

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - a Sustainable Economy in the Northern Tier

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“In other words then, if a machine is expected to be infallible, it cannot also be intelligent.”

-Alan Turing-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

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

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Bio Energy Conference	March 9 th	All Day	WITC, Rice Lake
BCEDC Board Meeting	March 12 th	10 AM – noon	Washburn Library
Bayfield County Executive Committee	March 13th	4:00 PM	Washburn, Municipal Building Board Room
Wisconsin Innovation Network	March 28th	5:00 PM	WITC - Ashland
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	April 5th	5:30 pm	Iron River Community Center
BCEDC Board Meeting	April 9 th	10 AM – noon	TBA
UW Founders Day Dinner	April 30th	5:30 PM	Elks Club - Ashland
WIB Business Development Conference	May 3 & 4	All Day	Lakewoods Resort, Cable
Future of Farming Statewide Conference	May 14 & 15	All Day	Madison, Monona Terrace
2007 Entrepreneur's Conference	June. 12-13	All day	Milwaukee
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference & Workshops	June 21 & 22	All Day	Telemark Lodge, Cable

GREAT LAKES COMPACT

Kent Lokkesmoe, Director of **Minnesota DNR** Division of Waters & **Julie O'Leary**, executive with the **Minnesota Environmental Partnership**, appeared on **WDSE-TV's Almanac North** last Friday to explain some features of the recently enacted Minnesota legislation supporting the Great Lakes Compact.

The Great Lakes Compact is intended to greatly enhance the ability of the eight Great Lakes States (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota) to protect Great Lakes water from exploitation and export.

O'Leary explained; "The Great Lakes, taken as a whole, is an ecosystem, not a tank of water with a tap." Protecting the quality of water, and the quality of human life in cities and rural communities, is highly dependent on water levels. It is estimated that 42 million people in the US and Canada drink Great Lakes water.

Canadian provinces are directly involved in development of the the Compact agreements and it is expected that treaties already in place, will set the stage for full cooperation and support across the border.

The Compact will require enabling legislation from each and every Great Lakes State as well as an authorizing act by the US Congress. Once in place, the Compact will enable any State to challenge withdrawal permits effectively snuffing prospect for export of Great Lakes water.

Minnesota's ability to step out in front of the other seven Great Lakes States is, in no small measure a consequence of enacting laws years ago regulating consumptive uses of water. Minnesota's current law already requires permitting for water use, requiring permits for any withdrawal exceeding 10,000 gallons per day. The base-line for Great Lakes Compact will be much higher; 100,000 gallons per day is the expected trigger point.

Wisconsin may be one of the most troubled of the Great Lakes States. Ratifying the Compact agreements is challenged by a situation in Waukesha, a city near Milwaukee. Waukesha currently draws its water from wells that are reaching dangerous levels of radium contamination. Their potential new sources almost exclusively include use of water from Lake Michigan. However, such use will be considered a diversion because the most easily accessed repository for their waste water is not the Great Lakes basin but the Mississippi basin.

Attempts by Wisconsin **Senator Neal Kedzie** (R) to conduct productive hearings and draft acceptable legislation have been frustrated by noisy objections from the Waukesha region. I've been told that **Senator Bob Jauch** (D) may carry a bill forward. Fortunately, in Wisconsin, this does not seem to a highly partisan issue; but, rather, an issue with regional overtones. Some compromise to meet real and legitimate regional needs should be possible.

The Compact will demand enhanced conservation from everyone living in the Great Lakes basin. Perhaps robust commitment to conservation of water by Waukesha could furnish a foundation for an exemplary compromise.

WASHINGTON DC

Great Lakes Day has grown, since I attended two years ago, into an event that would make Superior Days proud. The combined force of the **Great Lake Commission** and the **Healing Our Waters (HOW) Coalition** provided a strong presence, nearly 200 people, on Wednesday with visits to Senate and House offices of congressional members from the Great Lakes States. My main contribution was to join with **Emily Green**, Co-Chair for HOW, to visit with **Will Painter**, environmental specialist and legislative aide to **Representative David Obey**. The main points emphasized were:

- Support for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Act. The major thrust of this Act will be support for rebuilding of aging and inadequate sanitary systems.
- Support for the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA). This includes funding for ballast water initiatives including research and better attention to imported horticulture and aquarium products.
- Immediate funding is needed to build a permanent trap for keeping Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. This high prolific species has invaded the Mississippi River and threatens not only the food chain but is a nasty hazard to recreational boating. The vulnerable entry point is near Chicago where Lake Michigan and the Illinois River are contiguous.
- Renewal of the Legacy Act, which funds clean-up of superfund sites and the Areas of Concern. Over 40 such sites exist in the Great Lakes basin.

On Tuesday evening a reception at the Canadian Embassy provided an opportunity to hear from **Senators Levin** (D-MI) and **Voinovich** (R-OH). Both were impressive in articulating their passionate support for environmental values of importance to people living in the Great Lakes basin.

Take care and have a great weekend!

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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, education, experience and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.