

***“Listen to Understand and Move Forward” theme of Art of Hosting Training Course to be held May 8, 9 & 10 in Granite Falls***

Area residents are being invited by Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) to register for a three day training course in techniques and methods designed to get people talking about things that matter. The training session will be held on May 8, 9, & 10 in at the Prairie’s Edge Casino Resort in Granite Falls, Minnesota. **There is no charge to attend the course, but registration is limited to the first 100 people who sign up by calling 1-877-269-2873. Registration deadline is April 27, 2012.** To date there are more than 50 individuals from throughout the Western Minnesota who have registered for the course.

Known around the world as the “Art of Hosting”, the course will teach and demonstrate a variety of meeting facilitation techniques that can help build relationships and address communication breakdowns between factions of people. Art of Hosting practitioners from Australia, Canada and the U.S.A. are being flown in to teach the course which has a market value of \$500 per person, not including meals.

“We are looking for leaders, professionals, teachers, managers, self-employed business owners and farmers from throughout the Minnesota River Watershed to take this course,” stated CURE Executive Director Patrick Moore who is recruiting participants for the training course.

“Our goal is to accelerate the spread of meeting facilitation methods designed to help us “listen to understand and move forward,” Moore explained. “We have experienced the power that comes when people who thought they did not agree find a way to collaborate. We hope this course will help our region find creative ways to address all the opportunities for collaboration that exist in small town economic development, health care, education and environmental restoration issues. These days, it seems that all the issues are connected and linked in some way,” Moore added.

CURE is partnering with [InCommons](#) to put on the course. InCommons is a community-based initiative that connects Minnesotans – face-to-face and online – so they can find and share tools, knowledge and resources to solve problems. Recently, InCommons helped sponsor a series of meetings around the state about the state government shutdown and revenue shortfall. CURE recently worked with InCommons to sponsor a series of dialogues about water quality issues facing the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers.

CURE is a grassroots non-profit organization based in Montevideo that focuses on celebrating and protecting the Minnesota River Watershed. For more information visit [www.cureriver.org](http://www.cureriver.org)