

This is the eighty-fifth 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.

Please note that this newsletter is also now regularly posted on our website ([www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org)) on the Natural Resources page, under "news and notes."

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**News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #86**

**March 14, 2008**

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**Minnesota Waters Presents at Shallow Lakes Forum V  
March 27-28, 2008: Fergus Falls, MN**

The Shallow Lakes Forum is a collaboration of public and private interest groups concerned about the current status and management of shallow waters in Minnesota. The Forum was forged in 2003 by a group of interested stakeholders. Minnesota Waters staff will provide a presentation on *Citizen Roles for Protecting and Improving Shallow Lakes*. To learn more or to register for the Forum, visit [www.shallowlakes.info](http://www.shallowlakes.info) or call 507-389-5492.

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**Spring Dynamic Farmers' Market Conference -- The Roots for Success**

The Minnesota Farmers' Market Association is trying something new in 2008—one spring conference, one location, one day. Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 28**, and come to Maple Grove for a day filled with learning, sharing and networking. We are very excited about the agenda for the conference. There will be plenty of time for us all to exchange ideas and brainstorm on challenges, and we will even provide the exercises to get the ball rolling. Also, incorporated into the conference will be a brief MFMA annual meeting. The registration form/detailed information on the MFMA spring are posted on the MFMA's website ([www.mfma.org](http://www.mfma.org)).

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**Government Training Services - Workshop Registration now open**

Government Training Services, an organization that offers workshops for staff and appointed officials from all levels of government, is offering a new workshop series -- *Working Nature into Land Use Decisions*. These educational workshops will share information on trends, tools, and processes that help local units of government balance development and open space conservation.

The next session is a half-day (\$60) on Thursday, **March 27th** in St. Paul called "Resolving the Funding Dilemma." "This workshop is designed for local officials who want to learn how to understand the benefits and costs of open space conservation in relation to development plus

learn how to construct an effective approach to finance land conservation including local referendums, grant programs, and working with developers and landowners."

Registration is now open, go to <http://www.mngts.org/LandUse/LandUse2008.html>

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### **Volunteer Stream and Lake Monitors Invited to Workshop**

Volunteer citizen lake and stream monitors, those interested in becoming volunteer monitors, lake association members and others interested in surface water quality issues are invited to a workshop on **Monday, March 31**, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Pine City, Pokegama Lake Association Building 12965 Lake Line Rd.

For information, contact: Valerie Prax, Regional Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension, 320-225-5054 or [malmq002@umn.edu](mailto:malmq002@umn.edu).

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### **Interested in renewable energy?**

The Southwest Initiative Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Commerce invite you to attend a meeting entitled *The Path to Community Wind*. Prior to the start of the Dispersed Generation study and at other key points in the process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) is statutorily required to hold meetings in each of the five greater Minnesota transmission planning zones. A portion of this meeting will satisfy the requirement for a meeting mid-way through the first phase of this study. The remainder of the meeting is devoted to providing information about a statewide assistance program for rural wind energy development.

Agenda items include:

- Mike Bull, Assistant Director of the Minnesota Office of Energy Security will provide an update on the first phase of the Statewide Study for Dispersed Generation Potential, an overview of our clean energy activities to date (both state and regional) and an update on what is happening related to clean energy legislation at the Capitol.
- The Southwest Initiative Foundation has been selected to manage and implement a statewide assistance program for rural wind energy development that was established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2007. The program is designed to provide assistance to rural entities seeking to develop wind energy electric generation projects. Scott Marquardt and Cheryl Glaeser will provide an overview of this program and how it will help build the path for more community wind projects.

Meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as follows:

**Wednesday, April 9 – Civic Center – St. Cloud, MN**

**Friday, April 18 – Public Library – Grand Rapids, MN**

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## **University of Minnesota Student Interns available**

The Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a summer grant program. The grant will allow rural communities to hire a University of Minnesota student to work on a project defined by those communities. **Proposals are due March 30<sup>th</sup>**, approved projects will run from May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Winning communities will review job applications and select the student who best meets their needs. For details on how to apply see the attachment or apply on line (preferred):

<http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/ApplicationProcess.php>

Eligible organizations include community groups, organizations, and local governments in Greater Minnesota. Many different types of projects can be funded, but current priority is projects related to economic development.

What is CAP?

The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) provides applied research assistance to community-based groups outside the Twin Cities Metro Area. The research and technical needs of community organizations are matched with the support of talented students. The idea is simple: get the resources of a great University working with communities to address the significant issues facing the people of Minnesota. CAP projects typically place students in a community defined and directed part time research assistantship for one semester or over the summer. Students are selected by and report to the community organization. Throughout the project students are supported by a community supervisor, faculty and community mentors.

**Complete a CURA Community-Based Research Programs Application Form** for each research project you would like assistance with. Use the attached application form, or complete our online application form at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/curaappform.html>

**Submit applications via U.S. mail, e-mail, or fax to:** Community-Based Research Programs, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 330 HHH Center, 301—19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455, E-mail: [curacbr@tc.umn.edu](mailto:curacbr@tc.umn.edu), Fax: 612-626-0273

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## **1000 Friends of Minnesota offers new “Community Growth Options” program**

1000 Friends of Minnesota and their University of Minnesota partners, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, are now accepting applications from interested communities for Community Growth Options (CGO). CGO is a multi-year project funded by the McKnight Foundation and designed to deliver to small, fast-growing communities financial and other assistance for community planning, ordinance development, and implementation.

In 2008 ten communities will be selected to participate in this six-year project. Each of the ten communities will be awarded a grant in Year One of up to \$40,000 and up to \$24,000 in Year Two for the purpose of establishing a long-term framework for community planning, zoning and

implementation. Communities that are working toward desired project outcomes are eligible for financial support over the six years of the project, totaling up to \$100,000. Communities will be expected to contribute a portion of their own planning costs in an amount which will increase incrementally over the six-year period. Financial support from CGO will decrease each year until Year Six when the community is expected to pay the full cost of their planning and implementation.

The ten selected communities will also have access to a comprehensive array of communications, educational, technology and University resources at no additional cost to support and enhance their planning and implementation efforts.

### **Basic Eligibility Requirements**

To be considered for the project, the community must meet the following basic criteria:

- Geographic location – In this phase of the project we are accepting applications from communities located in the following counties: **Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Anoka, Scott, Carver, Sherburne, Wright, Isanti, Chisago, and Goodhue.**
- Community type – Cities and townships are eligible to apply. We are not able to accept applications from counties at this time.
- Population – Only communities with a 2006 estimated population greater than 600 and less than 12,000 are eligible to apply. Please follow this link if you are not sure if you fit this criteria: [http://www.demography.state.mn.us/documents/MCDEST2000\\_2006.csv](http://www.demography.state.mn.us/documents/MCDEST2000_2006.csv)

For more information visit: <http://www.1000fom.org/CommunityGrowthOptions.htm>

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**Build Smart Summit, Focusing on central MN counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena.**

#### ***When and Where:***

- Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, & Thursday, May 1, 2008
- Madden's on Gull Lake, Brainerd MN.

#### ***Who Should Attend:***

County, City and Township board and staff members; Municipality Administrators; Municipal Planners & Zoning departments; Local Policy makers, local elected officials; Developers, Builders, Contractors; Architects, Engineers; Lenders; Appraisers; Real Estate Brokers & Sales Persons; Interested general public

Architects, Engineers and other professionals who could benefit from Professional Development Hours (PDH's) or Continuing Educational Units (CEU's) will be given a Continuing Education Certificate upon request. Thursday, May 1, 2008: 7 hours of approved continuing education course instruction from the Department of Commerce for Realtor credit and the Department of Labor for contractor credit **pending.**

**Why Attend:**

Day 1: Discover Opportunities to Build Conservation Designed Communities.

Community Development is changing at a rapid pace. Speakers will discuss why conservation development is needed, why it benefits communities and how local units of government can implement conservation design strategies. The presentation will include case studies and issues effecting water quality, downtown and residential development.

Day 2: Gain insight on how to apply conservation designed concepts to specific projects.

With energy costs rising, consumers are seeking energy-efficient designs, materials and methods in construction of their homes and businesses. Learn more about the latest techniques for high performance design and construction, find out more about sustainable, “green” building and energy efficient design. Review local commercial low impact development project challenges and successes.

Presenters:

Nationally recognized lecturers: Randall Arendt, Patrick O’Malley, and Ed VonThoma.

State known and respected speakers: Dr. John Gulliver (University of Minnesota), Don Burger (MN Pollution Control Agency), Local expert presenters: Dann Siems (Beltrami Soil & Water Conservation District), Tim Ramerth (Westwood Engineering), Janelle Riley (Syvantis Technologies/Fairview Office Park), Phil Hunsicker (1000 Friends of Minnesota).

This summit is being offered for \$89.00 registration fee for both days (includes morning break and lunch) register online at [www.regionfive.org](http://www.regionfive.org) or call (218) 894-3233 to request mailed registration forms. **Register by April 15<sup>th</sup> to reserve your space.**

Contact Maddens on Gull Lake at (800) 247-1040 for lodging rates and reservations (lodging not included in registration fee).

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The March-April issue of *Audubon* magazine offers this sage advice for disposing of outdated or unwanted pharmaceuticals:

Whatever you do, skip the toilet. That's the new advice from federal government on how dispose of your old medicine. It recommends tossing your unused grape cough syrup and smooched pain meds in with your freshly scooped cat litter (or coffee grinds if you are kitty-free and don't compost), then sealing the bag and giving it a good martini shake before putting it in the garbage can. Flushing (medicine) down the toilet is the worst thing you can do. Most of the compounds are not removed by wastewater treatment," explains Dana Kolpin, a U.S. Geological Service hydrologist. In recent years Kolpin has identified about 50 pharmaceuticals in U.S. streams and groundwater. While impacts from human exposure to this potpourri is under investigation, it's known that dissolved birth control pills in Colorado's Boulder Creek a tributary of the South Platt River, have caused fish to change gender.

Of course, if you are on a septic system this is even more critical; septic would provide virtually no removal or treatment of medications.

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**DNR's Metro Greenways Program announces new Community Conservation Assistance grant program to help local governments with Green Infrastructure.**

Green Infrastructure is a way of planning for and implementing conservation and development projects that adopts a 'bigger picture' systemic and proactive approach. It helps communities visualize remaining natural areas as an interconnected green network rather than as patches of open space isolated by development. In this context, DNR's new Community Conservation Assistance program is especially interested in supporting efforts by local units of government that seek to resolve the challenges associated with the conservation of remaining natural habitats in the face of projected increases in population, households, and impervious surfaces.

Eligible applicants for the grant program include cities, townships, and counties, soil/water conservation districts, and watershed districts/management organizations in the 12-county region (7-county metro core and Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Wright, and Goodhue counties).

For further information on evaluation criteria, examples of fundable projects, and the application/budget forms, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/index.html>.

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**Historical Preservation Projects Funded**

<http://www.1772foundation.org/1772/index.jsp>

The mission of the 1772 Foundation is to preserve and enhance American historical entities for future generations to enjoy, with particular interest in farming, industrial development, transportation, and unusual historical buildings. The Foundation provides support for restoration projects throughout the United States. Examples of funded projects include endangered properties funds, mill restorations, historic farmsteads, restoration carpentry and crafts schools, and greenways that link historic sites. Successful grant applications should demonstrate positive community impact, multiple partners, and a solid financial and management structure. Letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time. Visit the website listed above for online application information.

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**US Potato Board & School Nutrition Foundation Co-Sponsor School Wellness Grants**

The US Potato Board, representing US potato growers, and the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) are co-sponsoring the first-ever School Wellness Grant program. Ten grants of \$2,500 will be awarded for one of the following: purchasing foodservice equipment for the healthful preparation of fresh or processed potatoes; physical activity equipment; or development or execution of nutrition or physical activity educational programs.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must apply on behalf of a public elementary school.
- The school must participate in the national School Lunch Week.
- Applicant must either be a member of SNA for a minimum of one year, or an SNA member must sponsor the applicant. (Visit the SNA website at: [www.schoolnutrition.org/index.aspx?id=1111](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/index.aspx?id=1111) to find a member in your state through the SNA state affiliate.

Grant applications are due April 15, 2008. Winners will be announced at the 2008 Nutrition Association Annual Conference. If you have questions regarding the grant or if you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact the Foundation Coordinator at 800-877-8822 ext 104.

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### Funds for Conservation Efforts ([www.wallacegenetic.org](http://www.wallacegenetic.org))

The Wallace Genetic Foundation is committed to funding a variety of interests including agricultural research, preservation of farmland, ecology, conservation, and sustainable development. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than the exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Applications may be submitted at any time. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines.

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### Free Climate and Energy Assistance for Minnesota Communities

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/retap>

Minnesota communities are faced with significant issues related to climate change and energy. The Minnesota Climate Change Corps (CCC) is a new program, started in November 2007, comprising skilled, retired professionals who work on either long or short-term assignments to help reduce a community's carbon footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide released into the environment). The CCC, an initiative of the Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP), is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. City and county governments are the Corps' priorities for assistance.

Examples of assistance are:

- Identifying opportunities for carbon reductions
- Recommending cost-saving measures and projects with high returns on investment
- Assessing energy conservation options
- Developing community outreach strategies
- Energy audits
- Starting and strengthening a climate change action plan
- Reducing use of and reliance on fossil fuels

- Advising on energy-saving technologies and practices

The CCC will customize its assistance to meet your needs, and coordinates closely with RETAP's technical specialists. For more information contact Jim Jacques, Corps Coordinator, at [jimjacques@comcast.net](mailto:jimjacques@comcast.net) or 612/747-6023. For more information on RETAP contact