

This is the seventieth 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 #70**

**November 28, 2006**

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### **Funding opportunity for Communities working on “Active Living”**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota is inviting sealed proposals from qualified municipal and county government entities to integrate active living principles into their communities. Specifically, this funding opportunity is designed to support these communities in preparing/revising comprehensive development, pedestrian or bicycle plans, and in identifying relevant ordinance subsections for modification in keeping with the new plans.

Applicants will be selected for demonstrating their locally driven commitment to developing community designs with the health of their residents in mind. The overarching aim of this opportunity is to build the long-term capacity of communities throughout Minnesota to promote environments that encourage physical activity.

Blue Cross anticipates awarding approximately 15-25 contracts through this RFP. Each award is subject to contract negotiation. Contracts will range from \$5,000 to \$75,000. Contract amounts will be determined, in part, in consideration of the geographic scope/population size of the applicant. Contract periods will be up to one year.

*Proposals are now being accepted, but must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2007.* For more information about their community funding guidelines visit the [website](#). (This RFP is #523, Active Community Planning version 2.)

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### **DNR Pilot Grant Applications for Control of Aquatic Invasive Species Announced**

Applications for the 2007 DNR grant program for pilot projects for lakewide control of Curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil are now available on the [DNR website](#). This is year two of a pilot grant program funded with appropriations from the legislature in 2005. Last year six lake associations were assisted in their efforts at lakewide control of aquatic invasive species. For more information, contact Wendy Crowell at the DNR at 651-259-5085 or email: [wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us).

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**Save the Date: “Serving in Public Office,” Friday, January 5, 2007**

“Serving in Public Office” is the popular sequel to the workshop “Running for Public Office.” Now that you’ve been elected (or appointed), how do you deliver on your goals while also serving your entire constituency; achieve effective communications while preserving your sanity; what are the secrets to “getting stuff done”?

Watch this space for details on this opportunity to learn from long time regional, state and national public servants. This workshop will be held at the Initiative Foundation’s Little Falls conference room.

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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 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.

A second opportunity for training will be the “**Innovative Approaches to Wastewater Operational Problems**” conference, Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Hosted by the Central States Water Environment Association and the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association in collaboration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, this event is intended to provide cost-effective ideas for improving performance and reducing operating costs. Watch this space for further details and registration information!

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## **Helping Minnesota's Communities Determine Their Energy Future**

Local Energy/Local Opportunities Conference, **January 16-17, St. Cloud**, Minnesota.

Come and learn about successful projects and get connected to the ideas, resources, and expertise you need to bring clean energy to your community. Early registration price now through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

\$31.50 Early Conference Registration--includes \$1.50 carbon offset through Native Energy. (Registration rate will increase to \$41.50 after December 15th.) For more information visit: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/conference-home.html>

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### **Audubon Center of the North Woods: Dinners at the Lake**

*Located just 90 miles from Duluth, Twin Cities and St. Cloud at 54165 Audubon Dr. Sandstone, MN 55072*

**January 20** - "Ending the Oil Addiction-Your Next Car Could Run on Wind Power, and Grassoline" Michael Noble, Director of Fresh Energy.

**February 17** - "A Summer with the Peregrines", Julie O'Connor

**March 17** - "The Wildcat Sanctuary"

**April 14**- "Wolves in our Midst" Peggy Callahan

**May 13** - Mother's Day Brunch-Musicians [Douglas Wood](#) and [Bryan Wood](#)

Reservations Required; Dinner Begins at 6:30 (appetizers at 6:00); Presentations follow. *Call ahead and reserve a spot for your family:* Cost: \$18.00 for adults; children under 12 - \$10.00. Toll free: (888) 404.7743 or (320) 245.2648, email: [audubon1@audubon-center.org](mailto:audubon1@audubon-center.org)

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