

Energy Efficiency Working Group Summary February 15, 2009

Cook County Community Center – 6-8 PM

Present: Sue Weber, Karen Blackburn, Virginia Danfelt, Randy Roberts, Michael O'Phelan, George Wilkes, Buck Benson, Clarence Chaplin (from RETAP)

Virginia updated the group on the progress of the 12 simple ideas. A letter explaining the program has been mailed to the three hardware stores in the county, the newspapers, PUC and Arrowhead Electric have been updated and Karen will continue to appear on WTIP.

Clarence Chaplin and Guss Krake were in Grand Marais on 2/15 to conduct energy audits on two businesses free of charge by RETAP – a group of retired engineers. Future energy audits will be conducted on the following buildings – as identified by the working group and RETAP: Cook County North Shore Hospital, Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, Community Center, Recycling Center and a school review. Other buildings identified for possible future audits include: the school bus garage, the Cook County Courthouse, the Highway Department, the Grand Marais Public Library, City Hall and churches.

Clarence Chaplin provided a presentation on how RETAP can benefit Cook County. In particular, he highlighted funding sources and identified other projects and other communities that could aid us in our efforts.

Future Projects were discussed. The next major project for the Energy Efficiency working group is the Gunflint Greenup on May 1, 2009 from 1-5. .

Virginia noted that she would like to have the PUC and Arrowhead Electric meet with any interested citizens and each explain their energy conservation mandates and programs.

Other future projects included: working on the power providers to change the way they bill so that consumers can make better choices; work with companies to help identify ways to cut their power use (your job vs. saving energy); provide funding for energy audits; and work with power providers to provide billing information so that consumers can compare their use to their neighbors use.

Next meeting was set for Monday March 16th at 6 pm at the Community Center.