

TGIF

Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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“Writing is the only way to talk without being interrupted.”

-Jules Renard-

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>
Bayfield County Lakes Forum Annual Meeting	August 18 th	9:00-11:00 AM	Iron River Community Center
Great Lakes Restoration Conference	Sept 6-8	All Day	Chicago
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Sept. 7 & 8	All Day	Wawa, ON
Rustic Roads Board	Sept. 10 th	9:00 – noon	Madison
BC EDC Board Meeting	Sept. 10th	10:00 – noon	Washburn Library
BIO Mid America Venture Forum	Sept. 24-26	All Day	Milwaukee
Biotech & Medical Device	Oct. 18	All Day	Milwaukee
Making a Great Lake Superior Conference	Oct. 29, 30, 31	All Day	Duluth Convention Center
Wisc. Early Stage Symposium	Nov. 14-15	All Day	Madison

X+X & SEVEN X

Distractions on the way to solutions are everywhere.

Arrowhead – Weston Powerline construction is underway. Land is regrettably lost to towers and the overhead lines. But what is the alternative now? Shutting out the lights in Chicago isn't even to be considered. The argument that if we don't build the powerline, Chicagoans will be

forced to look locally for generators is sound on the surface, but a biodiesel, photovoltaic or wind generator for every Chicago home and business is unlikely and would have it's own array of unintended consequences.

I'm all for alternative energy and distributed electrical generation, but until there is a mechanism like hydrogen fuel cells or another type of fuel cell I can put in my backyard or get together with a few neighbors to buy one, we probably need a power grid.

Regrettably, we will probably see a few more power lines being built.

We should plan now for the day when powerlines will be obsolete, a relic of the past. Our kid's kid's kid's kid's kid's kid's kids will reclaim the land for community gardens and high performance homes. They will roll up the wire and carry off the towers for alternative uses. In the meantime we had best think our way into the future and start trying out a few new ideas.

We should celebrate our inventors and entrepreneurs. They will create a new future that may well make us feel foolish about our contemporaneous hand-wringing. Meanwhile let's celebrate the hand-wringing because it is driving our inventors and entrepreneurs. The convergence of climate change and peak oil is creating a new foundation for a future economy.

Jane Silberstein, ex-UWEX CNRED Agent and venturer of new adventures, commented months ago about a brilliant economist with a background in biochemistry, and a friend of hers, **Dr. Steve Popper**, who believes we should be looking ahead 1,000 years for our planning framework. I don't know about a millennium, although Popper may well be right, but a century doesn't seem at all too long. After all seven generations in developed countries is approaching 150 to 200 years. Even with full-flower puberty at 12-13 years, seven generations is nearly a century.

It seems we are too frequently looking for the magic answer to solve problems that have historic dimensions. We want a two or ten year solution for a one hundred year problem like global warming. Impatience and a desire for a quick solution is probably natural. But, sometimes my mind is jerked and I spend a little time worrying about a rebound effect if we would actually hit on a "solution" to quickly reduce green house gas emissions. Imagine for a moment that a handful of corporations, say one on each continent, could anticipate a few billion in revenue over five years by implementing the "solution." Does anyone think the "solution" would not be implemented? A sudden decline of atmospheric carbon dioxide would certainly cause at least a few problems of global climate change. Unregulated "solutions" could be a source of a different set of problems. Think Nuclear! (or if you prefer "nukulur.")

And, of course, a few geniuses like **Senator James Imhoff** (R-OK) would help money makers and mass media deny that anything was happening.

There is too strong a tendency to reject incremental steps in favor of **Magical Pony Plans**. **David Roberts** [tells us](#):

Frequently, when a small, incremental measure to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions is proposed, environmental commentators argue that it should be rejected. Why? Because it is a "distraction," a way of enabling us to continue our horrid, depraved lifestyle, methadone for our addiction to iniquity, a sop to our corporate overlords, mere playing of games, a highly Unserious Frivolity, etc. etc. Instead, we should choose the Magical

Pony Plan for a Totally and Awesomely Transformed World. That, after all, is the only real solution.

The wisdom of the Native American admonition to think ahead seven generations could, and perhaps should, cut both ways. We certainly should pause in our quest to “Think and Grow Rich” and anticipate how our decisions today will impact many future generations. At the same time we would be well advised that there is no magic bullet, no sulfa drug or penicillin, to cure our diseases of affluence and consumption. We are going to take the “cure” a little bit at a time.

Try out this mind-stretcher; the notion of a **7th Generation Amendment** to the US Constitution. Too bad it's momentum seems to have died along with the late Red Cliff member and Native American activist **Walt Bresette** and Wisconsin Governor and Senator **Gaylord Nelson**. Nelson modified Bresette's original formulation of the amendment and called it the **Common Property Amendment**.

“The right of citizens of the United States to use and enjoy air, water, wildlife, and other renewable resources determined by the Congress to be common property shall not be impaired, nor shall such use impair their availability for the use of future generations.”

I suppose it is worth a little time to worry about how this amendment might impact our Property Rights as they seem to be established in the 5th Amendment or elaborated in volumes of case law. That property rights are not total and absolute was eloquently developed by Illinois Law Professor, **Eric Freyfogle**, in his book, *“The Land We Share.”* He points out that air above your property, water running across your property, wildlife living on your property are not yours. Unfortunately Freyfogle has been marginalized by the conservation community because he seems sometimes to have a conservative conscience. If you're not right about everything you can't, it seems, be right about anything.

Given a little time, and a little more patience, we may be able to work out a way to balance conflicting ideas with a new vision of “ownership” and with older values like equal endowment to “life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.” Justice, poetic and/or social, may demand “stewardship” of old values and celebration of real dialog about new ideas.

Yogi reminded us “The future ain't what it used to be.”

LIGHTER SIDE:

from : University of Alberta – Math Jokes

An investment firm is hiring mathematicians. After the first round of interviews, three hopeful recent graduates - a pure mathematician, an applied mathematician, and a graduate in mathematical finance - are asked what starting salary they are expecting.

The pure mathematician: "Would \$30,000 be too much?"

The applied mathematician: "I think \$60,000 would be OK."

The math finance person: "What about \$300,000?"

The personnel officer is flabbergasted: "Do you know that we have a graduate in pure mathematics who is willing to do the same work for a tenth of what you are demanding!?"

"Well, I thought of \$135,000 for me, \$135,000 for you - and \$30,000 for the pure mathematician who will do the work."

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, 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.