COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES SUMMER CONFERENCE 2021

JULY 29-30, 2021

ALEXANDRIA, MN

TOGETHER AGAIN!

Venue

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
2100 Arrowwood Lane
Alexandria, MN 56308

Hotel Information

The CGMC has reserved a block of hotel rooms at Arrowwood at a rate of $139/night. Call Arrowwood at 320-762-1124 by June 28 to make a reservation under the CGMC's block.

Questions?

Please contact CGMC Media & Communications Director Julie Liew at jliew@flaherty-hood.com or 651-259-1917.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY! **BIT.LY/CGMCSUMMER21**

CONFERENCE AGENDA - THURSDAY, JULY 29

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

11 a.m. – Registration begins at Arrowwood

12 p.m. – Conference Begins – Welcome Remarks from CGMC President Greg Zylka

12:05 p.m. – Keynote lunch with Governor Walz

1:05 p.m. – "Legislative Session Through a Greater Minnesota Lens — What Happened and What May Be Coming"

CGMC Executive Director Bradley Peterson will provide in-depth analysis of the 2021 legislative sessions and what city leaders need know about the next two-year state budget. He will also discuss issues on the horizon for 2022, including a possible overhaul of the LGA formula. Attendees will also share their thoughts during an interactive discussion.

2:10 p.m. – "Paths to Common Ground"

City officials represent a diverse array of constituents — including those with strong opposing viewpoints. Ambassadors from Braver Angels will discuss the work their nonpartisan, nonprofit organization is doing to help foster better understanding and communications in our increasingly polarized society. They will provide tips on how to listen, share ideas and seek common ground despite our differences.

3:45 p.m. – "LGA & Legislative Tax Policy: Perspectives from the Chairs"

Chairs of the House and Senate committees on taxes and property taxes will provide insights into bills passed during the regular and special sessions, the future of LGA and state taxes, and other important legislative issues like COVID-19 recovery and infrastructure needs. Panelists:

- Sen. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester)
- Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth)
- Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne)
- Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL-Hopkins)

5:30 p.m. – Cocktail Reception

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.

CONFERENCE AGENDA - FRIDAY, JULY 30

8 a.m. – Continental Breakfast at Arrowwood

8:30 a.m. – "Playing in a Pandemic: How Local and Regional Parks & Trails Prevailed Over a Crisis"

Minnesota's parks and trails saw a tremendous uptick in visitors over the past 18 months as people clamored to find safe and fun outdoor activities. Our panelists will share the creative and unique ways they engaged with the public during the pandemic — and how they plan to build on this growth for the future. Panelists:

- Brad Harrington, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager, Wright County
- Marcia Larson, Parks & Recreation Manager, City of Bemidji
- Brad Bonk, Parks Superintendent, Douglas County Parks

9:30 a.m. – "Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic"

One of the most glaring issues preventing Greater Minnesota from achieving full post-COVID economic recovery is a lack of workers. To address the worker shortage, cities must also address concerns such as child care, workforce housing, and transportation. Julie Tesch, President & CEO of the Center for Rural Policy & Development, will present their research on how the rural workforce was impacted by the pandemic and what Greater Minnesota will need to be successful moving forward.

10:30 a.m. – CGMC Membership Meeting

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

11:30 a.m. – Adjourn

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and may be subject to change.