

This is the seventy-eighth 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) or Leah Posterick (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) on the Natural Resources page, under "news and notes."

News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #78

July 3, 2007

Active Living Minnesota Summit - best practices from Minnesota Communities.

Discover the future of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota’s funding to the Active Living Minnesota movement and learn from other communities and colleagues throughout Minnesota. Nationally recognized physical activity and community design expert Mark Fenton will provide both insightful and entertaining perspectives.

Tuesday, July 17, 8:30. – 4:30 at the Oakridge Conference Center, 1 Oakridge Drive, Chaska, MN 55318. No fee but RSVP with Valerie Schoepf at 612-662-2844 or valerie_schoepf@bluecrossmn.com

Let’s Talk About Our Future!

What will our region look like 40 years from today? What can we do now to build a brighter future? Community leaders and interested persons are invited to a challenging and provocative discussion that will help you shape and inform your community’s planning efforts. Please join us for a Meadowlark Project dialogue on *Tuesday, July 31 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.* (light snacks provided) at the Initiative Foundation office, 405 1st Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345. Driving directions available at: www.ifound.org, click on “about us,” and “driving directions.”

The Meadowlark Project is an innovative process for exploring change in the northern Great Plains states by bringing people from all walks of life together to talk about the kind of future we want. Jerry Nagel, President of the Northern Great Plains, Inc. will be the lead facilitator for the conversation. Four scenarios have been created, imagining possible tomorrows to help us think about today. Preview them at: www.meadowlarkproject.com

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lois at: lkallsen@ifound.org or call 877/632-9255 by Friday, July 27, 2007.

Conservation Summit – 2007

Please join hundreds of colleagues from across Minnesota at the first annual statewide conservation conference: **Conservation Summit – 2007**. The conference, sponsored by the Minnesota Land Trust, will focus on emerging issues in land protection and will highlight current topics and trends in land and water conservation in Minnesota. Learn about conservation easements, conservation funding, local land use, conservation development and more.

Conservation Summit – 2007 will also feature national issues that could impact conservation efforts in our state.

When: Thursday, September 6, 2007

Where: The Conservation Summit will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education and Conference Center.

Registration: Registration materials and final conference agenda will be available in mid-July.

Conservation Summit – 2007 is sponsored by the Minnesota Land Trust with funding support from Embrace Open Space and organizational support from Government Training Services.

We hope that you will forward this email to anyone you know who might be interested in hearing about this important event. Jane Prohaska, President, Minnesota Land Trust, 2356 University Avenue W., Suite 240, St. Paul, MN 55114, 651-647-9590

Patagonia Environmental Grants Program

This program provides support for environmental work through grants to nonprofit organizations. The company supports small, grassroots organizations with provocative direct-action agendas and multi-pronged campaigns designed to preserve and protect the environment.

Patagonia funds environmental work that is action-oriented, builds public involvement and support, is strategic, focuses on root causes, and which accomplishes specific goals and objectives.

Applicants must have nonprofit 501(c)(3) status or a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor. Most grants range between \$3,000 and \$8,000 each. *Deadline is August 31, 2007.* Visit the Patagonia Web site for complete program information:

<http://www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>

Website Available for Public Input into Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

The public/private partnership developing a Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP) for the state of Minnesota has announced that the Plan website (www.mnconservationplan.net) is now up and running, and is the best place for concerned citizens and organizations to provide input into the planning process. The site also provides information on the planning project's goals, methods and deliverables; and will provide an opportunity for interested parties to view and provide feedback on the plan's components as they are developed.

The SCPP project has been funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The project team is led by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment in partnership with consulting firms Bonestroo and CR Planning. As this plan will guide natural resource conservation and preservation efforts within the state of Minnesota for the next 50 years, the LCCMR and the project team hope for the involvement of concerned citizens and organizations around the state with local knowledge to contribute and/or a vision to share.

The team is currently developing a Preliminary Plan (to be completed June 30th, 2007) which will:

- Gather existing data to summarize the current condition of natural resources in Minnesota
- Incorporate input from concerned citizens and organizations
- Identify major issues and trends affecting our natural heritage

For more information and to get involved:

Project website: www.mnconservationplan.net

Project email: info@mnconservationplan.net

Cass County Fair/EcoSquared Fair, July 19-21

This year's EcoSquared Fair includes a variety of workshops focusing on sustainable living, along with several vendors and exhibitors, "Not On A Stick" food booth, and lots of information and free samples to take home. The fair is being held in conjunction with the Cass County Fair at the Pine River fairgrounds. Come and enjoy the exhibits, visit the vendors, taste the food, ride some rides, watch the mud run, battlebots, and motocross, see the fashion show and talent show, and win big at BINGO!

Eco Camp July 30-August 17

There are still a few spots available for the second session of Eco Camp! Come and learn about sustainable living...conduct experiments, play games, take field trips, make nature crafts, make a documentary film, garden, and more! Tuition is \$180 for the 3 weeks...scholarships are available. For more information, contact Barb at 218.587.2303.

For more information contact: Barb Hines, Education & Events Coordinator, Happy Dancing Turtle, 2373 Dancing Wind Rd. SW, Pine River, MN 56474, 218.587.2303 or 218.831.0353, www.happydancingturtle.org

Mediation Services

- Do you know of an argument between two staff members that seems to come up again and again?
- Are there clients that bring disputes to your organization, but you can't really help them?
- Do you know of someone who has a disagreement with a neighbor that isn't going away? And now the neighbors have a hard time talking to each other?
- Do you know of a community where the kids are fighting and the parents aren't able to resolve the situation?
- Does your non-profit organization need strategic planning but can't afford it?
- Do your volunteers have disputes with each other or clients?
- Are your community members having a lot of disputes with a company or government agency?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then maybe we can help.

The St. Cloud State University Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), with a roster of over 30 trained mediators and ADR specialists, has received funding to provide free mediation services for clients who are income-eligible and non-profits organizations who have a financial need. Other services included are peace circles, facilitation and strategic planning. Translator and transportation can also be included.

For more information, please visit us at www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/instituteADR or contact: the Institute for ADR at (320) 308-4962 or respond to this email.

The [Institute for Conservation Leadership](#) invites you to attend:

[Leading Cooperative Efforts: Skills for Survival and Success](#)

Tuesday, August 28th at the [Neighborhood House](#) in St. Paul, Minnesota

This one-day workshop offers skills and tools to effectively manage and participate in a variety of cooperative efforts. Networks, coalitions, and other cooperative efforts require distinct leadership skills if they are to be effective. Working together collaboratively is a challenge and this workshop will encompass leadership practices in collaborative work to make groups successful.

The workshop offers participants:

- * Best practices and skills for effectively LEADING cooperative efforts,
- * Tools to assess your own leadership and to better manage cooperative efforts and their persistent tensions, and
- * A “learning lab” environment in which to address difficult issues with your colleagues or simply take stock and consider your next steps.

The facilitators work regularly with leaders and organizations in networks, coalitions, and other cooperative efforts. The workshop uses the Institute's newest publication, “Working Together, A Toolkit for Cooperative Efforts, Networks and Coalitions.”

Brought to you through the generous support from the Bush and McKnight Foundations.

For further information, please email or call Bonnie Haigh (bonnie@icl.org) at ICL, (406)582-1838x1