



Heart of the Continent Partnership

Working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border

Meeting Summary—Duluth, Minnesota

February 7, 2013: Clyde Iron Works

February 8, 2013: Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center

Participants *(attended one or more segments)*

Tom Albright, Office of Senator Al Franken; Tjaard Breeuwer, Clara Butikofer, Municipality of Neebing; John C Cameron, Thunder Bay Tourism; Paul Danicic, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness; Cheryl Erickson, Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership; Doug Franchot, Voyageurs National Park Association; Jim Gaylord; Judy Gibbs, City of Duluth; Chris Goepfert, National Parks Conservation Association; Lynda Horman, Ontario Parks; Andy Hubley, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Frank Jewell, St. Louis County; Wyatt Gruben; Jerritt Johnson, ; Dawne Kilgour, Municipality of Neebing; Ian Kimmer, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness; Gord Knowles, Atikokan Economic Development Corporation; Holly Larson, National Park Service/Rivers & Trails; Kurt Lysne, Voyageurs National Park Association; Corey Mattke, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness; Riki McMannus, Upper Midwest Film; Judy Ness, Superior National Forest; Ardy Nurmi-Wilberg, Club Mesabi; Derrick Passe, Kawishiwi Waterhshed; Lisa Radosevich-Craig, Superior National Forest; Kristina Reichenbach, Superior National Forest; Ann Schwaller, Superior National Forest; Sandy Skrien, Superior National Forest; Mary Somnis, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board; Shawn Stigsell; Chris Stromberg ,Quetico Provincial Park and Friends of Quetico Provincial Park; Liz Taylor; Eric Vikes

Summary:

The winter 2013 meeting was held in Duluth, February 7 & 8: Thursday at Clyde Iron Works and Friday at Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center. More than thirty leaders from both sides of the border got together to hear, share and discuss new ideas. The meeting was designed to both hear new ideas and allow time to discuss in both small and large group. We also conducted a little business, and approved a new member for the steering committee: Ardy Nurmi-Wilberg. Welcome Ardy, and thanks for this commitment of time and energy. As always, the new connections made both in sessions and between sessions were one of the key results of the meeting, as leaders talked informally about what they're up to and how to work together.

Presenters:

- Riki McMannus, Upper Minnesota Film Office, presented on the impact of your community being chosen as Hollywood film location. She works to get Minnesota sites chosen and is looking for ideas of good film locations. The economic impact is large: 40% of the money spent on a movie is spent in the location. The large group broke out into smaller working groups to identify specific locations in the region

and ideas for their potential film uses. These lists were given to Ricki to be included for presentation to film location scouts.

- Gord Knowles, Atikokan Economic Development Corporation, presented on the emerging Familiarization Tour that the Atikokan Quetico team is organizing. They are looking for partners to build a circle tour around the Heart of the Continent region to educate folks on the wonderful assets of the area—we often tend to know our own local assets and not those of our close neighbors. Contact Gord to get involved.
- Hansi Johnson, *International Mountain Biking Association*, wowed the group with slides and stories of mountain biking trails and their potential for positive impact on communities and regions.
- John Giessler, Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, gave a forest tour of their lands which are collaboratively managed by Minnesota Power, St. Louis County and the University of Minnesota as working forests as well as educational and recreational uses.

Breakouts:

We also met in working groups to advance our two current initiatives: the HOCP/National Geographic Geotourism Initiative and Connecting Volunteers in the Heart of the Continent.

Next HOCP Meetings:

May 2–3, 2013; Thunder Bay, Ontario

October 3–4, 2013; Camp Menogyn (Minnesota, on the Gunflint Trail)

February 2014; Voyageurs National Park