

This is the sixty-ninth edition of what is a "twice-monthly or so" News You Can Use newsletter for participants in one of the Initiative Foundation's Planning and Preservation programs. This newsletter is sent to everyone that has provided an e-mail at one of our Conservation-based training events. If you wish to be removed or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Don Hickman ([dhickman@ifound.org](mailto:dhickman@ifound.org)) or Leah Posterick ([lposterick@ifound.org](mailto:lposterick@ifound.org)). The goal of this publication is to share funding opportunities, new resources, and pending hearing or training events of common interest.

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**News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #69**

**October 27, 2006**

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### **New Initiative Quarterly (IQ) Magazine features success stories in water resource management**

By now most readers of this newsletter have received their autumn copy of IQ Magazine, "*True Blue: Preserving Our Greatest Gift.*" Published in collaboration with the nonprofit Minnesota Waters, this special issue has been distributed to over 25,000 citizens statewide. The entire issue is available for download on our website ([www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org)). If you wish to reproduce any portion of the magazine please contact [ahollenhorst@ifound.org](mailto:ahollenhorst@ifound.org) with your specific request.

We have also received many requests for additional copies of the magazine from communities wishing to distribute them in bulk. At this time we don't have the budget to support this type of distribution, although if we receive enough requests of this type we may seek funding to reprint the issue for continued distribution. For now, a limited number of copies are available for \$4 (delivery) or \$3 (pick up). Contact Anita Hollenhorst at [ahollenhorst@ifound.org](mailto:ahollenhorst@ifound.org) to request additional copies.

Speaking of our website, you may notice that this News You Can Use for Conservation newsletter is now also published on-line; just click on [www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org), then "natural resources," and "news and notes." Please encourage other members of your community or organization to use this resource to promote events and opportunities throughout our region!

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[Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation](http://www.smifoundation.org) is pleased to host their **Fall 2006 Minnesota ABCD Summit** with John L. McKnight, Co-Director of ABCD Institute, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, on the theme: "Mobilizing Assets to Create Hospitable Communities"

*Wednesday, November 8, 2006, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Owatonna, MN*

Join us for all day, or part of the day (same fee). Registration is required because space is limited to 150, so register early! CEU's are available. Cost is \$25 per person (includes lunch, all sessions and materials). Special pricing is available to teams of 5 - \$100 per team. Partial scholarships are available to qualifying communities under 1,000. To register, e-mail [abcd@smifoundation.org](mailto:abcd@smifoundation.org), call 507-455-3215 or [print registration form](#) and fax it (507-455-2098) or mail it to: SMIF, PO Box 695, Owatonna, MN 55060

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## **Green by Design Conference: How to plan and build healthy, sustainable affordable housing and communities in greater Minnesota**

Three regional conferences presented by the Minnesota Green Communities, Family Housing Fund, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, and Enterprise.

November 20 - Brainerd  
November 21 - Mankato  
November 28 - Grand Rapids

Please join Minnesota green Communities for a day-long training on state-of-the-art green building practices for developers, builders, architects, policy makers, and funders working in greater Minnesota. The training will focus on how to create affordable, healthy, energy efficient homes in sustainable communities, highlighting the unique opportunities and challenges of green building in greater Minnesota. Topics of special emphasis include increasing local energy self-reliance, healthy homes, protecting local water quality, sustainable development planning and natural resource preservation.

Don't miss this day of engaging sessions by local and national experts and keynote remarks by nationally-renowned speakers. In Brainerd and Mankato hear from author James Howard Kunstler, whose latest book, "*The Long Emergency*" demonstrates the challenges posed by the coming permanent global oil crisis, climate change, and other "converging catastrophes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." In Grand Rapids, Will Steger, polar explorer and educator of the Will Steger Foundation and Global Warming 101 will share stunning photographs and evidence of the deterioration in the polar ice caps, and his thoughts on how people and communities can make a difference through environmentally smart choices.

A detailed conference agenda and online registration is available at:  
[www.greencommunitiesonline.org/Minnesota](http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/Minnesota)

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### **"Facilitating a Great Meeting" workshop with speaker and author, Dr. John Eller**

*Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9a.m. to 4 p.m.* at the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. Cost: \$75 includes lunch and materials.

Helping groups work collaboratively can be a daunting task. As facilitator, you play a key role in making (or breaking) the meeting. You can make a meeting productive, engaging and positive. Or you can contribute to turmoil and frustrating outcomes.

In this interactive session, Dr. John Eller, author of "Effective Group Facilitation in Education, will provide you with the tools and techniques needed to tame even the most difficult groups. With real-life scenarios and practical advice, you will be prepared to efficiently lead group discussion and achieve desired results.

What you will learn:

- Assessing groups and planning for sessions
- Use of language tools to keep on-track
- Dealing with difficult groups
- Visual facilitation techniques to move toward decisions
- Matching facilitator strengths to group needs
- Self-protection as a facilitator

Who should attend: Anyone charged with leading meetings, including community leaders, business leaders, non-profits leaders, team leaders, service-club leaders, board members, managers, project coordinators and school administrators.

For more information, [click here](#) (register by downloading the registration form from our website). Registration deadline is November 14. For more information contact Karl Samp at (877) 623-9255 or [grants@ifound.org](mailto:grants@ifound.org).

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### **Is there a Water and/or Wastewater System in Your Future?**

You are invited to take part in information training sessions designed to help your community prepare for upcoming or recently completed water and/or wastewater projects. Presented by the Minnesota Rural Water Association in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and USDA Rural Development.

These training sessions feature two three-hour sessions offered on consecutive days, and include: “Technological Options You May Consider,” “How to Hire a Design Consultant or Engineer,” “Sources of Funding and Technical Assistance,” and “Budgeting and Setting Rates.” The first session of the year will be held next Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in Eveleth; *the only sessions scheduled within central Minnesota will be in Mora on January 9, 6-9 p.m., and January 10, 9 a.m.-noon.* For the complete schedule or to register for this or other training opportunities visit [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) or call (800) 367-6792.

After completing appropriate training, some rural low-income communities may qualify for small grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development which are administered by the Initiative Foundation. To learn more about this opportunity contact Don Hickman at [dhickman@ifound.org](mailto:dhickman@ifound.org) or (218) 631-2043.

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### **New Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently released a draft guide to help communities, watershed organizations, and local, state, tribal and federal environmental agencies to develop and implement watershed plans to meet water quality standards and protect water resources. The *Handbook for Developing Water Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters* offers practical tips and a robust framework to help any and all local or regional watershed planning efforts. The Handbook should be particularly useful to those working to improve and restore impaired or threatened waters. EPA intends for the Handbook to supplement the many good watershed planning guides developed by other agencies, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

You can order a free paper copy of the Handbook from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications by contacting NSCEP at (800) 490-9198 or by e-mail at [ncepimal@one.net](mailto:ncepimal@one.net), and request EPA document number EPA-841-B-05-005. You may also download a PDF version of the Handbook for free at [www.epa.gov/nps/watershed\\_handbook](http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook).

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