

PRESS RELEASE

Land Conservation Partnership hosts second forum: **KEEPING THE LAND IN LAND USE PLANNING**

Kurt Chatfield from the successful Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Preservation Program will give the keynote speech at an October 11 workshop. He will tell how the Minnesota program works and how citizens got it going.

Chatfield is the senior planner from the Dakota County Office of Planning.

In light of the urgency for planning the future of land use and growth in Washington and Ozaukee County, this forum will offer tools and practical ideas for protecting the landscape citizens hold dear.

Sue Millin, project coordinator for the Land Conservation Partnership said, "We invite everyone who wants to learn how to protect the landscape and working farmland as their county grows."

The recent County Board non-binding vote to support sales tax dollars for a conservation fund makes this a timely forum for county board supervisors, local government officials, plan commissioners, planning & zoning staff, conservation agency staff and interested citizens.

"The ag/food industry adds nearly \$145 million annually to the county economy. We can't afford to lose it," added Tony Warren, CEO, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, host of the event along with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and the Ozaukee County Planning, Resources, and Land Management Department.

Steve Tews, president of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust added, "Farmland preservation programs are sprouting up all over the country because of the fear of the loss of prime agricultural land to development. We are lucky to be in a position to do something in our counties before it is too late."

The cost of the forum is \$15 per person. Space is limited to the first 100 participants.

The agenda includes topics relevant to the land protection issue: Our Changing Landscapes: Patterns, Trends and Challenges; Preservation Planning Tools: Benefits, Limitations & Opportunities; Purchase of Development Rights: How They Work

The event begins with a social hour at 5:00, followed by the program at 6:00.

For more information contact:
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