



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Township of Beecher—Federal, state and local economic and governmental leaders will begin assembling in this unincorporated township in Northeastern Wisconsin for a topic of utmost importance—the future of the local economy. The “Northwoods Economic Summit” has as its goal to begin a community education effort that will culminate in a series of specific action steps to further economic development in the area. It will be held on October 4th at the Four Seasons Resort.

Invited speakers include Congressman Mark Green, the state agency Secretaries of the Wisconsin Department(s) of Commerce, Workforce Development, and Tourism. Secondary and Post-Secondary educational leaders—such as Elizabeth Burmaster—are also being asked to come and discuss their vision for opportunities to create public/private partnerships to enhance the quality of life in Northeastern Wisconsin.

This panel will be supplemented with a discussion held by local business leaders representing the manufacturing, forestry and tourism trades. Ideas will be shared on how to overcome barriers to economic development in the Northwoods.

The summit was deemed necessary because Northeastern Wisconsin (specifically Florence, Marinette, Oconto, Menominee and Shawano counties) have:

- 1 . A labor force participation rate of 64% compared to 73% for the state as a whole.
- 2 . A combined average unemployment rate of 8.4% compared to 4.5% for the state as a whole.
- 3 . An average per capita income of \$23,134. This is well below the state average of \$30,685.
- 4 . A poverty rate of 13% compared to Wisconsin’s average of 9%.

The goal of the summit is to develop an action plan to be spearheaded by local leaders to implement a series of strategies to position Northeastern Wisconsin to take advantage of future opportunities.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Registration information can be found at <http://www.cesa8.k12.wi.us/services/admin/Northwoods.pdf>

The Northwoods Economic Summit

“N.E.W opportunities to see the forest through the trees”