Our History:

Since June 2010, several residents and business people in our community have gathered to think about the dramatic changes in our local economy. Several major regional employers have been forced to lay off an unprecedented number of people because of declines in their industries. Other local businesses are struggling. Many neighbors have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. Most people have found the value of their retirement funds significantly reduced and the value of their major asset, their home, depreciated.

People in communities throughout the St. Croix Valley are searching for better ways to live and work that are sustainable. They are buying local foods, saving rather than spending, and some are even starting green businesses.

As residents of the watershed, we enjoy living in our unique community that is rich in history, culture and natural resources, but fragile at the same time. We are concerned that our Wild and Scenic River, protected from its source to its mouth, has become one of America’s Ten Most Endangered Rivers, injured by poorly planned development, chemical run-off and loss of habitat. Each individual person and business shares a responsibility to make good decisions today for the future of our beautiful St. Croix River communities.

As we talked and listened, we learned about the local living economy, an effective model of how communities can organize to sustain long-term economic vitality supporting both community life and natural life.