

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wednesday, February 28 ~ 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Facilitator: Bob Browne

Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request that the Legislature:

- **Provide targeted support to the Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development (CEID) as a strategic regional partner in the state's bio-economy initiatives**

The Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development is organized to enable the region to realize:

- significant progress toward a bio-based economy
- new eco-industrial development and growth
- commercialization of clean technologies and eco-based ventures
- eco-efficiency improvements for existing industries
- improved energy security
- a leadership role for eco-industrial development that can be multiplied in other areas of the state

Background

Interest in eco-industrial development has been gaining momentum in northwest Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota over the past ten years. It has long been seen as a type of development that is uniquely suited to the area's resource-based economy. While the region may be characterized by a relative lack of population concentrations and proximity to major development corridors, eco-industrial development represents a path where the region's economic expansion can match the promise of its resources.

A regional task force, with start-up support from the Knight Foundation, was established in late 2004 to put the initial pieces in place to move eco-industrial development from concept to practice. These have included creation of the Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development (CEID), initial baseline research and data collection, and the targeted support of potential eco-industrial projects.

Industrial ecology is the study of the *flows of materials and energy* in industrial and consumer activities, of the effects of these flows on the environment, and of the influences of economic, political, regulatory, and social factors on the flow, use, and transformation of resources" (*Robert White, President, National Academy of Engineering, 1994*).

Eco-Industrial Development involves "*networks of businesses* that work with each other and in conjunction with their communities to improve resource productivity, expand markets, eliminate pollution, and catalyze economic growth through enhanced profits, wages, and local investment" (*North American Eco-Industrial Development Council, 2003*).

"Phase One" Momentum

The recent creation of the Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development is the culmination of a number of important first steps that have already been taken:

- identifying opportunities and providing project-specific assistance to emerging ventures—including *market planning and site plan development for Elkhorn Industries at Connors Point in Superior as part of a "design charrette"*
- initiating the development of key baseline information—*real estate assessment, marketing approaches, regional industrial site profiles, regional energy profile, inventory of eco-industries*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- identifying and educating regional stakeholders—*meetings and presentations, sponsorship of two regional “eco-industrial forums”*
- gaining commitment and support from local governments—*City of Superior, Douglas County, City of Duluth, St. Louis County*
- capacity building and technical support from state government—*Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*
- developing a draft business plan for the Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development—*collaboratively forming an implementation process and plan*

Next Steps – “Phase Two”

The Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development is prepared to play a key role in the transformation of the area’s manufacturing, agricultural, and natural resource economy as part of the state’s next wave of initiatives focused on bio-based development. It will do this by providing organized and targeted “intellectual capital” and specialized knowledge to support new high performance industries. This will, out of necessity, be a collaborative effort with private, public, and nonprofit sector participation as well as a regional effort that will cut across city, county, and state boundaries. Partnering with the State of Wisconsin, through its various agencies and legislatively, will be a critical element in a successful eco-industrial strategy.

The Coalition’s strategic framework to develop regional capacity and implement an eco-industrial development initiative is focused on these key objectives during “Phase Two” over the next five years:

- promote the development of eco-industrial parks and infrastructure to support high-performing industries
- provide assistance to businesses and local governments in adopting eco-efficient strategies and technologies
- expand and formalize the regional eco-industrial network
- fully develop analytical tools for identifying efficiencies and market opportunities
- capture opportunities through regional “eco-branding”

During this start-up period, the Coalition will require:

- funding and related support from a range of private, public, and nonprofit sources
- a small professional staff to help facilitate and support the effort
- access to specialized expertise and resources from partner businesses, organizations, and local and state governments

With this legislative issue for Superior Days 2007, we want legislators to be aware of our recent progress with and future intentions for regional eco-industrial development. We look forward to working closely and strategically with the state and playing a key role in its evolving bio-economy, bio-industry, bio-energy, and bio-mass initiatives during the upcoming biennium.

For further information contact:

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- Jerry Hembd, Northern Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Superior/Extension, 715-394-8208, jhembd@uwsuper.edu
- Bruce Lindgren, B. Lindgren Consulting, 715-774-3325, bflind@cheqnet.net
- Ralph Loomis, Sandbulte Chair, College of St. Scholastica, 218-723-6290, rloomis@css.edu
- Timothy Nolan, Sustainable Development Strategic Initiatives, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 763-913-6860, tim.nolan@state.mn.us

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ballast Water Research Progress Report

For further information contact:

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Illegalization of Transporting and Launching Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **To make it unlawful to transport on public roads, except to a nearby cleaning station, prohibited aquatic invasive species attached to a recreational boat, boat trailer or other recreational watercraft in Wisconsin; and to make it unlawful to launch a recreational boat, boat trailer or other recreational watercraft with attached prohibited aquatic invasive species in all navigable waters in Wisconsin.**

Background: Lake Superior and a large number of the state's inland lakes are located in northwestern Wisconsin and represent a critical element to the lifestyle and economy of the region. These water resources are very crucial to the area's economy, providing valuable property to lakeshore owners, a significant property tax revenue source for local governments, and an outstanding recreational resource for boating, fishing, swimming and other water-related recreational activities. The environmental quality and economic value of these important resources are being threatened by the spread of aquatic invasive species. Many non-native species have been found in Northwest Wisconsin lakes, rivers, and streams. Once in these areas the aquatic invasive species can be transported to other water bodies by attaching to boats, boat trailers and boat equipment or by residing in boat live wells. Once they get into body of water, they may spread rapidly and denigrate the water quality and native plant and fish populations.

In an effort to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's lakes and streams, the state under Wis. Statute 30.715(2) has made it illegal to place or use a boat or boating equipment or place a boat trailer in a navigable water if the person has reason to believe that the boat, boat trailer or boating equipment has any aquatic plants attached. Wis. Statute 30.715 (3) makes it illegal to place or use a boat or boating equipment or place a boat trailer in the Lower St. Croix River if the person has reason to believe that the boat, boat trailer or boating equipment has zebra mussels attached. Also, Wis. Statute 30.715(4)(d) requires a person to remove or not place a boat, boat trailer or boating equipment in a navigable water if the law enforcement officer has reason to believe that the boat, boat trailer or boating equipment has zebra mussels attached. Minnesota law, however, provides more comprehensive aquatic invasive species control by making it unlawful both to transport on public roads and introduce into public waters "prohibited invasive species," which includes a list of aquatic plants and animals.

Request: It is requested that the Wisconsin State Legislature pass legislation that makes it illegal and unlawful to transport on public roads, except to a nearby cleaning station, prohibited aquatic invasive species attached to a recreational boat, boat trailer or other recreational watercraft in Wisconsin; and make it illegal and unlawful to launch a recreational boat, boat trailer or other recreational watercraft with attached prohibited aquatic invasive species in all navigable waters in Wisconsin. This proposed legislation would provide Wisconsin, like Minnesota, with a more comprehensive way to address the threats and

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

problems caused by aquatic invasive species. It would help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from Lake Superior to the inland lakes of northwest Wisconsin and help prevent their spread from infested inland lakes to other inland lakes and rivers. And it would require that recreational boaters and other recreational watercraft users would need to inspect their boats, boat trailers and other watercraft for prohibited aquatic invasive species and remove or wash them off when detected before launching and after removing their boats, boat trailers and other watercraft from the water.

For further information contact:

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Bill Swenson, Iron River Lakes Association
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Development of the North Country Scenic Trail

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **Assistance from the State of Wisconsin for development of the North Country National Scenic Trail across northern Wisconsin.**

The North Country Trail Association is seeking assistance from the State of Wisconsin for development of the North Country National Scenic Trail across northern Wisconsin.

The North Country National Scenic Trail was authorized by Congress in 1980 and is one of eight national scenic trails. It is a long distance hiking trail similar to the famed Appalachian Trail, but crossing the northern tier of states from New York to North Dakota. The trail will be 4,600 miles long when completed; 1,700 miles are currently certified by the National Park Service. The Park Service administers the seven state trail from an office in Madison, Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, 117 miles of the 220 miles of the trail are complete. The first section of the North Country Trail was completed in the Chequamegon National Forest in the 1960s. Trail development was dormant for many years, but was revived in the mid-90s through the efforts of the Park Service and the North Country Trail Association, the supporting citizen group. There are now North Country Trail Association chapters in the Hurley, Mellen, and Douglas County areas. Volunteers from these chapters have built 40 miles of trail over the past six years.

Wisconsin is home to two National Scenic Trails. The State of Wisconsin is currently supporting development and promotion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail through an annual \$75,000 allocation (Chapter 23.295, Wisconsin Statutes). We propose comparable funding for the North Country National Scenic Trail to benefit northern Wisconsin recreation, tourism, and conservation.

For further information contact:

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Increase Boat Inspections at Great Lakes Boat Landings

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the State of Wisconsin fund increased boat inspections and boat cleaning efforts at Great Lakes boat landings.**

Background: The northern one-third of Wisconsin includes a high percentage of the state's lakes and streams, and the quality of these waters represents a critical element to the lifestyle and economy of the region. Although significant efforts have been put forth to protect water quality, the environmental quality and economic value of these critical resources are being reduced by rapid spread of aquatic invasive species. Great Lakes waters such as the Superior-Duluth estuary, which contains over 20 aquatic invasive species, pose a major problem. The quality of Wisconsin's inland waters, and their recreational and economic values are seriously threatened by the lack of attention to containing these species within the Great Lakes. Just as boat washing equipment is provided at salt water landings so boaters can protect their rigs from corrosion, it is essential that Wisconsin provide the education and equipment required to promote the cleaning of rigs at Great Lakes landings to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Request: It is requested that the state of Wisconsin fund increased boat inspections and boat cleaning efforts at Great Lakes boat landings to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's inland lakes. It is also specifically requested that state support be provided for a minimum of two full-time boat inspectors at Lake Superior harbors and that they be placed under the leadership of local professionals to assure program quality. In addition, it is requested that the appropriate state agencies work with the city of Superior to install boat washing facilities at Superior harbor boat landings.

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Increase the Number of Professional Field Staff in Northwest Wisconsin

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **Increasing the number of UW-Extension and Department of Natural Resources professional field staff in northwestern Wisconsin to help address the aquatic invasive species problem.**

Background: Although the northern one-third of Wisconsin includes a high percentage of the state's lakes and streams and the quality of these waters represents a critical element to the lifestyle and economy of the region, the professional expertise needed to protect these resources from the spread of aquatic invasive species has been centered in Madison. The value of placing knowledgeable professionals in the north is not only suggested by the region's needs, but by the past success of the 50 percent Fisheries Specialist position, formerly at UW-Superior, in stimulating public understanding of many critical water resource issues and in fostering the development of the statewide Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Request: It is requested that the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources increase the number of professional field staff in northwestern Wisconsin to help address the aquatic invasive species problem. It is specifically requested that the 50 percent time Fisheries Specialist position, formerly at UW-Superior, be filled, and that the DNR Invasive Species Specialist position be transferred from Madison to a location in northwestern Wisconsin, preferably in either Bayfield or Ashland County.

For further information contact:

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Pattison State Park Project

Representative Frank Boyle submitted a proposal to the Department of Natural Resources and the Governor's Office to create an alternative energy demonstration project at Pattison State Park. The initiative was received favorably and the Division of Energy within the Department of Administration is funding a preliminary feasibility study.

The plan would include hydro, solar and wind generation demonstration projects that could potentially make Pattison State Park the first energy-free park in Wisconsin, if not in the nation!

A hydro generator would be installed at the base of the existing dam that would generate year round as the river flowed. The electricity would be monitored by the local electric co-op and rebated back to the state park for peak summer campsite usage. The solar and wind generators would energize batteries to heat and light the year round park office.

All three alternative energy sources would be an educational demonstration project, hopefully attracting hundreds of school age children and interested alternative energy enthusiasts from around the country.

Wisconsin needs to be a leader in the use of alternative energy resources. The demonstration project at Pattison State Park could be the beginning!

For Further Information Contact:

Bob Browne, Douglas County Board Supervisor
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Renewable Energy

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **Support funding for the exploration and development of renewable energy opportunities in Northwest Wisconsin.**

Reason for Request: Renewable Energy - Bio, Wind, Solar - can be an important factor in the future of NW Wisconsin. Support for development, expansion, is needed to make this a reality.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For further information contact:

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Research Facility at the U.S. Geological Survey Vessel Dock Site in Ashland

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the Legislature assist in securing sufficient funding to complete a Research Facility at the U.S. Geological Survey Vessel Dock Site in Ashland, Wisconsin and to support the educational and research programs that arise from it.**

Background: A Congressionally-funded dock facility for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) research vessel Kiyi will be constructed in Ashland, Wisconsin during 2007. This facility is a joint venture between the City of Ashland, Ashland County, and USGS, which has operated out of Ashland since 1957 and has a federal mandate to study the fish populations of Lake Superior.

The USGS dock facility will be available for use by other federal, Canadian, state, tribal, and local governmental agencies and will enhance the Lake Superior and other Bi-National Great Lakes fisheries and environmental research and monitoring programs. The USGS dock facility will complement Ashland's Waterfront Development Plan, and will benefit the region and its economy by ensuring a continued presence of the USGS program in Ashland and increasing the use of Ashland as a port for Great Lakes research vessels.

Future plans for the dock facility include construction of a research facility for the USGS program to be co-located in Ashland. Currently, the USGS science and support facility is located more than a mile away from the dock facility and does not provide adequate office, meeting, and laboratory space to effectively support the USGS Lake Superior research program. The cost of the proposed research facility is estimated to be \$6 million. The City proposes to donate an adjoining 4-acre parcel to the dock facility that will accommodate the proposed research facility. Co-location of the vessel dock, warehouse, laboratories, offices and meeting rooms into one facility is a common feature of many well-known marine research centers (e.g., Woods Hole Institute, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute) and enhances the efficiency of vessel and science operations.

In addition to enhancing the quality of the USGS research program, the integration of the USGS vessel and research facilities will also enhance educational and research capabilities for the Wisconsin's schools, colleges, and universities. Particularly, the research facility will be beneficial to educational and research programs at Northland College, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, and University of Wisconsin institutions at Superior, Stevens Point and Madison.

The combined facility will be operated jointly by USGS, City of Ashland, and Northland College and will include a public outreach program that seeks to increase public awareness of Lake Superior and its fish and aquatic resources. The combined USGS research and dock facility will benefit the regional economy by serving as a regional, national, and international center for research and education focused on Lake Superior and will attract many scientists, students, and visitors annually.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The City of Ashland intends to seek Congressional funding to construct this research facility and also seeks partners in the State of Wisconsin to join with them in securing sufficient funding to complete the facility and to support the educational and research programs that arise from it.

For further information contact:

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