

This is the seventy-second 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 #72**

**January 4, 2007**

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### **Grant Writing Workshop**

A valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals. This is a half-day session, **Tuesday, January 9, 2007** from 8:30 a.m. until noon. For additional information visit the [ifound.org events page](http://ifound.org/events).

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### **The American Planning Association's Small Town and Rural Planning Division (STaR) is accepting award nominations for the following categories:**

*Outstanding Small Town and Rural Planner Outstanding Comprehensive Plan or Special Project Plan Outstanding Planning Initiative Outstanding Student Project*

Nominations and supporting materials must be postmarked by **January 12, 2007**. Awards will be given at the 2007 APA Conference in Philadelphia in April. Please direct any questions to Dave Gattis at (817) 249-6005 or [gattis@ci.benbrook.tx.us](mailto:gattis@ci.benbrook.tx.us).

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### **Third “semi-annual” Parks & Trails Networking Seminar**

**Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1-4:30 p.m.**, Initiative Foundation conference room

Please join us to gain the wisdom and experience of four speakers, as well as for the opportunity to compare notes with as many as forty other communities in Central Minnesota working on developing parks or trail networks. For additional information go to the [ifound.org events page](http://ifound.org/events).

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## **DNR Regional Park Grants**

Program purpose: To increase and enhance regional outdoor recreation facilities in areas outside the seven county metropolitan area. For more information go to: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/regional\\_park\\_grants.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/regional_park_grants.html) or contact Local Grants Program, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 10, St. Paul, MN 55155-4010, Fax: (651) 296-6047

This program provides matching grants to public regional park organizations outside the seven county metropolitan area for up to 60% of the cost of acquisition, development and/or a maximum of 60% of the total eligible project costs. Applicants must be able to fund at least 40% of the total project costs. The "local share" can consist of cash or the value of materials, labor and equipment usage by the local sponsor or by donations or any combination thereof. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement can be made. Applicants are eligible to receive more than one grant. Significant progress must be completed on active projects before an additional proposal can be submitted.

To receive an application, please submit an [Application Request Form](#). We recommend that the Application Request Form be submitted no later than January 31, 2007. **The completed application is due on March 31, 2007.**

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BAELN's 2006-2007 Season

*Healthy Communities: What You Can Do* is pleased to offer...

### **Perspectives on Social and Environmental Consequences of Roads: Fresh Thinking for a New Era**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2007**, at the MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter **from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, speaker from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. with refreshments and networking to follow. Thank you to the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the refreshments. Free. All are invited.

*Speaker: John S. Adams, Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota*  
[www.cts.umn.edu](http://www.cts.umn.edu)

It's not your grandparents' Minnesota. We're surrounded by fast-paced change, and have a hard time grasping what's happening and what to do about it as individuals, as communities, as a state, and as a nation. For example, we're building and modifying roads and bridges to meet pressing current needs, but what about the long-term impacts on natural environments?

\* We increasingly separate home and job-and expect the roads to be there to link the two. That's good for us personally-but what are the environmental and other costs?

- \* Weekends at the lake. That's good for city folks, but what about the impact on communities and fragile natural environments bisected by heavy traffic on trunk highways?
- \* Households living seasonally at more than one address - where is home? What does dual residency mean for coherent and inclusive planning and governance? Whose votes count?
- \* In an era of self-centeredness, how can we use our natural environments without using them up?

What about the difference between *spending* (for consumption) and *investing* (to build our asset base) as we work to strengthen communities. Whether we are talking about a family, a community, a region or our state, we often forget to make a distinction between these two uses of our resources. Just as we need to maintain and improve our houses or it will fall down around us, if we fail to strengthen our regional balance sheet, we will assuredly diminish as a region.

As Minnesota's population and economy expand, environmental challenges threaten to erode the very attributes that Minnesotans treasure. We have trouble monitoring trends, clarifying options, and planning for the future. We're confused about the difference between public spending and public investing, and how we can (and must) enhance our region's balance sheet.

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John Adams joined the U of M faculty in 1970, and over the years his research has focused on the American city, regional economic development, intra-urban migration, housing markets, urban transportation and urban development in the USA, and the states of the former Soviet Union. Over the years, he has worked with the applied research and outreach programs of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and in 2000, he was awarded the Fesler-Lambert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs. Currently, he works with the Center for Transportation Studies.

*You may direct your questions concerning this presentation to Michael Duval at (218) 833-8612.*

**BAELN** works to create opportunities for people in the environmental field, and the community, to receive timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme is *Healthy Communities: What you can do*. As we learn what is happening in our communities, what can we do to make a difference?

**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, The Nature Conservancy, Paul Bunyan Trail Association, and the U of MN Extension Service.

*For more information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelson at (218) 855-5001, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.*

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## **Employment Opportunities**

### **STORMWATER Education Position Open:**

The University of Minnesota, Extension Service is seeking a Regional Extension Educator in Water Resource Management and Policy. The educator in this position will assist local governments in urbanized areas to protect and improve water resources through education about stormwater design & management, stormwater practice selection, and land-use decision making at the community and individual level.

The U of MN Extension Stormwater Education Program provides resources and information to cities, communities, Watershed Districts, local government officials, engineers, and planners to help them conduct stormwater education and develop stormwater management policies and standards. Priority audiences will include communities that are experiencing rapid growth or urban redevelopment, developing MS4 non-degradation permits, or formulating TMDL plans related to stormwater. The educator in this position will work closely with partners in state and regional agencies, local governments, and other educational institutions.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; review of applications will begin February 1, 2007. [For a complete announcement...](#)

Application should be made online. [For application instructions...](#)

For more information about the position, contact Renee Pardello, Area Program Leader, 235 Skok Hall, 2003 Upper Buford Circle, St Paul, MN 55108-6146, [pard0017@umn.edu](mailto:pard0017@umn.edu).

### **NEMO Position Open**

The University of Minnesota, Extension Service is seeking a Regional Extension Educator in Water Resource Management and Policy. The educator will work with local governments and communities to assist them in making sound land use decisions using the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program.

The primary purpose of this position is to educate local decision-makers (elected and appointed officials and staff) about how land use planning and policy affects natural resources. This assistance will be provided through non-regulatory, researched-based educational programs that emphasize natural resource-based land use planning. Working in collaboration with organizations, agencies, and an existing network of Northland NEMO partners, this educator will assist cities, counties, and townships that are experiencing rapid growth or re-development, MS4s developing NPDES stormwater permits, and/or communities formulating TMDL implementation plans.

Northland NEMO is a collaborative of organizations in Minnesota and western Wisconsin working together; Northland NEMO is affiliated with the National NEMO Network.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; review of applications will begin February 1, 2007. [For a complete announcement...](#)

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### **Associate Planner**

The City of Breezy Point is accepting applications for the position of Associate Planner. This is a F.T. exempt position which involves development and implementation of land use plans, regulations and policies; to play a role in the development/project review process and related matters, and to assist with ensuring positive and effective enforcement of City policies and ordinances.

Minimum requirements include a four year degree in planning or related field. Three years of demonstrated municipal experience in planning related activities or comparable private sector experience. Preferred qualifications include five years experience with planning and zoning, land development, real estate or similar work and AICP certified. The job requires excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to operate personal computers and proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, and GIS. Requires a Minnesota driver's license. Salary range is \$44,387-\$62,130 with starting compensation commensurate with qualifications.

For an application and position description contact the City of Breezy Point, 8319 County Road 11, Breezy Point, MN, 56472, (218) 562-4441, [www.cityofbreezypointmn.us](http://www.cityofbreezypointmn.us). Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a City application which must be received by no later than 4:00 pm, January 29, 2007

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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 (320) 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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**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Rural Summit, "THRIVING BY DESIGN!"**

**May 10 & 11, 2007, Cragun's Resort – Brainerd, MN**

***Come for a great conference and stay for the fishing opener!***

**REGISTER TODAY and SAVE, "Holiday Season -Year End Special"**

Register online: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=109597>

Join Minnesota's community leaders from around the state to learn how design has figured into our past, present, and future: how in the emerging design economy, design principles can be used to integrate complex economic, demographic, physical and social issues into clear strategies that position communities, regions and our state to thrive well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As Minnesota begins preparation for its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood (May 11, 2008), we'll get a head start with the Summit, which will seek answers to this question:

*After 150 years of statehood, if you could start over from scratch, knowing what we know now and the tools we have, combined with the ingenuity of our people, and facing the global pressures around us, how would you "design" Minnesota today to be economically and environmentally sustainable, to carry on with our high quality of life well in the 21st century?*

**[Detailed Summit Agenda](#)**

**And if you are feeling generous at year-end, please support the ongoing work of Minnesota Rural Partners with [a donation](#).**

For more information on the Summit, and on the other work of MRP, go to [www.minnesotaruralpartners.org](http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org) or call 651-645-9403.