

Workshops & Conferences

Green Jobs in Minnesota: What does it mean for my community?

Thursday, December 17th, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Rd, Suite 105, Baxter

Over the past year many economic forecasters have declared that “green jobs” are a growth sector as our nation seeks to produce more renewable energy, conserve the energy we have, and otherwise lessen our impact on the environment while saving money. What is the reality of this prediction here in Minnesota? What industries are hiring now, and what skills do they require? Is continued optimism warranted?

Joan B. Danielson is the Central MN Regional Administrator for the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development and will share what DEED is seeing in terms of job creation and retention, and also what opportunities and barriers she sees in her crystal ball. She is also likely to be joined by other peers working in the field of Green Economic Development to share their interpretations of our dynamic economic climate.

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN), now in its seventh season, offers people in the environmental field and the community timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme Greening the Economy gives us insight into the jobs, skills and opportunities that the green jobs direction offers. BAELN events are held most third Thursdays of the month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and include an hour-long presentation with time for questions, networking and refreshments. The events are free and all are invited to participate.

BAELN is a collaborative effort of the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Minnesota, Central Lakes College, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Waters, The Nature Conservancy, community member and University of Minnesota Extension. If you would like to be on the BAELN email list or for general information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelsen at (218) 316-3887, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.

Upcoming events: 2009-2010 Schedule (subject to change)

Location: MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Rd, Suite 105, Baxter

Times: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

- January 21: Attacking Poverty through Green Jobs (podcast)
- February 18: The Impacts of a Green Workforce on the Economy
- March 25 (fourth Thursday): Deconstruction Reuse = Green Opportunities
- April 15: Putting Green Practices into Action: MN GreenCorps and MN Conservation Corps

- May 20: Greening Transportation - Northstar Rail
- June 17: Training the next generation of green workers (and a few old dogs too)

"Minimal Impact Design Standards--MN Takes the Lead"

December 18, 2009

7:30-9:00 a.m.

St. Cloud City Council Chambers, 400-2nd Street South, St. Cloud, 56301

You don't want to miss this upcoming Mississippi River Forum...learn how MIDS (Minimal Impact Design Standards) will impact us all!! Mark your calendar today! Participants of the Mississippi River Forum kick-off workshop in April heard about how land use is impacting Minnesota's water resources. Consider this an update to that discussion!

Earlier this year, Minnesota updated its approach to managing stormwater by passing legislation that directs the Pollution Control Agency to "develop performance standards, design standards, and other tools" to enable and promote improved stormwater management and better protect Minnesota's water resources. The result is MIDS - Minimal Impact Design Standards.

The MIDS project represents the next generation of stormwater management. It consists of three main elements that address current challenges:

- 1) A higher clean water performance goal for new residential development and residential redevelopment that will provide enhanced protection for Minnesota's water resources;
- 2) new modeling methods and credit calculations that will standardize the use of a range of "innovative" structural and nonstructural stormwater techniques; and
- 3) a credits system and ordinance package that will allow for increased flexibility and a streamlined approach to regulatory programs for developers and communities.

Come hear how the MIDS package will allow communities to adopt effective stormwater standards and techniques, meet regulatory requirements, and help Minnesota reach our clean water goals. Julie Westerlund is co-chair of the Low Impact Development Team of the MN Stormwater Steering Committee, which helped develop the MIDS project.

Light breakfast provided. Free. The Mississippi River Forum is made possible by the generous support of the Mississippi River Fund and the McKnight Foundation.

For more information, contact Lark Weller at 651-290-3030 x304 or lark_weller@nps.gov or visit: www.nps.gov/miss

Save the Date: 6th Annual Small Wind Conference

June 15-16, 2010

9 am – 6 pm

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

A Gathering of Installers, Manufacturers, Dealers, and Distributors.

The 6th annual Small Wind Conference is the premier event for small wind-electric system designers and installers, and for those involved in sales, specification, management, funding, and permitting of small wind systems.

More than 300 small wind professionals and industry representatives from across the United States and

nine countries attended the 2009 conference, a key opportunity for open and honest dialogue, networking and education within the industry.

"This conference is the only conference that I am aware of that addresses the entire gamut of issues pertinent to the small wind community," said Trudy Forsyth, Small Wind Coordinator for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Updates from wind turbine manufacturers and importers
- Test results and updates on new wind turbines and equipment
- Wind-electric system cost and design
- Zoning and permitting processes
- Advancements in resource and site assessments
- Problems encountered in the field and how they were solved
- Input from dealers and installers-what works and what needs work
- Updates on installer and turbine certification as well as new NEC code for small wind

Who should attend?

Wind system installers, site assessors, equipment dealers and distributors, manufacturers, renewable energy program implementers, state funding agencies, educators, zoning officials, policy makers, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Those considering entering the small wind industry are also invited. This conference is not intended for homeowners or end users

For more information on the event, including sponsorship opportunities, visit www.windustry.org or contact: Samantha Smart Merritt, Windustry, 612-870-3474, Samantha@windustry.org.

You can also contact: info@smallwindconference.com or visit www.smallwindconference.com.

Funding Opportunities

Minnesota Waters Conservation Partnership Grants

Deadline: 12/11/09

Minnesota Waters is pleased to offer its members Conservation Partnership grants for the third year in a row. This grant program is funded with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Michelob Golden Draft Light. Conservation Partnership grants offer funding to support projects initiated and managed by our state's most effective local water resource managers-citizen groups working to protect Minnesota's lakes and streams.

Conservation Partnership grants provide funding for citizen-led lake and river improvement projects across the state, including, but not limited to:

- shoreland habitat improvement projects
- shoreland restoration projects
- inventorying and assessment projects
- AIS prevention projects
- outreach and education projects benefitting lake and stream health

The 2009-10 grant application cycle is now OPEN. Please note, due to funding delays, we have a shorter deadline this year. Please download Conservation Partnership grant criteria and application at: www.minnesotawaters.org.

Conservation Partnership grants are available to all Minnesota Waters members and affiliates. Seven \$5,000.00 grants will be awarded. Funded projects will be short-term (12 months) in duration to demonstrate quick, tangible results for implementation during 2010. Please contact Erica LeMoine at erical@minnesotawaters.org with any questions.

Grants Promote Hiking Trail Projects

Deadline: 12/15/09

The National Trails Fund, sponsored by American Hiking Society, provides funding to grassroots nonprofit organizations throughout the country working toward establishing, protecting, and maintaining foot trails in America. The Fund's grants help give local groups the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools and materials to protect America's public trails. The following types of grants will be considered for the 2010 program: projects that have hikers as the primary constituency; projects that secure trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements; projects that will result in substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, or avoidance of environmental damage; and projects that promote the trails constituency. Visit: <http://www.americanhiking.org/Our-Work/National-Trails-Fund/> to download the grant guidelines and submit an online application.

Grants for Environmentally Friendly Projects

Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants Program

Deadline: 12/31/09

Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants Program provides support to schools and community-based organizations throughout the U.S. for environmentally friendly projects. Green Grants of \$2,500 and \$5,000 encourage projects that inspire kids to take care of the environment, be active and live healthier, and engage in community service. Applicants must participate in Worldwide Day of Play (September 26, 2009) or host a Big Green Help environmental project. Public and private elementary and middle schools as well as nonprofit community-based after-school organizations are eligible to apply. Applications from urban and rural/suburban areas as well as small and large community-based organizations serving all ethnicities are encouraged to apply. Visit: <http://bghevent.com/grant/index.htm> for application guidelines and forms.

Funds for Youth Nutrition and Fitness Programs

Deadline 1/15/10

The General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program is a partnership of the General Mills Foundation, the American Dietetic Association Foundation, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness. The goal of the program is to encourage U.S. communities to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people, ages 2-18. In 2010, the program will award 50 grants of \$10,000 each to nonprofit organizations, schools, and government agencies throughout the country that offer innovative programs to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle. Local organizations that work with children, including park districts, health departments, government agencies, Native American tribes, municipal organizations, schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls clubs, etc.,

are encouraged to apply. Visit: <http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx> for more information.

Pilot projects to control Eurasian watermilfoil or curly-leaf pondweed

Deadline: 1/18/10

Program Purpose:

To allow a limited number of well-planned and well-monitored lake-wide (or bay-wide) projects to control curly-leaf pondweed and/or milfoil to go forward in order to learn from them and to potentially achieve some ecological benefits from them. Lake-wide (or bay-wide) treatments are those that attempt to treat all, or almost, all of the target plant in a lake or bay. The purpose of these control projects is to reduce curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil lake-wide in the year of treatment, to provide long-term reduction in curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil in the lake, and to provide ecological benefits to the treated lake. Ecological benefits should include increases in the frequency or abundance of native submersed plants and, in the case of curly-leaf pondweed, may include reductions in levels of phosphorus and algae, which should increase water clarity.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lakewide.html>

The DNR is also offering three types of grants to support the prevention of invasive exotic species, including support for Watercraft Inspection, Public Awareness, and new Sign Grants, each with their own application form. The deadline for these grants is January 18th, 2010. For more information contact Heidi Wolf, Watercraft Inspection Program Coordinator, email: heidi.wolf@state.mn.us, phone: 651-259-5152

Working on Sustainable Agriculture or Community Gardens?

Here are some interesting grant opportunities that you might want to check out:

<http://www.pasafarming.org/resources/grants>.

Things to Know

Statewide Effort to Recycle Christmas Lights

This year there is an opportunity to recycle your non-working holiday lights. The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM: www.recycleminnesota.org) is hoping to collect more than 50,000 pounds as it launches the first major statewide effort to recycle Christmas lights. One of the group's main goals is to promote energy savings and efficiency. It is estimated that recycling copper from Christmas lights uses only about 10 percent of the energy it would take to extract and process copper ore. RAM also hopes to encourage people to consider buying LED lights as part of this effort.

Recycling 50,000 pounds of lights in Minnesota would save about 530,000 kilowatt hours, or about 960,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. That's assuming 20,000 pounds of lights are replaced by LEDs and that homeowners with lights use them for about six hours a day from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Bonnie Finnerty is coordinating the effort at the MPCA. If you and your family or your organization would like to participate, it is recommended that you set up a collection box for your employees or customers. Then, simply bring any of your non-working holiday lights to our Baxter office any time from November 30, 2009 through January 15, 2010. The lights will be collected here and then sent to a

recycler where the lights are removed, the pvc insulation line is shredded and the wire separated for recycling. For an article on RAMs effort, please go to:
<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2009/11/15/xmaslights-recycling/>

Voices for the Lakes Essay Contest Announcement

“Write what should not be forgotten” –Isabelle Allende

Minnesota is the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” It is also the “Land of 10,000 Lake Stories.” Memories of a sunny day’s swim in the cool water, a big “catch” pulled from a little hole in the ice, and a relaxing sunset amplified by the evening call of a nearby loon or a far off wolf are at the heart of most Minnesotans. In today’s fast-paced world, the lakes are a calming reminder of what makes Minnesota special.

As shoreland development trends increasingly move toward bigger homes, more impervious surface from roofs and driveways, more turf grass lawns replacing natural vegetation, and more removal of aquatic vegetation, the wellbeing of Minnesota’s most precious resource is at risk. The lakes need a voice. Their language of water quality, aquatic plant health, and wildlife diversity oftentimes translates to a call for stewardship that is misinterpreted. To preserve our lakes for future generations, we must celebrate our state’s deep-abiding connection with water and creatively articulate that connection that links our past with our future.

In light of the 10-year anniversary of the successful Voices for the Land essay contest, 1000 Friends of Minnesota is giving you the opportunity to be a voice for the lakes that are at the core of a true Minnesotan identity. There are few things more powerful and action-inspiring than citizens speaking from their hearts and sharing their passion for special places. Voices for the Lakes calls for individuals to depict their connection with Minnesota’s greatest natural resource – its lakes. Share your lake story and be the voice our lakes need.

Submissions may be made from November 1, 2009 until February 1, 2010. Winners will be announced on May 3, 2010. Winners will be recognized with their work published on the 1000 Friends of Minnesota website (www.1000fom.org), and in other publications currently being pursued. Winners will also be given the opportunity to participate in readings around the state

For details, please go to the 1000 Friends of Minnesota website at www.1000fom.org.

WAPOA Continues Vigilant Watch for Aquatic Invasive Species

By Martha Davidge, WAPOA

Did you know that even a one inch segment of an invasive aquatic plant transferred from one lake to another could cause a major long-term problem? And in its larval state, an aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels can travel from lake to lake in a single drop of water?

These are just some of the reasons that the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) continues their vigilant efforts to test for, educate people about, and work to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS) from entering or spreading in our local lakes - both those on and off the Whitefish Chain.

For the past several years, WAPOA has hired PLM Lake & Land Management Corporation out of Pequot Lakes to complete studies/surveys at 25 sites on the Whitefish Chain and outlying lakes on the lookout for aquatic invasives. Testing was completed this past summer in June and again in August, and WAPOA recently received the results.

The one new development this year was that curly-leaf pondweed was found at the Trout Lake Access, where it had not been found in surveys done in previous years.

Although the Whitefish Chain has not yet been infested with Eurasian water milfoil or zebra mussels, those invasives are found in waters not far away. The neighboring Ossawinnamakee Chain is fighting Eurasian water milfoil and it has also been found in nearby Kimball Lake and Upper Mission. Zebra mussels have now infested ten Crow Wing County Lakes, as well as Lake Mille Lacs.

Because invasive species spread so easily from lake to lake, WAPOA's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Director Marv Erdman spoke cautiously about the mostly-positive 2009 PLM report.

"WAPOA is extremely pleased that the invasives Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels have not been found in the 25 public accesses, resorts and marinas in the Whitefish area lakes we are currently monitoring." Erdman explained.

"But we know we need to do more. Not only has curly-leaf pondweed (CLPW) been found near the access on Big Trout, but we know it exists in Little Pine, Daggett and is advancing into Rush."
<http://www.northlandpress.com/CLwapoainvasives110309.html>

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact (Don Hickman, dhickman@ifound.org).

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Jolene Howard, jhoward@ifound.org.