

DATE: JANUARY 14, 2010

MEMO TO: LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FROM: GREAT LAKES NON-POINT ABATEMENT COALITION (GLNAC);
PRESIDENT, JAMES COSTELLO

SUBJECT: COMPRESSED VIDEO CONFERENCE SERIES

GLNAC is proud to announce a 3 month series of video conferences for LCC Supervisor and Staff in the Great Lakes Basin. This conference series is sponsored by GLNAC in cooperation with UWEX and a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

The purpose of the project is to introduce electronic media communications to conservation policy makers and staff with the goal of increasing their knowledge base and professional skills regarding non-point pollution abatement and water quality protection, through the use of electronic media technology on UW-campuses.

Please place these dates on your calendar:

1. **Monday February 15, 2010. Starting at 3:30pm ending 5:30pm.** Hearings on changes to NR 151 Runoff Rule Standards began this month. Many questions and misunderstandings of the rule's proposal requiring cropland to meet a phosphorus index of 6 will be discussed by Professor Chris Baxter from UW Platteville as well as Phosphorus issues that are facing surface waters by Denny Caneff from River Alliance.
2. **Monday, March 15, 2010. Starting at 3:30pm ending 5:30pm.** This session will feature presentation on the DATCP Working Lands Initiative and how it will impact our local LCC Departments. Many Counties applied for grants from the Great Lake Initiative hopefully we will have insights as to the types of projects funded and future application periods.
3. **Monday, April 19, 2010. Starting at 3:30pm ending 5:30pm.** This session will focus on ground water issues in the Great Lakes Basin covering draw downs in our aquifer and non-point contamination. For our northern forested segments of the basin we would like to have a report on a study being conducted in the Superior drainage basin on Forest management impacts on waterquality of a watershed.
4. **Monday, May 17, 2010. Starting 5:00 pm ending 7:00pm.** This last session will feature local efforts to monitor water quality and explore some of those findings.

Participation by local County Policy makers at scheduled conservation events has been declining over the last decade for a number of reasons. County Boards have been downsizing and combining departments causing a reduced number of Supervisors to serve on multiple committees; mileage and travel restraints has further limited attendance to these educational functions by staff and Supervisors. **Attendance at workshops, organizational functions and training has dropped to less than 30 participants from a potential of over 200 Supervisors and staff.** Statutorily this leadership is responsible for policy direction at the County Board and at the Committee level, currently many Supervisors are functioning with a much reduced knowledge base of their respective committee functions.

To reduce travel and expenses GLNAC has set a series of four 2 hour compressed video conferences located at eight sites on campuses in Fond du Lac, Appleton, Green Bay, Ashland, Superior, Marinette, Stevens Point and Milwaukee to provide easy access and limited travel times and distances.

Compressed video technology allows the presenter to see and hear program attendees on a large projection screen and also allows the attendees to see and hear not only the presenter, but also attendees at other locations all at the same time.

Two-way audio communications will allow for a conferencing atmosphere familiar to this traditional audience. Each campus site will have a local host to encourage fellowship and networking of local Counties attending each location, to restore the benefit of traditional conferencing.

Locate the campus near you. Our goal is to have a site within 1 hour driving distance of our Great Lakes Basin Counties. **The Public is welcome and will be invited to the programs.**

Locations, see enclosed maps:

1. **WITC Ashland**, room 106, enter entrance N1 and park north lot.
2. **UW Steven's Point**, Communication Arts Center room CAC 211 at UWSP is building #3 on the map, on the south side of the student union (which is #40 on the map).
3. **WITC- Superior**, room 212C in the library at the top of the stairs.
4. **UW Fox Valley**, room # 1830 or building #24 on the map. Park towards the north side of the parking lot and enter through the Field House building #27.
5. **UW Marinette**, program in the Library L-105
6. **UW Fond Du lac** , Class Room Building C117, enter through the main entrance between Admin building and the Prairie theater go through the commons area down a long hallway to the Class Room building.
7. **UW Green Bay**, IS1034 is in the Instructional Services Building, which is #6 on the campus map. Folks should enter through the Main Entrance on Nicolet Drive (Highway A). This takes them to the drive-up Parking Office where they can get their parking pass.
8. **WITC Milwaukee**,

If you have any questions regarding the programs, directions or subject matter, contact Tom Ward at tomward@tm.net or call 920-588-0047.