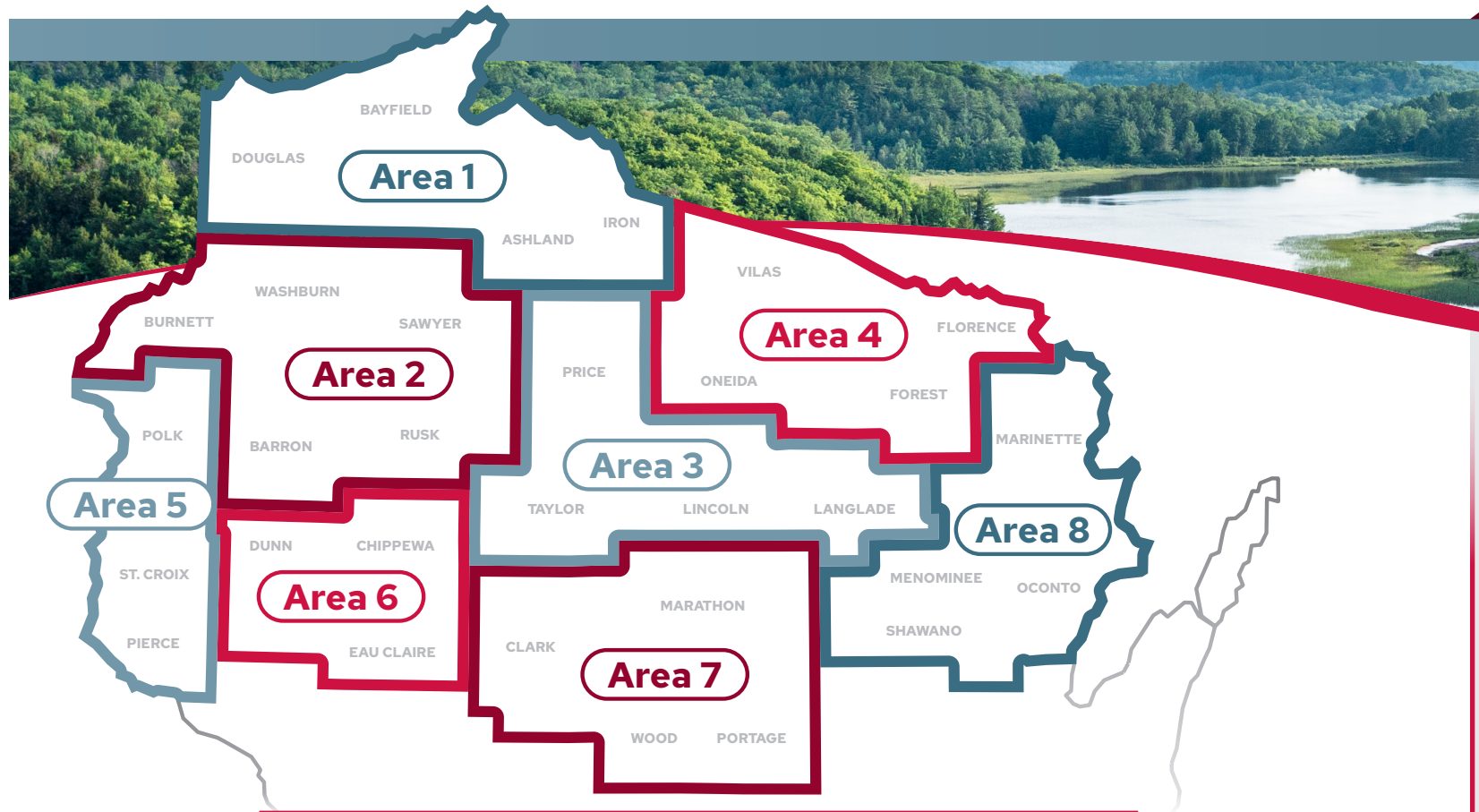




EXTENSION

NORTHWOODS

FORUM



Northwoods Area Extension Directors

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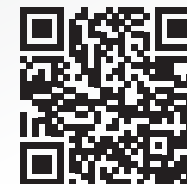
The Northwoods Forum is an opportunity for leaders from northern Wisconsin and UW-Madison to come together to assess and build on efforts to maintain, enhance, or revitalize rural communities and lives. The goal of the Forum is to learn about work going on throughout northern Wisconsin communities and engage in dialogue to identify additional work that can help address priority needs and issues moving forward.



Celebrating 175 years of partnering with Wisconsin communities



For the full conference program with session descriptions, speaker bios, and Extension staff directory, scan the QR code or visit extension.wisc.edu/northwoods



Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Lake of the Torches Resort Casino • Lac du Flambeau, WI

9 a.m. | Welcome

Opening Remarks

Welcome from Lac du Flambeau Tribal Representatives

Jennifer L. Mnookin, *Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

10 a.m. | Plenary

Engaging in Civil Discourse to Help Move Community Issues Forward

Benoy Jacob, *Community Development Institute Director, UW-Madison Extension*

Rural Livability in Northern Wisconsin

Matt Kures, *Community Economic Development Specialist, UW-Madison Extension*

11:15 a.m. | Track Breakouts

Lunch times are staggered between the tracks



Track 1: Local Community Infrastructure and Economy

Lunch buffet at noon



Track 2: Natural Resources

Lunch buffet at 12:15 p.m.



Track 3: Quality of Life

Lunch buffet at 12:30 p.m.

3 p.m. | Plenary

Local Government Panel

Facilitator: Paul DeLong, *Associate Dean for Operations, Policy,*

and Stakeholder Engagement, UW-Madison Extension

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, *Outreach and Member Engagement Director, Wisconsin Counties Association*

Zach Vruwink, *Chief Operating Officer, League of Wisconsin Municipalities*

Lara Carlson, *Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Towns Association*

Closing Remarks

Karl Martin, *Dean and Director, UW-Madison Extension*

This event is made possible in part thanks to the generous support of our local government partners.



View Extension's interactive directory at people.extension.wisc.edu/leadership



Track Breakouts

General Session Presenters

TRACK 1



Facilitator: Benoy Jacob, *Community Development Institute Director*

Community Economic Analysis for Rural Wisconsin Communities

- Matt Kures, *Community Economic Development Specialist*
- Steven Chmielewski, *Community Development Extension Educator*
- Jeff Ehrhardt, *Chairperson, Town of Morse*

Panel: Building Broadband Capacity through Partnerships

- Brittany Beyer, *Broadband Specialist*
- Gail Huycke, *Broadband Specialist*
- Christopher Stark, *Digital Equity Outreach Specialist*
- Steve Watson, *Digital Navigator, Forest County*
- Michelle Grimm, *Community Development Extension Educator*
- Brian Gauthier, *Community Development Extension Educator*
- Michael Bub, *Taylor County Board of Supervisors and City of Medford Common Council*

Get Your House in Order: Strategies to Address the Housing Shortage

- Kelly Westlund, *Housing Extension Educator*
- Kellie Pederson, *Community Development Extension Educator*

TRACK 2



Facilitator: Tricia Gorby, *Natural Resources Institute Director*

Natural Resources, Recreation, and Tourism

- David Marcouiller, *Professor, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture*
- Austin Holland, *Assistant Professor, Center for Land Use Education*
- Sharon Moen, *Food-Fish Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Sea Grant*

Panel: Critical Water Resources in the Northwoods

- Gretchen Gerrish, *Director, UW Center for Limnology's Trout Lake Station*
- Eric Olson, *Director, Extension Lakes Program*
- Kait Reinl, *Research Coordinator, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve*
- Grace Graham, *Project Hydrogeologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey*

Northwoods Forest Economy, Workforce, and Markets

- Scott Bove, *Professor and Wood Products Extension Specialist*
- Les Werner, *Director, Wisconsin Forestry Center*

TRACK 3



Facilitator: Amber Canto, *Health & Well-Being Institute Director*

Understanding and Addressing Substance Use and Misuse in Northern Wisconsin

- Randy Brown, *Professor, UW School of Medicine and Public Health*
- Danielle Lemke, *Health & Well-Being Extension Educator*
- Paul Haasl, *Recovery Coach, Bridges to Recovery*
- Kendelle Nelson, *Recovery Coach, Bridges to Recovery*

Accessing Health Care Coverage in Northern Wisconsin

- Allison Espeseth, *Outreach Program Director, Covering Wisconsin*
- Kirk Moore, *Health Coverage Navigator, Covering Wisconsin*
- Anthony Lee, *Health Coverage Navigator, Covering Wisconsin*
- Steve Budnick, *Administrator, Northern Income Maintenance Consortium*

Working to Reduce the Stigma around Mental Health in Northern Wisconsin

- Danette Hopke, *Behavioral Health Outreach Program Manager*
- Debbie Moellendorf, *Professor and Health & Well-Being Extension Educator*
- Tracy Henegar, *Human Development & Relationships Extension Educator*
- Erin Jacobson, *Mental Health Navigator, D.C. Everest Area School District*
- Alexandra Libby, *Associate Principal, Merrill High School*

9 a.m. | Welcome

Opening Remarks

Jennifer L. Mnookin, Chancellor, UW-Madison
 Jennifer L. Mnookin is the 30th leader in the 175-year history of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has spent her academic career at top public research universities, including the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Virginia, and now UW-Madison. She also has been a visiting professor of law at Harvard Law School, and she received her AB from Harvard University, her JD from Yale Law School, and a PhD in history and social study of science and technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The chancellor is passionate about growing UW-Madison's top 10 research enterprise to bring discovery and innovation to a new level of excellence and expanding opportunities for students to engage in cutting-edge research and public service, in the proud tradition of the Wisconsin Idea.

10 a.m. | Plenary

Engaging in Civil Discourse to Help Move Community Issues Forward

Benoy Jacob, Community Development Institute Director, UW-Madison Extension
 Benoy Jacob is the director of the Community Development Institute at UW-Madison Extension. He is also an affiliated faculty with both the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. Prior to UW-Madison, Benoy was an associate professor in the School of Public Policy and Leadership at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he also served as the interim director of the MGM Resorts Public Policy Institute. Benoy also served as an assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver, and at the Division of Politics and Economics at Claremont Graduate University. He has a PhD in public administration from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Rural Livability in Northern Wisconsin

Matt Kures, Community Economic Development Specialist, UW-Madison Extension
 Matt Kures is a distinguished community development specialist with Extension's Community Development Institute. Matt works in partnership with Extension's statewide network of resources to assist communities and organizations in the areas of regional economic analysis, labor force research, socioeconomic impact analysis and industry sector competitiveness. Matt started at Extension in 2001 as a GIS state specialist with the Center for Community and Economic Development. He transitioned to his current role as community economic development specialist in 2011. He holds an MS and BS in cartography and geographic information systems from UW-Madison.

3 p.m. | Plenary

Local Government Panel

Facilitator: Paul DeLong, Associate Dean for Operations, Policy, and Stakeholder Engagement, UW-Madison Extension
 Paul DeLong is the associate dean for operations, policy, and stakeholder engagement for UW-Madison Extension, overseeing administrative and procedural functions of the division. Prior to joining Extension in 2021, Paul was the senior vice president of conservation at the American Forest Foundation in Washington, DC. At AFF he led programs engaging diverse landowners across the country and leveraged partnerships to further the foundation's conservation impact. Paul previously held positions at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 1992-2016, including bringing leadership and direction for the state agency as the division administrator and chief state forester. A certified forester, he served as president of the National Association of State Foresters in 2015-16.

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Outreach and Member Engagement Director, WCA
 Sarah began working for WCA in September 1991 as a legislative associate working on issues related to taxation and finance, personnel and labor relations, and judicial and public safety. Most recently she served as the WCA deputy director of government affairs and worked on issues relating to health and human services. Sarah received a bachelor's degree in political science and history from St. Norbert College located in De Pere, Wisconsin.

Zach Vruwink, Chief Operating Officer, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
 Zach Vruwink joined the league in 2022 and serves as chief operating officer. Zach's responsibilities are to lead the operations with a member-focused municipal mindset. Zach is passionate about government, entrepreneurship, community engagement, the creative economy, and public service. Prior to joining the league, Zach was elected mayor of Wisconsin Rapids from 2012 to 2020. He began serving as Rhinelander's city administrator in April 2020. Zach also serves on the UW-Stevens Point Alumni Board of Directors, as director on Create Wisconsin's (formerly Arts Wisconsin) Board of Directors, and as a steering committee member of the Mayor's Innovation Project.

Lara Carlson, Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Towns Association
 Lara Carlson has served as legal counsel for the Wisconsin Towns Association since 2019, where she provides legal assistance to town and village officials and employees via the WTA's legal hotline and presents on municipal topics at workshops and events throughout each year. She also writes articles for the WTA magazine and website, and she has contributed edits to the Wisconsin Town Officials' Handbook, as well as publications related to local government finances, board of review procedures, and land use and planning law. Lara graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School and worked as a law clerk for the Dane County Circuit Court prior to joining the WTA.

Closing Remarks
Karl Martin, Dean and Director, UW-Madison Extension
 Karl Martin is the dean and director of UW-Madison Extension, overseeing Extension programming in the areas of agriculture, community development, health and well-being, human development and relationships, natural resources, and positive youth development. Before joining Extension, Karl was chief of the Wildlife and Forest Research Program with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and an adjunct faculty member in UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Prior to that he was a forest research scientist based out of Rhinelander. He has a doctorate in forest ecology and a master's degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University and a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology from UW-Madison.



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