

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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Houghton, MI September 5th – Volume 4: Number 36 [Back Issues](#)

“I've never seen a monument erected to a pessimist.”

-Paul Harvey-

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>
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Sept 5-6	All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat.	Houghton, MI
BCEDC Board Meeting	Sept. 8 th	10:00 – Noon	Washburn Library
Sustainable Communities & Farms	Sept 11 & 12	All day	Oconomowoc, WI
Northshore In-line Half Marathon	Sept 13 th	7:30 AM	Two Harbors to Duluth
US AOC Program Conference	Sept 24-25	All Day	Ann Arbor, MI
Ideas To Profits (Conference)	October 1-2	All Day	Appleton WI
BCEDC Board Meeting	October 13th	10:00 AM – Noon	TBA
Bioneers Conference 2008	Oct. 17-19	All Day	San Rafael, California
Wisconsin Biotechnology and Medical Device Association	Oct. 22nd	All Day	Waukesha WI
SOLEC State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference	Oct. 22-23	All Day	Niagara Falls, ON
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Nov. 7 & 8	All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat.	Thunder Bay, ON
Synergy 2008	Nov. 11 & 12	All Day	UW River Falls
Northland Bioneers Conference	Nov. 14 - 16	All Day	Twin Cities

Areas of Concern

The **Lake Superior Binational Forum** meeting today, in Houghton, Michigan, will focus on the past impact of sediment loading in the Lake Superior basin and what still needs to be done to undo the mess made by the mad rush to extract copper from the earth's crust in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Upper Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula was one of the

world's premier locations for copper mining. Between 1840 and 1968 when mining operations ceased, over 10 billion pounds of copper were extracted from this very rich natural resource. One legacy is the massive tailings deposited in and around **Torch Lake**. Nearly half of the ore extracted in the UP was processed on the Western shore of Torch Lake. It is estimated that nearly 20% of the water volume in this 2700 acre lake was displaced by stamp sands and water quenched slags. Torch Lake has been designated as one of the 43 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin.

The Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) were defined by amendment in 1987 of the U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The U.S. has 26 of the AOCs and Canada has 12. Another 5 are located in border areas where responsibility is shared across the two federal governments. The Agreement stipulates that federal governments are to cooperate with provincial and state governments to establish Remedial Action Plans(RAPs). The RAP documents are intended to present a comprehensive approach, based on local input, to restore and protect the beneficial uses that have been impaired by pollution of the geographic region defined in the RAP. Designation of a region as an AOC is significant because the designation creates eligibility for funding through the 2002 Great Lakes Legacy Act. The Act provides an annual allocation of \$50 million to fund clean-up projects.

Beneficial Use Impairments include 14 points: 1.)restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, 2.)tainting of fish and wildlife flavor, 3.)degradation of fish wildlife populations, 4.)fish tumors or other deformities, 5.)bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems, 6.)degradation of benthos, 7.)restrictions on dredging activities, 8.)eutrophication or undesirable algae, 9.)restrictions on drinking water consumption (or taste and odor problems), 10.)beach closings, 11.)degradation of aesthetics, 12.)added costs to agriculture or industry, 13.)degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations, or, 14.)loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Each designated AOC identifies one or more of these BUIs and the RAP addresses how these Impairments are to be removed.

Removal is both time consuming and costly. The goal is *delisting* but progress has been slow. To date, only one AOC, Oswego River in New York has been delisted. Delisting is complicated by multiple political and scientific considerations. Criteria are established through federal, state and local deliberations. Jurisdictions and authorities are rarely clean and tidy. High level science including chemistry, economics, biology, hydrogeology all come into play in monitoring progress toward removal of the beneficial use impairments.

The LSBF meetings routinely include Public Input Sessions(PIS). The session in Houghton will focus on the Torch Lake AOC. The session will break new ground. With support from the EPA Region 5 Office in Chicago, the PIS will be available as a live video webcast. On-line participants will be able to link to the video of the live broadcast at the following web site: <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/live>. Users will require a broadband connection and **Windows Media Player** or **Microsoft Silverlight** to view the video webcast. You can check your system by viewing an example video at the following site: <http://vbrick.net/home/onlinetraining/player.htm>

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

Pessimist and Optimist

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom & gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, on the twins’ birthday their father loaded the pessimist’s room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist’s room he loaded with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist’s room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

“Why are you crying?” the father asked.

“Because my friends will be jealous, I’ll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I’ll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken,” answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin’s room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. “What are you so happy about?” he asked.

To which his optimist twin replied, “There’s got to be a pony in here somewhere!”

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

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Acting President & CEO

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

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

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

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

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

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.