



Heart of the Continent Partnership

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

Heart of the Continent Partnership News Release

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For Immediate Release

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HEART OF THE CONTINENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

*Connecting Communities and Public Lands:
New Ideas, New Tools, New Insights*

Heart of the Continent Partnership General Meeting February 24-25, 2011 – Eveleth, Minnesota

The Heart of the Continent Partnership's February 2011 meeting will provide local community leaders and public land managers with the opportunity to discuss 'what more can we do as public lands & communities working together?'

Thursday Evening Session: Sharing ideas and tools for helping communities & public lands connect. *Feb 24, 2011, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Iron Range Resources Conference Room; 4261 Hwy 53 S Eveleth, MN 55734*

Friday Session: Discovering usable, big picture insights to more effectively address local issues of communities and public lands connecting in ways that benefit the economics and social needs of local communities. *Feb 25, 2011, 8:30 am -3:00 pm. Iron Range Resources Conference Room; 4261 Hwy 53 S Eveleth, MN 55734*

As always, the personal and working connections we make with new and old colleagues from around the region continues to be an important and lasting benefit of our Heart of the Continent meetings. We look forward to a good turnout, and seeing you there.

1. Detailed Agenda

Thursday, February 24, 2011

Presentation and discussion: Sharing ideas and tools for connecting communities and public lands. *6:30 pm- 8:30 pm; Location: Iron Range Resources Conference Room*

Panel presentations followed by dialogue addressing the questions: How do the local community economies and public lands connect? What are the possibilities and efforts you're involved with --or would like to see-- that connect gateway community economies

to public lands in a win/win situation?

Presenters

1. What exists currently: Jim Sanders of the Superior National Forest
2. Resources available for communities: Mary Somnis, Iron Range Resources; Holly Larson, Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service; and Andy Hubley, Arrowhead Regional Development Council.
3. Ideas for future projects and new, collaborative efforts that might be ripe for development: Robin Reilly of Quetico Provincial Park.

Discussion

Sharing ideas in both small and large groups on, “How can communities & public lands take that next step - working together to benefit the economies and social needs of the communities while using neighboring public lands in a sustainable fashion?”

This evening will provide the chance to gain insight to your neighbouring public lands and address your local issues in new ways—and work with new partners to do so. The panel and resulting discussion is also designed to help community leaders begin to consider developing a team and participating in the International Community Congress (Oct 24-27, 2011 in Grand Portage and Thunder Bay). The discussion will also spark ideas for projects that teams can develop at the Community Congress--specifically, projects that will connect local communities and public lands.

Friday, February 25th, 2011

General Meeting: Uncovering usable, big picture insights to more effectively address local issues. 8:30 am -3:00 pm. Location: Iron Range Resources Conference Room

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome and Updates

We'll share the latest details on HOCP's International Community Congress, set for October 24-27, 2011. We'll also bring new information and support materials on how to form a community team from your area to attend the Congress.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Guided Workshop

The bulk of the Friday general meeting will include small and large group work, in a workshop guided by the Boreal Forest & Community Resilience Project Team from the University of Minnesota. The primary goal of the workshop is to explore key issues in our local communities and landscapes (primarily public lands), making some connections between social issues, economies and the environment. Reflecting on these "maps," we discuss how to focus efforts to benefit our communities moving forward.

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch on site (*\$15 per person, collected on-site, see registration*)

2. Logistics

Meeting Room: both Thursday and Friday

[Iron Range Resources](#)

Iron Range Resources Conference Room; 4261 Hwy 53 S Eveleth, MN 55734

On Feb 24 or 25, feel free to Iron Range Resources 218-735-3000 for any last minute questions on finding the venue.

Heart of the Continent Partnership General Meeting. February 24-25, 2011. Eveleth, Minnesota

Overnight: Participants are expected to find their own lodging and breakfast. Some nearby towns with hotels include Eveleth, Virginia, Aurora or Hoyt Lakes. Please secure your lodging soon, as there is a hockey tournament at the same time.

Friday Lunch: Box lunches, catered into meeting. \$15.00 per person. If you can, please RSVP on reservation form to help us order the right amount.

Costs: there is **no charge** to attend any of the sessions. Donations to support the work of HOCP are gratefully accepted. Thanks.

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