



Upcoming Events

March 28 - Steering Committee Meeting at Dave and Linda Rulison's home. Call 334-2553 with questions.

March 27 - April 1 Earth Week Activities at Michigan Tech. FOLK will have a booth.

April 3 7:30 PM - Meeting Ottawa Sportsman Club. Joe Maki from the DEQ will give a presentation about the proposed Eagle Project Sulfide Mine.

April 8 1-4 PM - Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation and other groups will host an informal workshop on the permit application. Location to be determined

April 18 1-4 PM and 6-9 PM - DEQ Public Meeting at NMU (location on campus to be determined)

Development Coming to Bond Falls, Victoria Lake, Prickett Lake?

Upper Peninsula Power Company/Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (UPPCO/WPSC) is proposing to sell approximately 7,300 acres of undeveloped land around several hydroelectric impoundments in the UP. This startling news was a subject of conversation at the most recent FOLK Steering Committee Meeting. A newly formed group called UPPAC, Upper Peninsula Public Access Coalition has been formed to address this issue: <http://www.uppac.com/>

Steering Committee members had several questions, like, "Well, it is their land to sell, so what can we do about it?" The answer is somewhat complicated, and gave us all hope that these magnificent wilderness lakes may be saved from development. The whole story is available at the UPPAC web page (see above.)

In a nutshell, a federal agency called FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses and oversees these impoundments, and imposes strict guidelines regarding what development can occur around the lakes. No development can occur within 100' of the shoreline. UPPCO/WPSC proposes to sell land beyond the 100' buffer area, also giving purchasers limited access to the land between their property and the lake. FERC would be

Sulfide Mining – An Update

*Synopsis: The State of Michigan finalized rules on non-metallic mining in Michigan. Kennecott filed a permit application for the Eagle Mine on February 21, 2006. The Michigan DEQ will hold a public hearing at NMU on Tuesday, April 18 from 1-4 PM and 6-9 PM. **A large public turnout is critical at this event.** FOLK will supply updated location information to members prior to this meeting.*

Public hearings were held in Lansing on December 6, 2005. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had top officials on hand to listen to the concerns of citizens regarding the proposed rules for non-metallic mining in Michigan. The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve (<http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org/>) organized a bus trip and accommodations in Lansing for the event. FOLK was represented at this meeting, as well as several other environmental and tribal organizations.

The day of the hearings, a rally was held on the steps of the State Capitol building including Native American chanting and drumming, and speeches. At the end of the rally, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community chair Susan LaFerner conducted a touching water ceremony that mingled Lake Superior water with the ecosystem on the State Capitol grounds.

Following the rally, volunteers spent several hours lobbying state representatives in the nearby building by handing out literature and speaking with the reps or their assistants. The group then marched from the capitol to the building where the hearings were to be held. Speakers needed to pre-register, and were called to the podium by the moderator. A wide variety of views was expressed, nearly all opposed to the mine, and requesting toughening of the rules.

On the return trip the following day, the bus stopped for breakfast at a downstate restaurant, and a large effort was made to transmit pictures of the Capitol Steps rally to the Marquette newspaper. This effort paid off with a sympathetic article appearing in that day's paper.

On February 22, 2006, a coalition meeting was called in Marquette to discuss strategy. There was a large turnout, and FOLK was well represented at this meeting. This meeting was held the day after Kennecott submitted their permit applications. (Continued on back page)



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed. By joining FOLK, you support this goal.

(Please Print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date _____

- ☐ Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
- ☐ Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
- ☐ Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
- ☐ **Check here if you want an acknowledgement**
- ☐ I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. \$ _____
- ☐ Additional Contributions: \$ _____

Total enclosed:

\$ _____

Sulfide Mining (continued)

These applications are available online at: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ogs-land-mining-metallicmining-EagleAppWeb.pdf>

One exciting piece of news presented by Michelle Halley was that the Coaster Brook Trout was recently nominated for endangered species designation. The waters downstream from the mine site are one of the last active spawning grounds for this beautiful fish.

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve (YDWP) chair Cynthia Prior contacted FOLK about the billboard that was present near the Redrocks in L'anse. This sign was identical to the one in Marquette and other sites in the state. She said the YDWP would pay the first month's rent to have the sign installed if FOLK would pay for at least two more months. The steering committee agreed, and also recommended that FOLK's membership be solicited for funds to keep this sign in place during these next few critical months. Donations to keep the sign up should be sent to FOLK at the address listed in this newsletter.

Ideas were suggested for possible action. Among there were:

- Attend the DEQ Public Hearing in Marquette. The more the better... bring your friends and family!
- During the Public Comment period, write a letter to the Governor
- Attend County and Township meetings to encourage elected officials to pass resolutions banning non-metallic (i.e. Uranium) mining in your communities.
- Encourage sympathetic groups to look into this issue and submit their concerns to the Governor
- Send a donation to FOLK for the L'anse billboard.

Some online resources for further reading:

Northwoods Wilderness Recovery:

http://www.northwoodswild.org/pages/pro_sulfidemining.shtml

Save the Wild UP:

<http://www.savethewildup.org>

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve:

<http://www.yellowdogwatershed.org>

The Eagle Alliance:

<http://www.ydeaglescry.com>

Lake Development (continued)

responsible to see that their rules are not violated.

Other land deals have been made on reservoirs similar to these, and in practice the property (Continued on back page owners have seen fit to fell trees to improve their views, develop trails to the lake, and even install docks on the shoreline. FERC oversight has been spotty at best, and over the years, property owners often use the buffer land as their own property.

FOLK urges you to learn more about this situation. The original intent of these impoundments was to provide energy and wilderness lake habitat, not a residential development opportunity. As lakefront property values have soared over the years, the potential income from these proposed sales appears to be too tempting for UPPCO/WPSC to resist.

There are several things you can do. Go to the UPPAC website and sign the online petition. Letters can be sent to FERC, your US Senators and Representatives. The web page has sample wording for these letters. One other thing to do is to plan a boat ride on each of these wonderful wilderness lakes this summer. Get a feel for what is about to be thrown away, and possibly enjoy your last ride on these unspoiled lakes.



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