



### Upcoming Events

**February 20** - 7:00 PM FOLK steering committee meets at Soldans' home.

**March 6, 7, 8** - DEQ public hearings at NMU in the Michigan and Huron Rooms of the University Center regarding the proposed sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains.

### Folk Dues – The Year in Review

The FOLK steering committee has decided to keep individual annual dues at \$10 for 2007. As of December 2006, we are again keeping track of when dues are received, and will print an expiration date on each copy of the newsletter we send. Please check your expiration date for accuracy. If your dues have expired, please consider making your payment using the form on this page, and the enclosed addressed envelope.

The steering committee also decided to provide a partial synopsis of FOLK's activities for 2006 to give you some idea where your dues are going. While *you* might not have time to be involved with many of the local environmental issues, your continued support of a local environmental organization allows *us* to.

The steering committee met from 1-2 hours every month of 2006 except when the weather did not permit. FOLK was also invited to participate in the Huron Creek Watershed Advisory Council, and sent representatives to all eight meetings. We also participated as an alternate on the UPPCO/WPSC Focus Group (see following article,) and participated in numerous public meetings including:

February 22	Marquette Coalition Meeting
March 6	Ottawa Sportsman's Club Kennecott Eagle Project Talk
April 8	NWF/Sierra Public Mtg. Comments Seminar
April 18	NMU DEQ Public Comment
June 24	Tour Eagle Rock & proposed site for the Eagle Mine on the Yellow Dog.
August 7	Ewen Public meeting re: UPPCO/WPSC impound- ments environmental impact statements.

(Continued)

### Michigan DEQ Approves Kennecott Mining Application

*Synopsis: On Tuesday, January 9, 2007 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a proposed decision to approve the mining permit for the sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains. Public hearings are scheduled for March 6, 7, and 8 at NMU in the Michigan and Huron Rooms of the University Center.*

While the story is far from over, a serious setback has just occurred. Throughout the permit application process for the proposed sulfide mine on the Yellow Dog Plains by Kennecott Minerals Co., numerous deficiencies have been pointed out to the Michigan DEQ in a series of public meetings, hearings, letters, faxes, and emails. According to a recent press release, the DEQ itself found 91 separate deficiencies in the permit applications. Despite all that, the DEQ has granted a preliminary approval. The next step in the process is a 3 day series of public hearings in Marquette on March 6, 7, and 8 in the Michigan and Huron Rooms of the University Center at Northern Michigan University.

It would be helpful for all concerned citizens to make their opinions about this issue clear to Governor Granholm as soon as possible. Contact information is:

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
PHONE: (517) 373-3400  
PHONE: (517) 335-7858 - Constituent Services  
FAX: (517) 335-6863

### Solar Power Coming Online

Several high profile solar projects have been making the news lately. After a season of very high petroleum and correspondingly high electricity prices, some pioneers are starting to explore the feasibility of generating part or all of their own power with photo-voltaic (PV) cells.

Google Inc. (the internet search engine company) plans to build a massive PV system to help power its Mountain View, California campus. This system will consist of 9,212 solar panels and cover approximately 4 acres of building roof and carport roof space. This system is designed to have a total (continued)



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10                  | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5     | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (Annual) - \$35                           | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Check here if you want an acknowledgement</b>       |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to contribute to FOLK's Educational Fund. | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contributions:                              | \$ _____ |
| <b>Total enclosed:</b>  | \$ _____ |

### **Solar Power (continued)**

capacity of 1.6 megawatts, or enough electricity to power 1,000 average homes. Current projections indicate that it will produce on average 30% of this site's electrical needs. PV systems such as this one will on some days provide very little power, however, and on others provide a surplus, which will be sold back to the power company. Google believes this investment will pay for itself in 5-10 years.

In a move that surprised many in the environmental movement, Wal-Mart has submitted a confidential "request for proposal" (RFP) document for companies to bid on supplying solar power generating systems to their stores in 5 states. Although details of the RFP are not public, the scope of this project is roughly in the 100 megawatt range, making it about 60 times the size of the Google project. It should be noted that the RFP does not obligate Wal-mart to go ahead with this expenditure.

Richard Branson, the founder of Virgin and Virgin Atlantic Airlines, and Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting both recently announced large investments in renewable energy. Each hopes to help the environment and make some money.

What all this activity will hopefully mean to us is the critical mass of manufacturing will begun to be met, and prices could start to drop on alternative energy components so local generation of power may become feasible for more of us. This could be a good thing, because every ton of carbon dioxide and the related pollutants we keep out of the air means easier breathing for each one of us.

### **The Year in Review (continued)**

August 20, Water tours of three impoundments, Prickett, Bond, and Victoria  
September 16, proposed for development by UPPCO/WPSC  
& October 1

Additionally, FOLK members wrote several letters to the editors of local newspapers, and had articles written about events they attended or sponsored, published several newsletters, changed the hosting company for our web page, and began the process of re-writing the web page.

We feel that your dues of \$10 are a bargain at keeping you involved in the environmental issues in the western UP, and hope you'll consider sending a check for your 2007 support of FOLK in the enclosed addressed envelope. Thanks.

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

Upper Peninsula Power Company/Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (UPPCO/WPSC) has held several public hearings and a cycle of closed sessions to gather input for Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) for the various UP impoundments they plan to develop.

Members of FOLK attended several public hearings in the Western UP, but FOLK was denied a seat on the advisory board to the SMP group. Steering Committee member Ted Soldan was allotted a position as alternate for the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition seat, and was therefore able to attend one meeting. UPPCO/WPSC plans to petition the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) to change the agreement they made regarding the project lands that surround all 3 impoundments. Such changes would, they believe, make the non-project lands they are selling more valuable by giving potential land owners better access to the water including docks. At the meetings, one group was strongly in favor of the proposed development, and supported the changes. The other group felt the agreements should remain in place in order to keep these impoundments in their wilderness state. There seemed to be very little middle ground. As of this writing, UPPCO/WPSC is in the process of developing the Shoreline Management Plans, based on input they received in these meetings.

Residents of Interior Township initiated a citizen petition drive that made the newspapers. Enough signatures were collected to put the rezoning of the land around Bond Falls to a vote of the township citizens. In an unusual move, the township clerk denied the petition. Now citizens from Interior Township are in the process of using the courts to put the rezoning before the voters.

A great deal of information about this situation is available at the UPPAC web site: <http://www.uppac.com/> This group is raising funds for the large legal fees they anticipate as a result of the movement of this process to the court system. If you're interested in donating, information is available at the UPPAC web site.

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