



The former Heartwood Forestland property was purchased by the city of Marquette in 2006. City officials are organizing an ad hoc citizen's advisory committee to help decide future uses for the parcel. (Journal file photo)

## Heartwood decisions in hands of area residents

By **CHRISTOPHER DIEM**  
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MARQUETTE — Future uses of the Heartwood Forestland may be decided by an ad hoc committee made up of Marquette area residents.

The committee will be discussed at the Marquette City Commission meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in commission chambers at city hall.

Mayor John Kivela and Mayor Pro Tem Johnny DePetro have chosen the following people to be on the committee: Wayne Premeau and Natasha Koss will represent the Marquette City Planning Commission; Commissioner Beth Linna will represent the city commission. Other members include Dave Ollila, Bob Cambensy, Lynn Swadley, Don Britton, Walt Anderson and Vern Barber.

There is one spot left open on the committee. That person will represent the interest of non-motorized trail users.

The committee is tasked to establish areas to conserve for

public recreation as well as areas for potential commercial and recreational development. The committee will also develop partnerships for development and maintenance of recreation properties.

The committee will meet periodically in room 103 of city hall. It will report to the city commission with updates from time to time. The committee will have roughly a year to accomplish its goals.

The city's fiscal year 2008-09 budget set aside \$31,000 for the study of Heartwood land. City Manager Judy Akkala said the money was set aside during last year's budget session with the idea of hiring a professional consultant to study the property and come up with a land-use plan.

Instead, the money may be used by the ad hoc committee in the event they need to bring in a specialist or for other uses, Akkala said. If the committee wants to spend any of that money, however, they must get approval from the city

commission first, Akkala said.

The city bought the 2,373-acre property — located in the city of Marquette, Marquette Township and Sands Township — in 2005 for \$5 million from the Forestland Group of Chapel Hill, N.C.

In other action, the city may approve an addendum agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. At its Aug. 25 meeting, the city commission approved by resolution a grant-in-aid agreement with the DNR to obtain grant funding to help pay for a preliminary engineering and master plan study for Presque Isle Marina.

According to city officials, the DNR awarded a \$35,000 matching grant to the city for this purpose and the city's portion of this match has already been set aside.

Monday's addendum would modify the scope of the engineering study by adding the redevelopment of the Presque Isle Marina as a hybrid boating facility.