Lundin expects it will be a long time before that option becomes available. Until then, his advice to students is: "Sign up for the Wisconsin program, take the Wisconsin test, and then retest in the state where you desire to be certified."

For more information, please contact:
Highway Technician Certification 
University of Wisconsin
Phone: 600-342-1545
Internet: www.uwplatt.edu/~htcp

BIA/Tribal Transportation Regional Meetings

By Bernard Akire, TTAP Director

The Wisconsin BIA/Tribal Transportation Meeting was held May 22-23, 2001 at the Potawatomi Indian Springs Lodge and Convention Center in Wabeno, Wisconsin. Many items of interest to tribes were presented, including the annual report of the Ashland Agency’s transportation activities for bridge, road, and maintenance programs in the state of Wisconsin.

Other speakers presented items of interest, including a report by Bruce Danforth on the state of the NEG/REG process and the prospect of hearings before adoption of any of the regulations. The time and place of these hearings are to be determined and publicized well in advance of the meetings.

A presentation on the FHWA program by Mr. Phil Barnes, and on WIDOT’s Pedestrian Policy Plan and Rustic Roads Program, by John Swissler and Dennis Leong, had many points of interest to the tribal members. A discussion of public involvement in the transportation process was presented by Barb Underwood and Beth Foy.

Mr. Stuart Many, of the BIA’s Minneapolis Region Office, presented a very interesting P.L. 93-638 Construction Contracting process, relating it to a money tree, and demonstrating how tribes can maximize their benefits and limit their liabilities as ’638 contractors.

Other presentations related to GIS and Pavement Management Systems were given to round out the activities.

There was a lot of information presented at the meeting, and tribal members had ample opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss common concerns.

Thanks to the Ashland Agency staff for their planning, coordination, and conduct of the meeting.

Another, similar BIA/Tribal Transportation Regional Meeting was also held on June 12-13, 2001 at the Hannahville Indian Community in Harris, Michigan. For more information, contact Cheryl Bigboy by phone at 715/682-2709, or email her at CherylBigboy@bia.gov

FHWA’s First Native American Program Coordinator

Timothy R. Penney is the new Native American program coordinator in the FHWA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mr. Penney a civil engineer and an enrolled tribal member of the Red Cliff band of Lake Superior Chippewa. As the agency’s first Native American program coordinator, Penney will be the agency’s liaison between the FHWA, tribal governments, and state Departments of Transportation, working with individuals and groups on transportation related tribal issues and legislation.

"Tim will continue our efforts to build more effective working relationships with Native American tribal governments and help provide increased opportunities for Native Americans to participate in transportation programs," U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater said. "We were looking for someone with strong leadership ability and a background in issues facing Native American tribes," said FHWA Administrator Kenneth R. Wykle. "In Tim Penney we have someone who will represent the interests of the Native American tribes, transportation and the Federal Highway Administration."

Penney has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University. He was previously a technology facilitation engineer in FHWA’S Office of Safety Research & Development in McLean, Va., and has also been a civil rights program manager in California. Penney has been with FHWA for 12 years.

He can be reached at: (202) 366-2698

Adapted from DOT New Release 102/01- See DOT Web Site: www.dot.gov/briefing.htm
KBIC Youth Attend Safety Conference

By Alice Pouttu Karsama

This summer, High School students from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) in Baraga, Michigan attended the National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS) Conference in Hollywood, California. Their attendance was made possible by assistance from their tribe, the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) and TTAP. The conference was entitled, “Youth Changing the World One Voice at a Time.”

The student group was comprised of six High School Seniors and 3 underclass students, who attended individual and general group sessions. The conference had a profound effect on the students, especially the videos entitled “Wrecked,” and “Life and Death on the Road.” These featured interviews with accident survivors recounting their personal experiences and the tragic impacts upon their lives. Both films dealt with the problem of drinking and driving, and helped the students understand more about traffic crashes and the physics involved. Many of the young people featured in the videos were at the conference as speakers, which left a lasting impression on those who attended. The conference included a two-hour appearance by entertainer, Jay Cooper, of Black Entertainment Television (BET.)

Attendees were given a selection of materials designed for youth to “make NOYS” and make a positive difference after returning to their own communities. Materials included project organizers, bookbags, and clearly developed action notebooks entitled, “Shattered Dreams - A Guide for Program Planners.”

The students plan to conduct a presentation to the Tribal Council about the conference, and a safety presentation for the local high school. They also would like to host a dance, to provide activities for kids to attend as an alternative to drinking (with free admittance to arrivals wearing seat belts.) They also intend to produce a national video about the conference in order to share their newfound wisdom with kids nationwide.

We are pleased to have helped this fine group of students attend the safety conference, and wish them success in their efforts to make a difference in their home communities. I know they will create more awareness and understanding among those who are touched by their influence and unbridled enthusiasm.

(Tune in to FM 105.7 to listen to KBIC’s new radio station.)

Among those who attended the safety conference are (below): Amber Houston (chaparone), Brigette Lapointe, Amanda Shanahan, and Linda Roth. Other attendees were Catherine Ekdahl, Ty Curtis, Deanna Hadden, Amanda Irwin, Paul Pouttu, Terri Curtis, and chaperone Charles Loonsfoot, Jr. (a/k/a “Dad”.)
Shoulder Rumble Strips
By Robert Gagnon, TTAP Manager

We have all experienced them: driving late at night, nearing the end of the journey, you are drowsy but are suddenly jerked back to full consciousness by the loud vibration of your tires on the shoulder rumble strips. You correct the course of your vehicle and return to the center of the lane.

You have just benefited from the safety effect of continuous shoulder rumble strips (CSRS.) Perhaps without the warning, in your drowsy state, you might have veered off the road and crashed.

A new report from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides results from investigating the safety benefit from continuous rumble strips on the shoulders of freeways. The data, from both rural and urban freeways in California and Illinois, indicate that the average safety effect of CSRS is estimated to be an 18% reduction in single vehicle run-off-the-road accidents.

Further, the study estimated that one single vehicle run-off-the-road accident (at a cost of approximately $62,200 in damage to life and property) could be prevented every three years for an investment of only $217 per kilometer of installed, rolled-in CSRS.

This is a large return in public safety for a small investment. Non-freeway roads, such as two-lane rural roads, have been recommended for further study.

To obtain a copy of the Summary Report on continuous shoulder rumble strips on freeways, call TTAP at 888-230-0688.

New Publications from the TTAP Library

__(CD) "Gravel Roads - Maintenance & Design Manual"
__(CD) GIS Safety Analysis Tools 2.0
(Comes with TechBrief, next below)
__(Report) GIS Tools for Improving Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety
(FHWA-RD-00-153)
__(Report) Using GIS in the Analysis of Truck Crashes
(FHWA-RD-99-119)
__(Report) GIS-Based Crash Referencing and Analysis System
(FHWA-RD-99-081)
__(Brochure) Walkable Communities is much more than just sidewalks- Common Characteristics of Pedestrian Friendly Communities
(FHWA-SA-00-010)
__(Booklet) The Hole Story - Facts and Fallacies of Potholes (APWA)
__(Booklet) SAFER Manual - Safety Evaluation for Roadways
(UW, Madison)

Events Calendar

October 21-25, 2001
MIAMI, FL
Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center
United Southern & Eastern Tribes (USET) Annual Meeting & EXPO
"Unity, Vitality, Prosperity"
(And Transportation Subcommittee Meeting)
For more information go to Internet site: http://www.usetinc.org/

October 24-26, 2001
GULF BREEZE, FL
Bay Beach Inn (850-932-22144)
Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails
Multi-Use Case Study
Florida T2 Center/FDOT/NPS
Contact: Chris Ritch 352-392-2371, ext. 223
Register Online at Internet site:
http://t2.ce.ufl.edu

October 30 - November 1, 2001
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
4th Annual National Tribal Road Conference
Hotel Reservations: 800-333-3333
Call 800-262-7623 or go to Internet site:
http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/TTAP

November 1-10, 2001
NASHVILLE, TN
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Project Management Institute (PMI)
Seminars & Symposium
"First to the Future"
Call PMI at 610-356-4600 or
Go to Internet site: http://www.pmi.org

November 16-18, 2001
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
Albuquerque Convention Center
AISES 23rd Annual National Conference & Career Fair
Conference Registration: (303) 530-0205
Exhibit Booth Sales: (303) 772-7062
AISES Internet site: http://www.aises.org
The 4th Annual
National Tribal Road Conference
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Albuquerque, NM
Hotel Reservations: (800) 333-3333
Identify yourself with the
Tribal Road Conference to get our rate!

October 30—November 1, 2001