



For Immediate Release
Contact: Gary Becker
LGI Executive Director
gary@localgovinstitute.org
608.920.2850

June 11, 2018

Ho Chunk Nation and Sauk County Partner to Envision a Shared Future

The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin ("LGI") has awarded a \$20,000 grant and associated resources to a partnership including the Ho Chunk Nation and Sauk County.

The grant, which is part of LGI's "Future Regions" initiative, will be used to design a vision and plan to preserve and enhance the region's natural resources and quality places. It is the first time in recent memory that Sauk County and the Ho Chunk Nation have partnered on joint planning around a commonly perceived future. "This marks a new beginning for Sauk County and the Ho Chunk Nation to actively engage in a collaborative planning process that envisions a shared future," said Peter Vedro, Sauk County Board Chair.

Ho-Chunk Nation Legislator Carly Lincoln states, "This is an exciting collaboration and an invigorating step to be taking with Sauk County. Forward thinking initiatives and partnerships such as these move everyone forward, not only with the same focus, but with the reins firmly in hand. This is how we enhance the future of everyone; this is how change occurs and we are excited to get started." Ho-Chunk Nation Legislator and Sauk County Supervisor Kristin White Eagle notes, "This is truly unprecedented and a welcome change for the betterment of our combined communities. We are excited to be a primary member and work to collaboratively envision a shared future."

The Ho Chunk Nation-Sauk County Future Region process will include:

- Three strategic foresight workshops held at locations throughout the region. The workshops will help stakeholders identify the most important trends facing them in the future, and build adaptive, resilient plans to optimize the future for the region's natural resources and quality places.
- Six months of ongoing coaching to begin implementation of the plans and develop or solidify new working relationships among community partners.

The Future Regions process is specifically designed to bring people from a variety of organizations and backgrounds together to jointly envision how their futures depend upon one another and to discover the things they can work on together that can make the biggest positive impacts on their future. In addition to Sauk County and the Ho Chunk Nation, the county's five

Page 2

chambers of commerce are contributing to the shared cost of the program. The workshops and coaching will be facilitated by Rebecca Ryan, a Madison-based futurist and economist.

About the Future Regions initiative: LGI established Future Regions to encourage multiple units of government to work together to address regional issues, rather than each working independently. According to Gary Becker, LGI's Executive Director, "Local governments in Wisconsin are good at competing with one another for development and they are frequently in conflict with one another, but there are few that have the skills or experience needed to enter into complex partnerships with multiple entities to accomplish mutual goals. The purpose of Future Regions is to help build those skills and experience so that more of it can happen."

The Chippewa Valley (Eau Claire County, the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona) was LGI's first Future Region. They completed their planning sessions earlier this year and are in the coaching/implementation phase. More information about the Future Regions program may be found on the LGI website: http://www.localgovinstitute.org/future_regions.

About LGI: LGI was formed by the Wisconsin Counties Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities (now the Urban Alliance) in 2008 to promote greater cooperation and collaboration between units of government in the delivery of services.

###



LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
INSTITUTE
OF WISCONSIN
BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER TO SERVE