Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference 2019

July 24-26, 2019 • Bemidji, MN

Register online at
GreaterMNCities.org/summer19

Venue Information

Unless otherwise indicated on the agenda, conference activities will be held at:

Sanford Center
1111 Event Center Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Hotel

Country Inn & Suites
(next to Sanford Center)
927 Lake Shore Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
Call: 218-441-4800

*Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. CGMC has a block of rooms at a discounted rate of $114-$139 (plus tax, price depends on room type). Block closes July 1st.

Questions?

Contact Julie Liew at 651-259-1917 or jliew@flaherty-hood.com

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, July 24

10am-Noon **Registration begins at Sanford Center**

10:30am **CGMC Board of Directors Meeting**

Noon **Conference Begins – Welcome Remarks from CGMC President Ron Johnson and Bemidji Mayor Rita Albrecht**

12:05pm **Presentation & Interactive Discussion: "Why Greater Minnesota Needs to be a Pain in the Behind"**
CGMC Executive Director Bradley Peterson will provide an in-depth look into some of the lessons learned from the 2019 legislative session and delve into the future regarding the importance and necessity of a strong Greater Minnesota advocacy program.

1:30pm **Presentation: "Career Academies: Growing Minnesota's Future Workforce"**
Learn about Career Academies, an innovative collaboration between the Bemidji School District, Greater Bemidji, Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College and local businesses that aims to address Greater Minnesota's workforce shortage by providing hands-on skills training to high school students.

2:30pm **BREAK**

2:45pm **Interactive Discussion: "Your Turn: Sharing Ideas, Successes & Concerns"**
You've heard from CGMC staff, legislators and other presenters and speakers, now it's your turn! In this interactive discussion, attendees will share their stories and learn how fellow city leaders are seizing opportunities and addressing challenges in their communities.

4pm **BREAK and Check-in at Country Inn & Suites**

5pm **City of Bemidji-Sponsored Patio Party and Dinner at Sanford Center**

6pm **Pontoon rides on Lake Bemidji and Mississippi Music at Bemidji Waterfront**
Relax on a pontoon ride from the Sanford Center to the Lake Bemidji waterfront where attendees can have their picture taken with the iconic Paul & Babe statues and enjoy an outdoor concert featuring Minneapolis-based jazz and R&B musician Lila Ammons. *(A shuttle bus will also be available.)*

8pm **Downtown Bemidji Pub Crawl**
Have a pint or two at local watering holes and check out some of the art on the sculpture walk in Bemidji's bustling downtown. *(A shuttle bus will be available.)*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, July 25

Morning — **Breakfast on your own (Country Inn & Suites has free breakfast)**

8-10:30am — **City Tours**

Attendees may participate in one of four tour options that highlight the city of Bemidji:

Option 1: Economic Development Bus Tour – On this guided tour you will learn about Greater Bemidji's innovative economic development efforts including the LaunchPad (an entrepreneur's one-stop-shop including co-working space), the Minnesota Innovation Institute (MI2), and the Mayflower Building, a remodeling of a 1901 warehouse. The tour will also include a walk-through the new Delta Dental building in Bemidji's Technology Park.

Option 2: Downtown Tour – Explore and learn about Bemidji's vibrant downtown. Points of interest may include the new Watermark Art Gallery, newly renovated Historic Carnegie building, Beltrami County History Center, Paul Bunyan "All-Inclusive Playground," a sculpture walk tour, local shops and restaurants and, of course, the famous Paul & Babe statues.

Option 3: Golf at Castle Highlands – Enjoy nine holes of golf at Castle Highlands, 13848 Gull Lake Loop Road NE, Bemidji. Cost is $21, includes golf cart. *(Must provide your own transportation to the course; first tee time is 7:30 a.m.)*

Option 4: Bike Ride along Lake Bemidji – Enjoy a leisurely ride on the Paul Bunyan Trail. *(Bikes will be available to rent or your may bring your own.)*

10:30-noon — **Exhibitor Break**

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

Noon — **Keynote Luncheon - Steve Grove, Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development**

Steve Grove, the newly appointed DEED commissioner, will share his insights on economic development issues and state programs that impact Greater Minnesota communities.

1pm — **Panel Discussion: "Housing Hullabaloo: Creating Housing Policy That Works for the Entire State"**

A panel of housing experts will discuss the challenges that communities across Minnesota face when it comes to meeting the growing need for workforce and affordable housing. They will share ideas for establishing state policies and programs that could help address this complex and complicated issue.

2pm — **Exhibitor/Snack Break**

2:30pm — **Presentation: "A Unique Cleanup Spurs Redevelopment of Blighted Beach"**

A collaborative process, involving public and private organizations, spurred a creative environmental cleanup of a blighted beach on Lake Bemidji. This presentation by project engineers, environmental services experts and Bemidji city staff will discuss the difficulties and challenges in redeveloping the contaminated lake shore property and some of the key elements to planning and implementing a successful redevelopment.

3pm — **Legislative Panel Discussion**

Legislative leaders from both parties will discuss the 2019 legislative session, top concerns for 2020 and beyond, and their vision for keeping Greater Minnesota communities strong and viable.

4pm — **BREAK**

5pm — **Cocktail Reception**

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

6pm — **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.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, July 26

8am — **Continental Breakfast at Sanford Center**

8:30am — **Presentation: "Labor & Employee Relations Update"**
Brandon Fitzsimmons, a labor attorney with Flaherty & Hood P.A., will discuss the CGMC Labor and Employee Relations Committee's proposed work plan, budget and policies for 2019-20 and provide an update on labor laws and settlements.

9:30am — **Presentation and Discussion: "The Future of the CGMC's Environmental Program"**
CGMC staff will outline the CGMC's recent accomplishments on environmental issues and lay out some of the challenges that are on the horizon, as well as discuss the options and possible direction for the CGMC's environmental program going forward.

10am — **CGMC Membership Meeting**
The full CGMC membership will adopt the annual budget and assessments, elect officers and conduct other business as needed.

11:30am — **Adjourn**

Note: This is a tentative agenda and may be subject to change.