

This is the eighty-fourth 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.”

---

**News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #84**

**February 1, 2008**

---

**Initiative Foundation Presents Minnesota Oomph!**  
***Community Health Conference Set for March 6th***

- How can your business deal with skyrocketing health insurance?
- Is your community designed for cars or people?
- Will obesity cause kids to have shorter lives than their parents?
- Can locally grown foods make your family and community healthier?
- Are we headed for a “Silver Tsunami?”

Focused on the hot topics of community health, the Initiative Foundation and eight partners will host a regional leadership conference called *Minnesota Oomph!* on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the St. Cloud Civic Center. The conference follows the foundation’s winter issue of *IQ Magazine*.

Mark Fenton, humorist, community health expert, and national host of *America’s Walking on PBS*, will keynote the event. Fenton will also show highlights of his “walkability” tours in St. Cloud and Brainerd, and then discuss how leaders could encourage more walking and biking opportunities.

Breakouts will cover community design strategies, childhood obesity, local foods and healthy eating, the rapidly aging population, and employer programs that reduce health insurance costs. Each session will be led by a statewide expert and include a panel discussion.

“We’ve seen these community health issues become greater challenges in central Minnesota, from skyrocketing health insurance to obesity in young children to how our towns are designed,” said Kathy Gaalswyk, Initiative Foundation president. “This conference is for people who maybe haven’t thought about these things before, but who want to understand the big picture and how they fit into it.”

Presenting partners are the Brainerd Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce, Brainerd Lakes Integrated Health System, CentraCare Health System, Central Minnesota Community Foundation, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Happy Dancing Turtle, KLKS Radio, and the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

Registration fees are \$45 before February 15, and \$65 before February 27. For more information or to register, visit [www.ifound.org/oomph](http://www.ifound.org/oomph) or call Anita at (877) 632-9255.

---

## **Succession Planning Workshop: Creating Sustainable Leadership in Nonprofits**

*February 27, 2008 - 8:00AM - 12:00PM*

*Central Lakes College, Business & Industry Center, Room E203 (Door 6)*

### **The nonprofit sector is facing a significant transition in leadership over the next few years.**

In rural areas this situation has the added complexity of a much smaller resource pool of human resources. Planning for a smooth (and inevitable) transition is a critical function of a healthy organization to ensure the future leadership of their organization.

### **Is your nonprofit ready?**

Presented by Gary Dietrich of NorthWay Group (Grand Rapids), this workshop is geared to key nonprofit staff and board leaders, whether or not they know of a pending transition. It is strongly encouraged that the executive director/CEO/ administrator and a board leader attend this important session together.

You will be given the opportunity to discover the why, who, what and how in developing a transition plan and process for the organization. This workshop will provide the critical framework necessary for your organization's present and future leadership.

### **Workshop Content:**

- Why succession planning and transition management is important in all industry sectors.
- A step by step process that can be utilized to develop a smooth key person succession plan; focus will be given to the positions of board chair and executive director.
- Suggestions and discussion on how to approach this subject with staff and board of a nonprofit.
- Begin to define a customized roadmap including timeframe for their organization in addressing the issue of succession.
- Participants will receive resourced materials including an emergency succession plan template.

Registration is \$39 for first person & \$20 for each additional person from the same organization. *Registration Deadline: February 19th*

[> registration form](#)

Questions can be directed to: Tricia Holig, 320-631-2003, [tholig@ifound.org](mailto:tholig@ifound.org).

---

**Working on an environmental project that also fights poverty? Or perhaps you wear another hat and wish to fight poverty head on....**

The Initiative Foundation is currently looking for project sites to host a full-time VISTA volunteer for one year starting August 2008. VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) is a national service program like the Peace Corps that places members in nonprofits and local government agencies to help in the fight against poverty. While serving, VISTA members receive a modest monthly living stipend, an end-of-service cash or education award, medical coverage and child care assistance if eligible. Inquiries will be accepted from potential project sites until February 8.

[More details...](#)

---

**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.

---

## **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.

"A Fresh Look: Rethinking Local Land Use Planning" held this **Friday, February 1** at the Initiative Foundation offices in Little Falls. This workshop presents useful information to help local officials understand why and how natural resources information can be incorporated into local land and water planning and zoning to reduce the impacts of development on local infrastructure...

A second workshop, on Wednesday, **February 27th**, again in Little Falls, "Redefining the Development Process: Choosing Collaboration over Contention to Protect Natural Resources and Maximize the Public Value of Private Development."

The third session is offered in St. Paul on a half-day (\$60) on March 27th 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>

---

## **Funding Source: Blue Cross' Active Living Minnesota Request for Proposals**

Blue Cross seeks to fund selected communities throughout Minnesota to plan for and implement a comprehensive approach to support active living with a focus on environmental and policy change efforts. For more information about this Blue Cross program, including how to apply, proposal instructions, and project budgeting information, go to: <http://www.preventionminnesota.com/objects/Funding/599/ALMN-RFP599.pdf>

*The deadline for submitting a letter of Intent to apply is due by Thursday, February 14, 2008, and proposals are due March 14, 2008.*

---

## **Guide to Rural Living Expo March 1**

University of Minnesota Extension, Onanogozie RC&D, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Natural Resource Conservation Services in Kanabec, Pine and Chisago counties, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and Peoples National Bank of Mora are

sponsoring a *Guide to Rural Living Expo* at Trailview School in Mora on Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 3 pm. The Expo will cover a variety of topics of interest to both small town and rural homeowners, and landowners with a few acres to several hundred acres.

Trailview School is located on the north edge of Mora, west of Hwy 65 on East 9<sup>th</sup> St. Watch for the school brown highway sign. Lunch will be available for sale from Kanabec County 4-H.

For more information or a copy of the brochure, call Onanegozie RC&D at 320-679-4604, [dana.raines@mn.usda.gov](mailto:dana.raines@mn.usda.gov), or online at: [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/onanegozie](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/onanegozie) or [www.extension.umn.edu/ruralliving](http://www.extension.umn.edu/ruralliving).

---

### **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).

---

### **Matching Grants for Habitat Restoration**

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Five-Star Restoration Program](#)

The Five-Star Restoration Program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides grants to support community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects. Funded projects should build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach, and training activities. On average, competitive projects are able to demonstrate partner contributions of at least 1:1 and often significantly higher. Organizations are strongly encouraged to have a group of partners in place that have pledged to provide funding and/or in-kind contributions before applying. The proposal deadline is February 15, 2008. Visit the website listed above to review the Request for Proposals.

---

### **Support for Social Justice Projects in North America**

[Peace Development Fund: Community Organizing Grants](#)

The Peace Development Fund provides grants to organizations working to achieve peaceful, just, and interdependent relationships among people and nations. The Fund's

Community Organizing Grants support grassroots groups that are organizing community members for social justice in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, and Haiti. Examples of issues that will be considered include criminal justice, environmental justice, economic justice, anti-oppression work, youth organizing, immigrant organizing, and workplace organizing. The application deadline is February 15, 2008. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines and forms.

---

### **Preservation Efforts Funded Worldwide**

[Getty Foundation: Architectural Conservation Grants](#)

The Getty Foundation's Architectural Conservation Grants support nonprofit organizations throughout the world in their efforts to preserve buildings, sites, and designed landscapes of outstanding architectural, historical, and cultural significance. Planning Grants assist in the initial development of overall conservation plans. Support is also available on a selective basis for the development of archaeological site management plans. Implementation Grants assist in the actual conservation of a building's historic structure and fabric. Organizations interested in applying should submit letters of inquiry at least two months prior to the April 10, 2008 application deadline. Visit the website listed above for program details and guidelines for submitting letters of inquiry.

---

### **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.

---

### **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 RETAP Coordinator Mike Vennewitz at [retap2002@yahoo.com](mailto:retap2002@yahoo.com).

---

### **DNR Grants for Pilot projects to control curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil on a lake-wide or bay-wide basis for ecological benefits for 2008**

This material will also be posted on the DNR website soon:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lakewide.html>

The deadline for submitting your application is February 11, 2008. If you think you will apply, please send Wendy Crowell (contact info below) a brief e-mail with the name of the lake and the county it is in. This will help us process your application as quickly as possible.

For more information: Wendy Crowell, Aquatic Biologist, Invasive Species Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ecological Resources, Box 25, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155, phone: 651-259-5085, email: [wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us)

---

### **Pine River Watershed Alliance gets into action**

The newly restructured Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA) has written a number of action plans to address the top key result areas that were identified by a 2006 public survey.

Development of these action plans was driven by the survey representing 13,000 landowners in the Pine River Watershed and from comments taken at community meetings with citizens and elected officials.

The mission of the PRWA is to educate and affect change in the actions of people to protect and conserve the natural resources of the watershed for generations to come.

Meyer said, "We are committed to our mission in a way that is considerate and thoughtful. We will use common sense for the common good."

The organization will address these issues throughout the watershed and will be active at the minor-watershed levels through citizen participation. The alliance believes in working as locally as possible to effect change and to make progress. The alliance also believes that people want to ensure their neighborhood manages their natural resources and that they realize the benefits of their actions in the local community."

The Pine River Watershed covers a large area of northern Crow Wing and central Cass counties - about 785 square miles, or about 502,000 acres. Of this area, about 62,000 acres are lakes, 61,000 acres are shrub swamp and 24,000 acres are bogs. The Pine River Watershed is part of the Mississippi Watershed.

The alliance is always interested in more people getting involved or attending meetings. Contact Ron Meyer at [prwatershed@crosslake.net](mailto:prwatershed@crosslake.net) or leave a voicemail at (218) 692-1020 for more information.

[http://www.pineandlakes.com/stories/012308/news\\_20080123047.shtml](http://www.pineandlakes.com/stories/012308/news_20080123047.shtml)