

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward



Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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“Live out of your imagination, not out of your history.”

-Stephen Covey-

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	Nov. 7 & 8	All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat.	Thunder Bay, ON
BCEDC Board Meeting	Nov. 10 th	10:00- noon	Cable (location TBD)
Rustic Roads Board Meeting	Nov. 10 th	9:00 am - noon	Madison
Van Evera Lecture Bill McKibben	Nov. 11th	7:00 PM	Ashland Presbyterian Church
Synergy 2008	Nov. 12 & 13	All Day	UW River Falls
Northland Bioneers Conference	Nov. 15 - 16	All Day	Twin Cities
Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club	Dec. 4 th	6:00 pm	Cassablanca Coffee House – Ashland Hwy 2 & 63
BCEDC Board Meeting	Dec. 8th	10:00 am – Noon	Washburn Library
Engineering Professional Development	Jan. 21-22	All Day	Madison

History Alive!

What does a **Barak Obama** Presidency mean for northland living and economic development? It is up to us to decide. Don't count on a cornucopia from Washington DC to spill benefits reaching to Cornucopia, Wisconsin.

The long Presidential election saga has ended with a clear choice together with a lot of hope for new beginnings. We can all be thankful that there are no hanging chads this year. Both the popular vote and the electoral college provided an unambiguous winner. Tears of joy flowed following Tuesday's results. Unfortunately about half of those casting ballots on Tuesday were genuinely fearful of consequences if their candidate did not win. Exit polling revealed that that sentiment cut a bipartisan swath across the record voter turnout.

John McCain was gracious in concession and wished *God speed* to the man who will “be my President.” We should all hope that those who prayed on November 3rd that the “righteous” would win will realize that their prayers have been answered. Obama said in victory, “For all of you who didn't vote for me, I hear you.”

President-elect Obama has shared a vision for education, the environment, energy policy national security and a host of other issues. Expanded support for charter schools, climate stability and alternative energy generation were promised. The global realities of earth warming, fiscal melting and hot-headed tensions over dimming supplies of cheap oil provide a daunting backdrop against which promises will be highlighted and decided.

Not all things are immediately possible. What is immediately relevant is the capacity for exercise of imagination, invention and enterprise for developing our local possibilities. Perhaps, to paraphrase others, all politics, sustainability and learning is local. But to our great benefit, we no longer must go it alone. Globally distributed and massive collaboration through being open, collaborating with peers, sharing broadly and acting globally are explained and illustrated by **Don Tapscott** in his book **Wikinomics**. Together with co-author **Anthony Williams**, Tapscott signals the impact of new strategies for economic and business development across a new generation steeped in the ways of digital technology. The makers and shakers behind the campaign of Barak Obama understood the power of this new technology and used the technology to change politics in America forever. Interacting regionally to apply these principles may be an essential step for learning of critical lessons; local lessons potentially contributing to economic, environmental and social success in the northland. Dare I add, “Yes We Can!”

Now is our time. Opportunities will emerge for communities to engage in development of new possibilities arising from serious problems. Biggest among opportunities may well be with energy for heating and transportation. Transportation as we have known and enjoyed it through the last five decades is unlikely to survive the decline of cheap oil. Inexpensive air travel and freedom of a personal vehicle will dim while rapid mobilization of rail may change both the landscape and our personal habits. As the aging activist and proudly, self-proclaimed hippie **Gary Stewart** has said, our challenge may be “learning to stay put.”

What promise will we face and expect?

Will it be the depressing promise of realities in a world beset with a diminishing supply of cheap energy? Cheap energy that has enabled a huge expansion of global population and exploiting the globalization of commerce. Or, will it be the exciting promise of the human spirit; invention and innovation. Energy and materials are plentiful – just not in the current forms we most conveniently use. Perhaps there is enough for the current population of the planet, although that clearly needs tender debate. However, inventing new tools and innovative rearranging of how we use our energy and materials is essential if the human species is to survive and thrive.

Thriving will not mean growth as we have known it and measured it. Simplistic values like the Dow and NASDAQ, or marginal and ephemeral values like derivatives, don't cut the cloth of contemporary reality. Decisions driven by a change of a few pennies in the price of gasoline will give way to decisions based on assessment of real value. **Warren Buffet** is a hero of finance because of his enormous capacity to judge real, long-term values. Perhaps we all need to cultivate the capacities of Warren Buffet. His riches may not have anything to do with the money he has accumulated. Among other things, he has clearly learned the art of “staying put.”

Herbster, Port Wing and Cornucopia are looking better now.

LIGHTER SIDE:

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

Bush and Clinton on a Train

Bill Clinton, George Bush, a spectacular looking blonde woman and an enormously large woman with an unfriendly scowl are in a train car. The train passes through a tunnel, and in the darkness the unmistakable sound of a slap is heard. As the train pulls out of the tunnel, the daylight reveals a big red slap mark on Clinton's cheek.

The blonde thinks: "That rascal Clinton wanted to touch me and by mistake, he must have put his hand on the fat lady, who must have slapped his face"

The fat lady thinks: "That dirty old Bill Clinton touched the blonde and she smacked him."

Bill Clinton thinks: "George put his hand on that blonde and by mistake she slapped me."

George Bush thinks: "I hope there's another tunnel soon so I can smack Clinton again."

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.

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[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.