

Here is the latest news on the Vision Project from our Club President, Walt Toepfer as of 12-22-2020:

VISION PROJECT – Exciting things continue to happen!

As stated in the previous newsletter, **we are now entering the DNR's PHASE 500 – FINAL DESIGN. THIS IS HUGE and a MAJOR MILESTONE!** This is the final design and preparation of the bidding documents. Architectural and Engineering details will be finalized during this PHASE. Current plans are to hold a 90% completion meeting in early 2021, followed closely by requests for bids. **The plan is to begin construction in the Spring and finish it by late Fall, 2021.** Of course, the plan may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances, such as COVID, just as it has been in the past.

The range was closed Nov 18 & 19 to allow **Stantec** to do a “habitat study” looking for endangered species. They completed their work on the 18th. I have not heard any results from this study.

On 5Dec20, I received a lot of material from Lori which Joanna & I reviewed. It's basically finalizing the exterior and interior details (everything from the roof, siding, windows, doors, lighting, flooring, ceiling, plumbing fixtures, to the floor mop sink).

On 7Dec20, I emailed several pages of our suggestions to Lori. Joanna followed up with a phone call to Lori; that lasted two hours. Everything was positive, no negatives, regarding our suggestions. She is going to present our suggestions to the other team members (DNR) but wants us to know that she may have limitations on what she can change. All in all, it was a good phone call and Lori is excited about this project and working with/for us.

One of our suggestions relates to the fact that this area is part of Michigan's famous “Copper Country”. Copper has been mined

here from approximately 1844 through 1996. The local population is proud of their mining heritage. As our objective is to attract people to this facility, why not blend in some local heritage where we can? We're suggesting that items like the roof, windows, exterior doors, door knobs, faucets, table/counter tops, etc, be copper-colored where feasible/practical. Maybe a few, small "Copper Country" related displays as well. We feel this would not only attract more people, but contribute in a small way to preserve the heritage. Outside visitors will ask questions and then learn about some of this heritage as well. Lori is in favor of this as well and will promote it to the other DNR decision makers to the extent possible.