

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not reflect positions of organizations with which he is affiliated.

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“New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common.”

-John Locke-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for recent additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Biodiesel Study Group	Mondays (all)	7:00-8:30 PM	Washburn Library
Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club	Feb. 7 th	5:30	Iron River Community Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	Feb 11 th	10:00-noon	Washburn Library
National Entrepreneurship Week Feb 23 – Mar 1			
Superior Days	Feb. 26-27	All Day	Madison
Great Lakes Day	Feb. 28 th	All Day	Washington DC
Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club	March 6 th	5:30	Casablanca Traders Coffeehouse (Hwy 2 & 63)
Fusion 2008	March 5-6	All Day	Madison, Fluno Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	March 10th	10:00 -Noon	Washburn Library
Sustainable Business Conference	April 24-25	All Day	Ashland
Business Development Conference	May 7 & 8	All Day	Cable, Lakewoods
Green By Design Conference	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	June 19 & 20	All Day	Cable, Telemark

Conservation Voting

The agenda for conservation voting and voting a conservative agenda is a huge difference. Conservationists have a very different agenda from the conservative block of legislators.

Thursday afternoon I drove back from Madison having participated in the lobbying effort organized by the **League of Conservation Voters** and sponsored by an array of organizations that contribute enormously to the contemporary conservation movement in the adopted state of **Aldo Leopold**. My thoughts while driving were troubled by too many directions to go into in one issue of TGIF but I suspect readers will experience my attempts to sort through troubling ideas going forward.

The turnout this year was down slightly from the over 400 participants last year, but enthusiasm and commitment for the issues was undimmed. Snow in the Green Bay area left empty a large block of seats assigned by Senate district, but a carefully crafted training session with a wonderful keynote by **Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton**, assured that over 300 participants were well informed and fired up for their visits to legislator's offices.

Three LCV issues remained as priority after the **Stewardship Fund** was restored last year. Two, the **Great Lakes Compact** and **Global Warming** topped my considerations for being in Madison. Another, the **Hunter, Trapper, Angler Bill of Rights** has one element that is laudable; namely to restore appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board(NRB). The 1995 shift to Gubernatorial appointment has been controversial and momentum to reverse the decision is finally reaching a critical mass in the Wisconsin Senate. My personal preference would be to make the DNR Secretary an office subject to statewide election as is the Attorney General and Superintendent of Public Instruction. Unfortunately, such an electoral status for the DNR Secretary is way ahead of virtually any thinking that I have encountered. Too bad, but restoration of authority of the NRB is a good step in the right direction.

The other two pieces of the Hunter, Trapper, Angler Bill of Rights; a constitutional amendment to restrict uses of funds from license stamps to conservation, and requiring a vote within six months on appointments to the NRB, struggled for my enthusiasm. Constitutional amendments to protect about \$1-2,000,000 seems overkill and preventing NRB appointees from hanging on to their positions for years after expiration, just seems mindless. When an appointment is up it just seems it should be up. When a term ends the incumbent should pack up and leave. Waiting for ratification of an appointee before an appointee can be seated is – well – nuts. Maybe the NRB charter needs a serious re-look.

Wisconsin will be the last Great Lakes state to introduce legislation to ratify the Great Lakes Compact; legislation essential to protect Great Lakes water from diversion. The care that has gone into crafting this bill was evident from many conversations. **Senator Bob Jauch** has worked long hours to assure a strong bill and said. “We don't do a thing to protect the lakes if it is a proposal that stands no chance of passage.” Those who oppose this bill will, from all statements I heard, have difficult time justifying their opposition. State legislatures can't change the terms and conditions of the Compact. What they can do is enact legislation that strengthens the terms and conditions consistent with values and political realities of each state.

Global warming legislation aims to create a charge to reduce atmospheric CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Unfortunately a bill that has made notable progress in the Wisconsin Senate seems to be permanently stalled in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee chaired by **Representative Scott Gunderson**. Because the federal administration has been dragging its feet on global warming and climate stabilization, states, counties and cities have taken initiatives to enact resolutions and action steps to comply with greenhouse gas (GHG) limitations consistent with the Kyoto Accords. The frustrations of **Representatives Frank Boyle** and **Gary Sherman** with their conservative Assembly colleagues was almost painfully clear. Wisconsin should be leading, not following, our neighboring states.

Unfortunately the Land of Leopold is not leading and the result is that opportunities for economic advancement are being missed. The technology to reduce GHG is, first, essential to save the planet and, second, an opportunity to invent the future and benefit economically from those inventions. That our climate is changing is beyond reasonable doubt. Scientific evidence is way too robust to responsibly ignore. The US absence from global initiatives like Kyoto is more than lamentable; it is egregiously irresponsible. But even the Kyoto Accords were too little and too late.

Global warming ought to be a high priority for passionate conservationists and for political conservatives because change is opportunity; opportunity to advance equitably, environmentally and economically. Mitigation of GHG and adaptation to the inevitable changes that our legacy of fossil fuel use has wrought mean human society will be different. Members of the human species need to govern ourselves to invent the future or else we will be victims of the changes we are causing. We humans are in this together and rugged individualism will not be a fountainhead for the future.

LIGHTER SIDE:

As with most jokes the original author is unknown. Whoever you are; "Thanks!" Names, when added, are intended to tease the innocent.

Food For Thought

The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

Take care and enjoy a great weekend!

/BRUCE

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Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) Director

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) Director

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) US Delegation Co-Chair

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) Co-owner

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) Initial Registered Agent

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Work Group Member

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) Member

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, experience, education and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about role of education in Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.