High efficiency lighting was installed on Washington/Lay Avenue from Evergreen Street to Genesee Street as part of Iron River's street light improvement project. Members of the Iron River City Council, Downtown Development and GEI Consultants reviewed the lighting project, which was near completion on May 30. Attending were, from left, DDA Chairman Jim Gibula, DDA member Jim Quayle, GEI engineer Craig Richardson, Iron River Mayor Terry Tarsi, volunteer City Manager John Archocosky, Councilman Ed Marcell and DDA members Roger Zanon and Ron Basso.

IRON RIVER—Life is looking brighter on Washington Avenue.

A lot brighter and much more efficient, due to a grant awarded the city by the Michigan Strategic Fund/Michigan Energy Office in the amount of $31,680 for replacement of 22 existing aged, inefficient high-pressure sodium streetlight fixtures and poles.

The street lights were replaced with new LED fixtures and poles as part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program funding.

By switching to the LED fixtures, the resulting gains in energy efficiency will lead to reduced electrical energy consumption and reduced carbon emissions.

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Iron River worked closely with the city's Downtown Development Authority and the Upper Peninsula Power Company to implement the project, noted City Manager John Archocosky.

Additionally, UPPCO agreed to donate the removal of the existing poles and light pole bases, all of which will be recycled.

The lighting upgrade work is taking place simultaneously with the streetscape project that is funded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan Department of Transportation Streetscape Enhancement Program. The lighting has been designed to complement this streetscape project.

Each new fixture uses at least 250 fewer kilowatt hours annually versus the previous high-pressure sodium lamps, resulting in a total energy savings of 5,590 kWh per year, or 35 percent.

The corresponding carbon dioxide emissions will fall by nearly 12,700 pounds based on the drop in electric consumption, said Craig Richardson, project engineer from GEI Consultants.

the project is being completed in three phases.

Phase I was completed last fall by Westphal's Inc. of Iron River, which included provisions for connecting the new electrical conduit to the existing pole bases.

Phase II was recently completed, which was the procurement of the new LED light fixtures and new steel light poles from Wittock Supply of Iron Mountain.

The third and final phase is under way, which is the installation of the wire, LED fixtures and new poles. Hurley Electric of Crystal Falls is handling this phase.

It is anticipated the project will be completed this week.