

LMC Annual Conference
June 24-26, 2026
Rodchester, MN

Overall theme was “Power Up” and presented in many different topic’s; as leadership, respect & dignity, civility, energy, funding, technology, partnerships, budgeting/funding, community engagement, etc.....

Key take aways from sessions I attended.

June 24th

- Minnesota Association of Small Cities
 - Represents cities under 5,000 and has a membership of 225-275.
 - Legislatively was a bonding vs budget year. Not a lot accomplished.
 - Key discussions around federal impacts, fraud, fiscal outlook
 - A win was transportation where local cost sharing was updated so smaller cities are less impacted; topped at 25K
 - No change in LGA
 - Bonding bills passed specific to communities but also addressed transportation local road improvement and water infrastructure.
 - Next year focus areas include data center regulation, LGA tied to inflation, local sales tax reform, TAA money, Housing zoning/land use and Audit challenges in terms of increased cost and difficulty to find auditors.
 - Massage therapist will need to obtain license/permit and have criminal background checks.
- Keynote: The Power of Dignity for Life and Leadership.
Take Away: Building skills for dignified disagreement and honoring others dignity.
Be curious- not furious/ regulate debate/Listen to understand/ challenge ideas- don’t attack people/acknowledge knowledge/build up rather than tear down.
- Vendor fair: great networking and resources to further support Vergas energy and resilience action plan. Department of Commerce will be providing us with Home Energy Guides and a Kids Activity books.
- LMC had city officials sign a cavity pledge and had a model city resolution to utilize.
- Attended Minnesota Energy Coalition meet and greet

June 25th

- LMC Annual Business meeting. New members to board positions. Nothing else of substance.
- Electric Slide into Savings- I was part of a panel presentation with CERTS and MPCA and shared the Vergas story of energy efficiency, clean energy and resiliency. Received positive feedback.
- Legislative Update: noting not much accomplished this year. Briefed on what they followed.
- Show, Don't Tell: Visual Storytelling tools for City Leaders. Wabasha, Cottage Grove and St. Peter shared website and tools they use. Noted 4 goals to Persuade, Engage, Humanize, Build Trust. Had great graphics as well as video's worth looking at to utilize by our city. Very willing to share. A must to look at the presentation on LMC website.
- Navigating & Securing Modern Infrastructure Funding: Key Trends and Outlook. Featured Floodwood and all the housing funding they secured for housing growth in the community. Key take away here was to keep your community housing assessment current and having a master plan for new growth. Without this will miss out on funding. Also discussed the rigors of managing state, private and federal funding and investment.

Due to prior obligation, I was not able to attend the morning session on the last day June 26th.

Again, appreciate the opportunity to attend the annual LMC conference. The content, resources, and networking are so valuable to me as a leader, but also in applying what was learned to the city.

With Sincere Appreciation;
/es/ Julie Bruhn