

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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DATE: September 21, 2007

### **City applying for \$600,000 in USEPA Brownfields funding**

The City is currently preparing three USEPA Brownfield Hazardous Substances Cleanup Grant applications of \$200,000 each for cleanup of several key areas in the former Alliant site. Baraboo's applications for Brownfields cleanup funding continue the City's active pursuit of downtown and riverfront revitalization.

Brownfields properties are unattractive to private investors because of the financial and legal burdens they carry. This makes them difficult to redevelop. In Baraboo, brownfields are found predominately along the riverfront due to the industrial past of this area.

The City, supported by dedicated citizen groups, has made significant strides in redeveloping brownfields areas throughout the past decade. Last year, Baraboo's efforts were greatly advanced through successful application for two \$200,000 Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grants. This huge success will allow the City to better understand specific environmental conditions at priority redevelopment sites throughout the Ringling Riverfront District. The City hopes to build upon this success through its current applications, which would secure funding for cleanup of the prioritized sites.

Due to the combined high cost and high value of Brownfield cleanup, the USEPA Brownfield grants program is extremely competitive. Mayor Liston stresses that USEPA considers community support when it reviews grant applications. The City is asking any interested residents, business owners or community groups to write letters of support to include with the application. If you would like to include a letter of support, please send your letter to the Mayor's office at 135 Fourth Street, Baraboo, WI 53913 or via fax at (608) 355-2719 by October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

Residents are also encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to review and comment on the City's applications. Drafts of the applications will be available from September 27 – October 10, 2007, at City Hall, the public library, and on <http://cityofbaraboo.com/>.

The City will take public comments at City Hall during the 6:00 pm October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baraboo Economic Development Commission. Mayor Liston will also be available specifically to discuss the application in person on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Interested residents are encouraged to visit his office at this time.

Comments and questions can also be directed to the Mayor's office at (608) 355-2715 or via email at [pliston@cityofbaraboo.com](mailto:pliston@cityofbaraboo.com).

The City will submit its final applications to USEPA on October 12, 2007.

END

