

**Heart of the Continent Partnership
Grand Portage National Monument
Grand Portage, Minnesota
July 30, 2010**

Welcome and Introductions:

Doug Franchot, HOCP Steering Committee Chair, gave an overview of the Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP) and reviewed the HOCP values statements.

Norm Deschampe – Grand Portage Tribal Council, Frank Vecchio – Grand Portage & Cook County Visitors Bureau, Rich Kelley – Quetico Foundation, Lawson Gerdes – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Robin Reilly – Quetico Provincial Park, Doug Franchot – Voyageurs National Park Association, Jim Johnson – Cook County Commissioner, Lisa Rasodevich-Craig – Superior National Forest, Dick Parker – Arrowhead Coalition for Multiple Use, Ann Schwaller – Superior National Forest, Rhonda Silence – Cook County News Herald & Arrowhead Coalition for Multiple Use, Kathleen Przybylski – Voyageurs National Park, Paul Danicic – Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Mark Hummel – Superior National Forest, Brian McLaren – Lakehead University (Thunder Bay), Lois Norrgard – Sierra Club, Tim Cochrane – Grand Portage National Monument, Chris Stromberg – Quetico Provincial Park, Sharon Stephens – Sierra Club, Charles Silence – Arrowhead Coalition for Multiple Use, Lynda Horman – Pigeon River, La Verendrye, and Kekebek Falls Provincial Park, Sarah Crow – University of Minnesota, Holly Larson – Rivers Trails and Conservation Association, Bret Hesla – Heart of the Continent Partnership Coordinator

Design Team Report and Discussion – Lisa Radosevich-Craig and Paul Danicic

Paul Danicic and Lisa Radosevich Craig gave an overview of the plans for the 2011 International Community Congress, and the status of the Design Team, which is planning the event. After the presentation by Lisa and Paul, participants worked in small groups with the task of identifying who from their community should be invited/asked to participate in the *International Community Congress* itself. Each group reported out ideas.

-----Summary of the Progress-----

Building on the experience of International Falls and Voyageurs National Park, a group of four people from HOCP went to the *Balancing Nature and Commerce* workshop to determine if this model would work for the Heart of the Continent gateway communities. The unanimous reply was yes.

The workshop, planned for fall of 2011, has been named the *HOCP International Community Congress*. HOCP will support and host this workshop as a neutral ground where a diverse mix of community leaders and public land managers, from gateway communities around the region, can come together and create local action plans that benefit both the community's economy and the health of the public lands (in keeping with the HOCP concept).

A Design Team has been assembled which will plan, prepare for and host the planned 2011 workshop. Current Design Team members are:

Doug Franchot, Voyageurs National Park Association and Chair of the HOCP	Norman Deschampe, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa	Kathleen Przybylski, Voyageurs National Park
*Lisa Radosevich-Craig, Superior National Forest	Paul Pepe, Thunder Bay Tourism Alliance	Mike Ward, Voyageurs National Park
*Paul Danicic, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Peter Boyle, Historic Fort William	Bob Lindahl Allete-Minnesota Power and Northeast MN Sustainable Development Partnership
Robin Reilly, Quetico Provincial Park	Mark Hummel, Superior National Forest	Sally Nankivell Cook County Tourism
		(*Indicates Design Team Leads)

A few more members may be added to this team.

The *Conservation Fund Leadership Network* hosts the *Balancing Nature and Commerce* workshop and is helping the Design Team plan the workshop.

- October 6, 2010 is the next Design Team Planning session – goals
- identify communities that might participate in the workshop
 - identify speakers for the workshop
 - identify roles Design Team members will play

Presentations

Grand Portage Band (*Norm Deschampe, Tribal Chair*)

Norman gave the group some of the history and current overview of the band, followed by questions.

The band has 1200 band members; two marinas, casino & lodge, and recently purchased a resort that will be renovated

Grand Portage National Monument (GPNM) exists because the land was donated by the tribe. One component of the legislation was to provide employment for tribe members. The maintenance department at GPNM is run by the tribe and all employees are band members. The new High Falls State Park is also operated in this manner.

Science Committee Update (*Brian McLaren, Lakehead University*)

Brian gave a report on the recent activities of the committee, followed by a few questions. The committee has discussed themes by which to evaluate project proposals HOCP might support:

- study of ecological function on the landscape
- study of how people interact in the region: in spiritual, cultural, recreational, economic and ecological ways
- incorporation of education, community outreach, and citizen science
- study that tracks environmental change, social change or economic restructuring
- comparisons of processes or ecosystems in areas where natural disturbances are managed to the same processes or ecosystems in areas where extensive human disturbance occurs, i.e. from extractive industry

Boreal Forest Resilience Project (*Sarah Crow –Program Coordinator*) Sarah presented an update of this research, which is headed up by Peter Reich of the University of Minnesota.

1. primary objective is to promote resilience – a community and ecosystem as a whole responding/reorganizing sustainably
2. Four primary components
 - a. partnerships
 - b. research - slow and fast drivers in the region; ecosystem services
 - c. scenario studies
 - d. adaptive landscape management planning
3. funded by the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment

Rivers & Trails Conservation Association (*Holly Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner*)

RTCA helps communities with projects that will end up with something on the ground like a bike trail or conservation area. Their assistance comes in the form of staff time, providing planning expertise. Mission is to focus on new facilities and new conservation areas. Could perhaps assist with planning for any recreational facilities that the come out of the International Community Congress action plans

HOCP Meeting Plans – 2010

Next general meeting will be in early October, 2010; details to follow.

Standard Meeting Structure

Day 1: Lecture (evening) -

Day 2: Formal Meeting

- Lecture follow-up discussion (w/speaker, if possible)
- HOCP Status
- Activity/Event updates
- other topics