

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference
August 2-4, 2017
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Wednesday, August 2

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. – Registration at Bigwood Event Center

10:30 a.m. – CGMC Board of Directors Meeting

12 p.m. – Conference Begins – Welcome Remarks from Fergus Falls Mayor Ben Schierer

12:05-1:30 p.m. – Lunch and legislative wrap-up with an interactive discussion

CGMC Executive Director Bradley Peterson will provide a recap of the 2017 Legislative Session and how its outcomes will affect your community and Greater Minnesota as a whole. *Lunch will be served.*

1:30-2:30 p.m. – Panel discussion: “The Minnesota Capitol Press Corps: Front-Row Seats at the Circus”

Journalists who work in the Capitol Press Corps have been invited to participate in this panel discussion about the joys and frustrations of covering the state’s political scene. They will also share their tips on how to develop a positive relationship with the media and advice on ways to keep the media — and the public — interested in issues that are important to your city.

2:30-2:45 p.m. – BREAK and Check-in at Country Inn & Suites

2:45-4:15 p.m. – “Art as an Economic Driver in Rural Minnesota”

Rural cities of all sizes are increasingly discovering that the arts can be a powerful tool to help improve their economies. Learn how your city can adopt techniques used by other communities throughout Minnesota and the United States to drive economic growth through art.

4:45-7 p.m. – City of Fergus Falls-sponsored social hour and dinner at Pebble Lake Golf Course

The City of Fergus Falls will host a rib dinner, catered by the American Legion, at the city-owned Pebble Lake Golf Course. Live entertainment will be provided by local musicians, including Mayor Ben Schierer and his family. *Transportation will be provided to and from the event center/hotel.*

8:30 p.m. – Karaoke at Z103 Bar & Grill (*optional; located at the Country Inn & Suites*)

Thursday, August 3

Breakfast on own

8:30-10:30 a.m. – City Tours (*attendees will indicate their top choices when they register*)

- **Option 1: Downtown Walking Tour** - This guided tour will explore the vibrant art, architecture, history and future of Fergus Falls’ downtown and riverfront. *(Transportation provided)*
- **Option 2: Lakes & Prairies** - Learn about the area’s wildlife and natural history at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, then head to beautiful Lake Alice for a walk-and-talk about water resources. *(Transportation provided)*
- **Option 3: Golf at Pebble Lake Golf Course** - Play a round of nine holes at this city-owned course. Cost: \$32, includes golf cart. *(Must provide your own transportation to the course)*
- **Option 4: Central Lakes Trail Bike Tour** - Enjoy a 20-mile guided ride. Bring your own bike or rent one for \$10. *(Must provide your own transportation to the trailhead)*

11 a.m.-noon – Exhibitor Break

Visit the more than two dozen businesses and organizations that will be showcasing their products and services. *Snacks will be served.*

Noon-1 p.m. – Keynote Luncheon: “The State of Manufacturing” – Bob Kill, President and CEO of Enterprise Minnesota

Kill, a well-known expert on Minnesota's manufacturing industry, will provide an update on the health of manufacturing statewide and how manufacturers in different regions of the state view current and future prospects for their industries.

1-2 p.m. – Presentation on the Minnesota Rural Equity Project: “Taking off the Training Wheels: What We’ve Learned, Where We’re Going”

In 2016, the CGMC joined forces with Growth & Justice, the Greater Minnesota Partnership and the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition to explore issues pertaining to economic growth and equity in rural Minnesota. MREP Director Matt Schmit and Growth & Justice President Dane Smith will provide an update on where the project stands, its goals for the future and how Greater Minnesota community leaders can get involved.

2-2:30 p.m. – Exhibitor Break

Visit the more than two dozen businesses and organizations that will be showcasing their products and services. *Snacks will be served.*

2:30-3:30 p.m. – Panel discussion: “Representing Constituents at Home and at the Capitol: Perspectives on the Evolving State-Local Relationship”

State legislators who formerly served in city government have been invited to participate in this panel discussion about always evolving relationship between the state and local governments. In light of recent preemption measures proposed at the Legislature, this panel will discuss issues pertaining to local control, as well as the differences between serving in elected office at the city and state levels.

3:30 p.m. – “The Census is Counting on You” – Susan Brower, Minnesota State Demographer

Local leaders are instrumental in helping to ensure everyone is counted in the U.S. Census. This is extremely important for rural areas because it determines where state and federal resources are directed, and even impacts state and federal representation. State Demographer Susan Brower will outline the small steps you can take to make sure your city’s residents are counted.

4 p.m. – Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP) Membership Meeting (*optional*)

5:30 p.m. – Cocktail Reception – Bigwood Event Center lobby

Join legislators and your fellow community leaders for a cash bar and light hors d’oeuvre.

6:30 p.m. – Legislative Awards Dinner

Enjoy a delicious meal as the CGMC honors the legislators and city officials who worked tirelessly to advance Greater Minnesota’s interests over the past year.

Friday, August 4

8 a.m. – Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30 a.m. – Labor & Employee Relations Update

Brandon Fitzsimmons, labor attorney with Flaherty & Hood, will discuss the CGMC Labor and Employee Relations Committee's proposed work plan, budget and policies for 2017-18 and provide an update on labor laws and settlements.

9:30-11 a.m. – Membership Meeting

The full CGMC membership will adopt the annual budget and assessments, elect officers and discuss other business as needed.

11 a.m. – Adjourn

**Please note that this is a tentative agenda. Agenda items and speakers may change.*