Area projects get Earth Day grant funding

PETOSKEY — The City of Petoskey and area organizations received a couple of environmental grants this week in connection to Earth Day, which was Monday.

According to a press release from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the local nonprofit will be offering $25,000 to the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities to finance a clean energy policy specialist for the city of Petoskey, who will help local governments tackle clean energy issues.

Meanwhile, the City of Petoskey has also received a $1,400 grant from the new Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy that will go toward...
GRANTS from A1

an annual Bear River Cleanup this summer. The cleanup event, dubbed "Healing the Bear," has occurred annually for what will be 15 years this August, and is organized by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. On Monday, a state press release indicated that the event was one of 14 programs slated to receive funds from Michigan's Volunteer River, Stream, and Creek Cleanup Program. The cleanup grant program began in 1998 and is funded by the sale of the state's water quality protection license plates. Grants are administered by the Great Lakes Commission, under contract with the state. In total, the state parsed out $29,000 in this round of funding.

The funds, specifically, are earmarked for Petoskey's Parks and Recreation Department, but Kendall Klingelsmith, director of the department, said Kate Cwikiel of Tip of the Mitt wrote the grant on behalf of the city.

The Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation also announced their grant the same day. The foundation raises funds through private community donors, which are then spent on community-enhancing projects. The $25,000 included in this grant is one of the first steps in a three-initiative to bring a clean energy policy specialist to Petoskey.

"We want to keep the clean energy conversation at the forefront in Emmet County," Sarah Ford, community and donor engagement officer at the community foundation, said in a press release. "This initiative is built on more than a year of collaborative work with partners throughout northwest Lower Michigan. Alongside Groundwork, SEEDS, the Michigan Environmental Council and numerous local partners, we are building important infrastructure in our communities for long-term, sustainable clean energy successes."

The city and community foundation will work with The Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, a Traverse City-based think tank and advocacy group. Ric Evans, Groundwork's clean energy policy specialist, will serve as the primary project coordinator.

"Through our long-range planning efforts, the mayor and city council have identified transitioning to renewable energy sources as a top priority now and in the near future," said Petoskey City Manager Rob Straebel. "We are excited to be partnering with the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Groundwork Center on efforts to reduce the city's carbon footprint creating a more resilient and sustainable community. This work dovetails nicely with the city's current efforts to increase building energy efficiency, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars, and we will continue taking a leadership role to advance clean energy in Northern Michigan."
ood and steel stabilizing wall at Bayfront Park in alignment project taking place directly above.

G. RANDALL GOSS/NEWS-REVIEW

Green pasture along Resort Pike Road near Petoskey, winter in a much more stark environment.

G. RANDALL GOSS/NEWS-REVIEW