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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES CLEAN ENERGY GRANT

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Menominee, MI – The M&M Area Community Foundation (MMACF) has established an ad hoc Energy Team to implement and manage an energy education and conservation initiative in Marinette and Menominee Counties.

The C.S. Mott Foundation has selected MMACF to receive funding and organizational support to engage and encourage the transition of the two-county area into “clean energy communities.” MMACF is one of only four foundations in Michigan to receive this prestigious grant.

MMACF board member John Lee will lead the Energy Team and oversee an action plan to assist area communities utilize and produce clean energy more effectively, bolster business and civic participation, conserve and reduce domestic energy costs, and encourage clean energy education and job growth.

The Clean Energy Grant is part of a commitment of support from the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Council of Michigan Foundations to strengthen community foundation leadership capacity and target actions that strengthen the economic and social viability of regional communities.

“This is a new direction for MMACF,” said Board Chairperson Barb Peterson. “Community foundations are their best when they provide flexible leadership in the areas important to the local community. I know John and his team will provide the leadership we are looking for.”

MMACF staff and Energy Team members are communicating with Marinette and Menominee County school districts, assessing their current energy use, and developing individual strategies aimed at reducing overall energy costs and putting in place practical energy conservation curriculum and practices.

“The Energy Team believes schools are a good place to start. They are at the center of community interest and are preparing our children for the future. That future must include a better use of renewable energy and sound energy conservation practices,” stated John Lee.

The Mott Foundation commended MMACF on the strength of its application and particularly its strategies for community participation, resource utilization, and benchmark assessment.

“I want to thank Mott and our Board of Directors for their leadership,” said Paula Gruszynski, MMACF Executive Director. “We have a strong team and knowledgeable people on this committee. They have put together a sound action plan, created an energy initiative page on our website, and intend to get both area producers and consumers of energy focused on what we can do to become actively engaged in our energy future.”

Team members include: John Lee, MMACF Board member; Jenny Short, WPS Community Relations Leader; Bill Jones, community representative; Cheryl Detrick, Newcap Executive Director; Dave Meyer, Stephenson National Bank & Trust Senior Vice President; Stan Gruszynski, community representative; North Shetter, former MMACF Board President; Heather Huebner, Attorney with Wolfe and Coggins Law; and Roberta Davis, Marketing Consultant.