

# N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

NEWS ON OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY FOR MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

Summer 2018  
Volume 38, Issue 1

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Sierra Club - North Star Chapter  
2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1  
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**SIERRA CLUB**  
NORTH STAR CHAPTER



Sierra Club – North Star Chapter  
 2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1  
 Minneapolis, MN 55406  
 (612) 659-9124

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter is the Minnesota chapter of the national Sierra Club. We are a 501(c)4 organization.

We are nearly 100,000 Minnesotans working for our communities' well-being through environmental protection.

**Together we:**

- Work in partnership for environmental and racial justice
- Create change through grassroots political advocacy
- Pair volunteer leadership with professional expertise

**Our Priorities:**

- Move Minnesota to Clean Energy
- Protect Lands and Waters
- Promote Sustainable Communities and Transportation
- Connect Minnesotans to Nature

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Send address changes to: The North Star Journal, c/o North Star Chapter, 2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

**THE NORTH STAR JOURNAL STAFF**

Art Director/Production: Brian Bradshaw

Postage Coordinator: Vicki Munson, Brian Bradshaw

Editors: Danette Knickmeier, Mary Blitzer

Contributing writers: Katie Eukel, Margaret Levin, Scott Russell, Mary Blitzer, Mauricio Leon, Justin Fay, C. Scott, Vinita Banthia, Erin Daly, Joshua Houdek, Elanne Palcich, Lori Andresen, Sarah Curtis, Henry Homburger, Linda Herron

Copy editors: Nic Baker, Ethan Hiedeman, Elizabeth Gelderman, Sarah Curtis, Jenny Kedward, Marie Gentile, and April Ebb.

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Katie Eukel

Margaret Levin

Welcome to our updated North Star Journal! Our hope is to make the Journal easier and more enjoyable to read with a new look and table of contents organized by section. The articles are written with an emphasis on the difference individual members are making for our communities and a call for you to join them.

In our feature articles we are asking for your input as we begin “Planning for 50” to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Chapter; and in “Change in the Air” and “On Being Better Allies” we ask for your reflection on how you can take part in our ongoing work to become a more just, equitable, and inclusive organization.

In our Outdoors section, we highlight our three outings groups which provide options for achieving the Sierra Club’s mission to help others explore and enjoy our great state. We encourage you to join us.

Our “Political”, “Campaigns”, and “Around the State” sections provide you with an overview of the work we are doing and how you can help. This summer, pledge to engage with the Chapter as an online activist, a volunteer, or donor. The Minnesota 2018 election season will set the stage for years to come with the newly elected Governor playing a major role in 2020 redistricting, House legislative races, and critical federal seats up for grabs. Our ability to harness the opportunity of the upcoming elections—to advance a cleaner, healthier and more just future—depends on you.

We are looking forward to your involvement, and are grateful for your continued support.



**Katie Eukel**  
 Chair, Executive Committee  
 Sierra Club North Star Chapter



**Margaret Levin**  
 State Director  
 Sierra Club North Star Chapter

**CHAPTER LEADERS**

CHAPTER CHAIR  
 Katie Eukel  
[katie.eukel@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:katie.eukel@northstar.sierraclub.org)

VICE CHAIR  
 C. Scott Cooper  
[c.scott.cooper@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:c.scott.cooper@northstar.sierraclub.org)

SECRETARY  
 Lois Norrgard  
[lois.norrgard@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:lois.norrgard@northstar.sierraclub.org)

TREASURER  
 Sam Murphy  
[sam.murphy@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:sam.murphy@northstar.sierraclub.org)

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR  
 John Krenn  
[john.krenn@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:john.krenn@northstar.sierraclub.org)

POLITICAL CO-CHAIRS  
 Dana Hallstrom  
[dana.hallstrom@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:dana.hallstrom@northstar.sierraclub.org)  
 Josh Davis  
[joshua.davis@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.davis@northstar.sierraclub.org)

CONSERVATION CHAIR  
 Mat Hollinshead  
[mathews.hollinshead@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mathews.hollinshead@northstar.sierraclub.org)

LEGAL CHAIR  
 Michelle Weinberg  
[michelle.weinberg@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:michelle.weinberg@northstar.sierraclub.org)

WEBMASTER  
 Kurt Indermaur  
[kurt@indermaur.com](mailto:kurt@indermaur.com)

**MINNESOTA STAFF**  
 Unless otherwise noted staff can be reached at 612-659-9124

STATE DIRECTOR  
 Margaret Levin  
[margaret.levin@sierraclub.org](mailto:margaret.levin@sierraclub.org)

CHAPTER COORDINATOR  
 Vicki Munson  
[vicki.munson@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicki.munson@sierraclub.org)

SENIOR CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE  
 Justin Fay  
[justin.fay@sierraclub.org](mailto:justin.fay@sierraclub.org)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
 MANAGER, CHAPTER  
 Joshua Houdek  
[joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org)

CHAPTER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
 Mary Blitzer  
[mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org)

ROCHESTER CLEAN ENERGY ORGANIZER,  
 CHAPTER  
 Rick Morris  
[rick.morris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.morris@sierraclub.org)

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE,  
 CHAPTER  
 Natalie Cook  
[natalie.cook@sierraclub.org](mailto:natalie.cook@sierraclub.org)

SENIOR CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND  
 COAL  
 Jessica Tritsch  
[jessica.tritsch@sierraclub.org](mailto:jessica.tritsch@sierraclub.org)

SENIOR ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, HEALTHY  
 COMMUNITIES  
 Karen Monahan  
[karen.monahan@sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.monahan@sierraclub.org)

LEAD ORGANIZER, BEYOND COAL  
 Alexis Boxer  
[alexis.boxer@sierraclub.org](mailto:alexis.boxer@sierraclub.org)

ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND COAL  
 Patty O’Keefe  
[patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org](mailto:patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org)

DIRECTOR OF GRASSROOTS EFFECTIVENESS,  
 NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB  
 Scott Elkins  
[scott.elkins@sierraclub.org](mailto:scott.elkins@sierraclub.org)



# ON BEING BETTER ALLIES

## LESSONS WE LEARNED FROM THE STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT

Scott Russell

The North Star Chapter held a “Lessons Learned from Standing Rock” event on March 29. This event was part of our ongoing work to become a more inclusive, equitable, and just organization.

About 50 chapter members attended and heard a panel of indigenous leaders speak about their roles in pipeline resistance, their experience with white allies, and the challenges ahead. Speakers were Mark Tilsen (Lakota), a non-violent direct action trainer at Standing Rock; Rose Whipple (Isanti Dakota/Ho-Chunk), a youth climate intervenor against Line 3; and Marty Cobenais (Red Lake), a Sierra Club Executive Committee member and long-time pipeline fighter.

The event wasn’t just about Standing Rock or even our current opposition to Enbridge Line 3. It was about how we work as allies with Indigenous communities, how we build a sustainable movement, and how we grow as individuals and as an organization.

Executive Committee member and Leech Lake tribal member Sammie Ardito Rivera emceed the event and summarized the key takeaways as follows:

**Learn Protocol:** When you are at a prayer camp

or other indigenous spaces, learn and respect the residents’ rules.

**Bring Resources:** We heard deep appreciation for those allies who came to Standing Rock, brought resources, and took up as little space as possible.

**Know Why You Are Coming:** For native people, this work is about survival. The goal is to stop the pipelines. Allies should respect that and only show up if they are ready to support the work, which can be challenging and may not always be considered “fun”.

**Additional take-aways:**

**Ceremony Matters:** Bob Klanderud (Lakota/Dakota) offered a sage blessing and a prayer at the event. That set a good tone for the rest of the meeting and was appreciated by those in attendance.

**Listen and Hire:** Listen to indigenous people, including indigenous youth, and acknowledge the importance of their voices. We can support indigenous youth and adults financially by hiring them as staff or interns or simply by paying for their time as speakers.

**Acknowledge Native Sovereignty and Leadership:** The Sierra Club’s work should be about true partnerships and relationships,

not about using native allies for a short-term strategic win.

**Understand the Power of Treaties:** Indigenous people have been leading the pipeline-resistance movement using treaty rights. (That said, indigenous communities don’t have a lot of money. Both individuals and indigenous organizations need financial help.)

**There is No Monolithic Indigenous Voice:** There are a diversity of opinions and strategies within the indigenous community-- no different than the majority community.

**Showing Up on the Front Lines Matters:** The Sierra Club’s civil-disobedience policy prohibits us from participating in actions that would result in arrest, even if they are non-violent actions. We are hearing from indigenous partners that as allies, we need to be on the front lines too. The North Star Chapter is currently wrestling with this issue.

Organizers plan to do a more detailed recap of the event to share with the chapter.

*Scott Russell is the co-chair of the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee and a member of the Change Team.*



Bear Head Lake State Park. Photo Credit: Lauren Bixby

Mary Blitzer

In December of this year, the North Star Chapter will turn 50 years old. To mark this major milestone, we’ll be celebrating all of next year by recognizing the past accomplishments of Minnesotan Sierrans and planning for a stronger, more inclusive future. We are calling on all our members to help plan the celebration.

**Celebrating the Past**

Throughout the coming months we would like to share the accomplishments of the North Star Chapter as told by you - the members who made them happen. Is there a campaign you are

most proud of having been a part of? Do you know someone who should be uplifted as an unsung hero? If there is a story that caught your eye or a hero you’d like to recognize, we want to hear about it.

**Preparing for the Future**

Beyond a celebration of the past, we will use this time to prepare for a stronger, more inclusive future. We have a lot of past history to learn from as we move forward. We are seeking to create campaign goals in partnership with those most directly impacted by our campaigns. We also are working to create a more welcoming space by actively seeking new partners and

members in diverse geographies and groups across the state.

We are proud of our successes over the past 50 years and prouder still to be working toward a better future for all Minnesotans. We are asking all members—especially those active with outings and committees—to think about how you can contribute to the celebration and planning. Please contact me at mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org or 612-259-2454 if you’d like to help plan the celebration.

*Mary Blitzer is the Sierra Club North Star Chapter Engagement Manager*

# CHANGE IN THE AIR

## EQUITY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE CLEAN AIR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mauricio Leon

Mauricio Leon on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Let me start by telling you why I decided to volunteer for Sierra Club North Star Chapter.

A number of environmental groups in the Twin Cities have unfortunately sold their souls to the devil. Ironically, they are directly supporting the system that they are supposed to change. Their money comes from the fossil fuel industry or other interest groups that set really specific boundaries on what these environmental organizations can do or say. Sadly, the organizations become an instrument that prevents any “change” that could harm the financial interest of those at the top, the organizations giving an illusion of green activism.

But the Sierra Club is different. Our funding comes from thousands of individual donors who trust that the volunteers and staff deliberate on how to have the best impact on society. This funding gives Sierra Club great freedom, but this freedom comes with a great responsibility.

**Environmentalism for the sake of environmentalism is a bad idea: environmentalism is an instrument to promote a better society. With this in mind, it is important to wonder: what is the type of society that we want to become?**

During one of the Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee meetings, it came to my attention that some of our volunteers are not aware of the value of spending considerable time speaking about issues of environmental justice. Some even see it as an unproductive use of time, when we could instead be speaking about other urgent environmental issues that demand attention.

This came to me as a surprise. It seems at some point we got consumed by what we are doing and forgot to wonder why we are doing it. For me, the equity section of our agenda was not meant to be symbolic but critical to effective advocacy. In fact, having a section for equity in the agenda falls short of what we ought to be doing: putting equity at the center of our discussions.

**There is an implicit assumption that by doing environmental work, we are automatically creating a better society for everyone. This is not only simplistic; it is wrong.** Society is not going to get better as long as we continue to carry a legacy of sexism, racial disparities, colonialism, white supremacy, and discrimination of all kinds.

In these times of polarization and tribalism, it is a mistake to demonize those who don't share our values and to disregard them as arrogant or ignorant. We need to provide clear evidence and arguments to support our guiding principles with the hope that we can convince others.



For this reason, I became critical about what I already take for granted and rethink why we care about diversity, equity, and justice (DEJ) in the context of fighting climate change.

To understand why DEJ is central to our work, we need to analyze some basic facts:

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS PEOPLE DISPROPORTIONATELY**

Climate change is already negatively impacting people's lives. However, the impacts of climate change are disproportionately experienced by people in lower socio-economic groups, in particular women and people of color. This is the case in Minnesota, the United States, and the whole world.

A good local example is how poor people have less access to air conditioning, which can be a significant health risk during extreme heat. In general, lower-income Americans have fewer opportunities to escape extreme weather events than do wealthy Americans. Similarly, when disasters occur, the wealthier can move easily from one place to the other, while the poor can not.

#### **THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALSO DISPROPORTIONATE**

Ironically, poorer people experience the effects of climate change more deeply than the wealthier people who are driving it. Wealthier people generally live in bigger houses, have more vehicles, travel by air more frequently, eat more exotic food, so are by far more more responsible for climate change than are people without these privileges.

Yet society has created a false sense of environmental awareness based on "green" consumption habits to which wealthier people have greater access. This alienates marginalized people from joining certain environmental causes and keeps society segmented when it comes to environmental action.

When people buy electric vehicles, for example, they celebrate their environmental consciousness. Poor people using public transportation every day are not celebrated in the same way, even when their environmental footprints are much smaller.

#### **DISPROPORTIONATE PROCESS, DISPROPORTIONATE OUTCOMES**

If equity is ignored in any process of promoting social change, equity will also be missing in the outcomes. The history of the United States is full of evidence of how excluding certain groups from policy and decision-making creates systems that favor only certain groups.

The Sierra Club is not necessarily actively excluding anyone (at least not in the club's recent history). However, given the social and cultural context in which we live, we might be inadvertently repelling people by not listening, choosing the wrong issues, not being allies, being culturally and gender insensitive, not engaging with our communities, and lacking representation of minorities.

**If our work is creating a more unequal society, then it is bad work, even if that is not our intention.**

An example is maintaining a singular focus on increasing renewable energy. While the logic of doing this is clear, if we do not consider the implications of increasing renewable energy on lower socioeconomic groups, the outcomes might not be equitable. For example, poor people who already struggle to pay their bills may have to pay even higher prices for energy.

Many talk about the jobs that are created by the renewable energy industry. However, , if the jobs only benefit a certain group of people, we could create resentment in society and division rather than unity.

There is evidence that renewable energy can actually be cheaper than fossil fuels. However, it is not about the price per kilowatt hour; it is the cost of the energy transition. We need to ask: who is paying for the energy transition?

There are many more reasons why DEJ must be central to our work. What I discussed here does not even scratch the surface. We do not focus on DEJ for the sake of appearing socially just. This focus must be central to our advocacy. **For that reason, I see DEJ as a skill that we need to develop as a group and as individual members.**

*Mauricio Leon is the co-chair of the CARE committee and regular writer for the North Star blog, where this piece originally appeared.*

**Sierra Club formed the Equity Change Team in 2017 to build on the Chapter's work to advance equity, justice, and inclusion. The North Star Chapter is becoming an intercultural, anti-racist organization that partners with diverse communities and organizations to eradicate all forms of oppression. Making this goal a reality is not just the work of the Change Team; it's work that all Sierra Club members can take part in. Mauricio shares a great example of how volunteers across the chapter can bring an equity perspective into their work.**

*If you are interested in making equity a part of your work in the Sierra Club, contact the Change Team for more information and resources. email Mary at [mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org)*

Justin Fay

The 2018 Minnesota legislative session was a banner year for political discord. As the article Our Minnesota Future highlights, we are seeking a better way forward through shared governance.

The North Star Chapter stood alongside many allies this session to ensure that Minnesota’s environment was protected and, for the most part, we succeeded. With big ticket items such as the tax bill and the supplemental budget omnibus bill being vetoed, fewer significant provisions overall became law this year than in any of the previous seven sessions under Governor Dayton.

Among our significant victories this year was Governor Mark Dayton’s veto of legislation that would roll back sulfate pollution standards for wild rice lakes. Wild rice is a sacred food for the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) people as well as Minnesota’s state grain and a unique natural resource. The mining industry pushed bills that would have eliminated existing water quality standards affecting water where wild rice naturally grows thus ignoring the extensive scientific work done to date.

Another milestone win was the Governor’s veto of the “Guilt by Association” bill. This legislation would have established new civil and criminal penalties for anyone who happened to be involved with a public event – such as a protest – where property was damaged, even if the individual being charged had nothing to do with the damage occurring. This bill (HF 3693/SF 3463), introduced by House Representative Dennis Smith and State Senator Paul Utke, was drafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a right-wing industry front group funded by the Koch brothers. The bill

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## REPORTING ON OUR FIGHT FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

would have restricted free speech and the ability of citizens to assemble to demonstrate support or opposition of how we are governed. The North Star Chapter stood alongside allies from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), organized labor and other progressive partners to defeat this dangerous legislation.

A significant number of environmental rollbacks were proposed that never made it to the Governor’s desk, including restrictions on using funds from the Volkswagen settlement to reduce air pollution and a bill to create a special process for Xcel Energy to charge customers for costs at its nuclear power plants.

As always, some unfortunate things did make it through. The worst, by far, was a raid on the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). In 1988, and again in 1998 Minnesota voters approved a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of funding from Minnesota’s lottery to projects that support clean air and clean water. Since then, the Trust Fund has been a critical source of support for everything from habitat restoration to clean water research to

environmental education. Sadly, the Minnesota Legislature voted to divert more than \$150 million in funds from the Trust Fund to pay for debt service and interest on a variety of proposed state bonding projects. This decision breaks faith with Minnesota voters and sets a dangerous precedent that will need to be fought for years to come.

Still, given the uniquely challenging political climate this year, the number of defensive ‘wins’ we were able to accomplish is remarkable. Victories like these don’t just happen. Sierra Club members and supporters stepped up in a major way in 2018 – flooding the Governor and legislators with urgent calls to do right by our air, lands and waters. Thank you to everyone who took action this session. Capitol staff complimented the Sierra Club and our activists - you - on how we consistently and effectively engaged on issues.

Looking ahead to this November, Minnesotans will head to the polls to elect a new Governor and Minnesota House of Representatives. And in just under six months, our newly elected officials will take office and convene the 2019 session of the Minnesota Legislature.

**What kind of session will it be? If the past two years have taught us anything, it’s that elections have consequences.**

So while we are sending you all best wishes for a pleasant summer in Minnesota’s great outdoors, we are also asking you to stay tuned. You are needed this election season in order to have a productive legislative session in 2019. Sign up for alerts at [www.sierraclub.org/minnesota](http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota) and follow us on social media to stay up-to-date. (See the High Stakes Election Year article)

## 2018 SIERRA CLUB PRIORITIES & FINAL OUTCOMES

Initial Proposal	Final Outcome	Sierra Club Win or Loss
Legislatively approving the Enbridge Line 3 tar sands pipeline	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Holding Minnesotans guilty by association for damage or trespass at certain ‘critical infrastructure’ sites – such as pipelines	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Nullification of Minnesota’s sulfate pollution standard for wild rice water bodies	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Pre-empting cities and counties from imposing fees on disposable packaging	Vetoed by Governor Dayton as part of omnibus tax bill	Win
Advanced determination of prudence for Xcel Energy’s nuclear plants (hurts MN customers)	Failed to pass MN House	Win
Removal of financing requirement for community solar plans approved by the PUC	Vetoed by Governor Dayton as part of omnibus supplemental budget bill	Win
Constitutional amendment to dedicate funding to roads only (excludes transit funding)	Failed to pass MN Senate	Win
Governance ‘reforms’ to weaken the Metropolitan Council	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Cap on Xcel Energy’s payments to the Renewable Development Account	Vetoed by Governor Dayton as part of omnibus supplemental budget bill	Win
Legislative approval requirement for changes to water fees by MPCA	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Legislative blocking of Groundwater Protection Act rulemaking (Nitrogen pollution rule)	Vetoed by Governor Dayton	Win
Limitations on MPCA to properly manage grants under the Volkswagen settlement	Failed to pass MN Senate and MN House	Win
Bonding for wastewater treatment, DNR asset preservation and land conservation	Included in final bonding bill, however at lower levels than requested	Loss
Raid on Environmental Trust Fund to pay for debt service and interest for bonding projects	Passed and signed into law as part of omnibus bonding bill	Loss
“16-year holiday” from new water quality treatment standards for local governments that build new treatment facilities	Passed and signed into law	Loss



# HIGH STAKES ELECTION YEAR

THE SIERRAVOTES TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

Justin Fay

It's been a busy spring. We've survived another challenging legislative session, a busy political convention season and ongoing dysfunction in our nation's capitol.

But the hard part is yet to come.

This fall, Minnesotans will head to the polls for an incredibly high-stakes election to determine the future of our state and our country. Minnesota is going to be at the center of our national politics like never before in 2018:

- With the resignation of former U.S. Senator Al Franken at the end of 2017, Minnesota will have two U.S. Senate seats on the ballot this fall.
- All 8 of Minnesota's U.S. House seats are on the ballot this fall, and more than half are likely to be competitive.
- With the retirement of Gov. Mark Dayton, Minnesotans will decide an open race for Governor along with three other statewide constitutional offices that could be competitive: Attorney General, Secretary of State and State Auditor.
- The entire Minnesota House of Representatives is up for re-election in 2018.

These races would make for significant challenges and opportunities under any circumstances, but the stakes in 2018 are even higher. The Governor we elect in November will be in office for the next round of redistricting, meaning that Minnesota's political balance of power for the coming decade is legitimately up for grabs this fall. At the Federal level, Minnesota's surplus of competitive congressional races could play a major role in determining control of Congress during the second half of the Trump Administration.



Join all star volunteers like Brian and Debbie Madson who regularly made phone calls to members asking them to call their legislators. Photo Credit: Quentin Kendall

Our organization is in a terrific position to have a major impact on the outcomes of many of these races, but we need your help to do it. This fall, North Star Chapter volunteers will be working hard to elect environmental champions up and down the ballot. Sign up today for the North Star Chapter's SierraVotes Team and help bring environmental voices back to power in Saint Paul and Washington, DC.

Visit [www.sierraclub.org/minnesota](http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota) for more information on the SierraVotes Team and our work to elect environmental champions in 2018. Add a last sentence: To make a donation to the Sierra Club Minnesota Political Committee, please visit [www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/givePAC](http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/givePAC)

*Justin Fay is the Senior Chapter Representative.*



Winona LaDuke speaks at Water Action Day, one of our effective coalition lobbying efforts during the 2018 Legislative Session. Photo Credit: Quentin Kendall.



Volunteers making signs for Water Action Day. Photo Credit: Quentin Kendall

# OUR MINNESOTA FUTURE

## DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES, SHARED VALUES AND THE POWER TO GOVERN

C. Scott Cooper and Margaret Levin

In 2017, a broad range of organizations came together to launch a powerful new initiative called Our Minnesota Future. The Sierra Club North Star Chapter is one of 22 organizations committed to shaping a new political landscape around shared values, and a shared vision for the future – to put people before corporate profits, dismantle racism and gender oppression, and build a society where everyone matters.

To do this we need the power to govern. This means that we want to move into the role of decision makers. We want to build the power not just to petition and protest, but to fundamentally guide what our state looks like.

Our Minnesota Future represents Minnesotans from every part of the state — farms, townships, mid-sized cities, the Cities and suburbs. We come together across differences in faith, race, gender identities, ability, sexual orientation and profession. We focus on a variety of issues including climate change, worker rights,

health care, gender equality, family farming, immigration, and many more. We know these differences make us strong, and we are committed to working together for deeper change that we can only achieve collectively.

Recent actions include:

- Joined nearly 900 Minnesotans for the People’s Assembly and Leadership Gathering last December, building relationships and strengthening our shared commitment.
- Trained Sierra Club members and others on the precinct caucus process in February and encouraged members to run as delegates to their party’s conventions.
- Co-hosted one of the five People’s Hearing on Pipeline Abandonment events in Grand Rapids to highlight a recent report about this issue.
- Co-hosted forums with candidates for Governor in Rochester, Willmar and Minneapolis, including small group discussions placing candidates elbow-to-elbow with

members of our organizations.

- Organized around shared priorities at the State Capitol, including a rally outside the Governor’s office calling on him to ‘veto the bad stuff’ which he generally did: (See the “2018 Legislative Update” article for details).

Members of Our Minnesota Future are Twin Cities Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En Lucha (CTUL), Clean Up the River Environment, Communication Workers of America (CWA), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Education Minnesota, Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia, ISAIAH, Jewish Community Action, Land Stewardship Project, Main Street Alliance, Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL), Minnesota 350, Minnesota Nurses Association, Navigate MN, OutFront Minnesota, Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 26, SEIU Local 284, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, SEIU Minnesota State Council, and TakeAction Minnesota.

The North Star Chapter believes that through diverse and deep coalitions we will be able to make the changes we are seeking. Contact [natalie.cook@sierraclub.org](mailto:natalie.cook@sierraclub.org) for more information on ways to be involved.

*C. Scott Cooper is Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. Margaret Levin is State Director of the North Star Chapter.*



Minnesotans gather for the OMF December Assembly. Photo Credit: Marakah Mancini



# POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

MINNESOTA IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY,  
THANKS TO A TEAM THAT CARES

Mauricio Leon and Vinita Banthia

As members of the Clear Air and Renewable Energy (CARE) Committee, we are humbled and inspired by the impact our volunteers have made on the community. On April 27, Minneapolis became the 65th city in the U.S. to adopt the goals advocated by the Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign—a nation-wide movement to push cities to commit to 100% clean energy by 2050.

The CARE Committee of the North Star Chapter has been working alongside city leaders for years to support climate solutions and to accelerate the transition to clean energy. Under the resolution, which was passed unanimously by the City Council, Minneapolis is committed to reaching 100% renewable electricity for the municipal operations by 2022, and community-wide by 2030. On the same day, Mayor Jacob Frey signed the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Endorsement supporting this goal.

Doing this work made us feel like a part of something greater. We made history and our victory reminded us that a group of people who get together for a good cause can have tremendous influence on decision making at the local level. It also helps to have elected officials that actually care for these issues.

Our dream is that the CARE Committee will

become not only a strong group that advocates for the clean energy transition in Minnesota, but that it also becomes a defender of equity in this transition.

In the case of Minneapolis, for example, we suggested improvements to the draft resolution, so that it better addresses equitable access to clean energy jobs. The current resolution is one of the first in the country to directly acknowledge the social injustices that are

being worsened by climate change and how addressing this should be a priority.

The Minneapolis resolution commits to ensuring "... that all consumers, especially those who have been left out of the benefits of energy programs in the past, communities

of color, low-

income communities, renters, and communities that have borne the brunt of past environmental racism, receive equitable benefit from this transition."

## SPREADING THE WORD ACROSS MINNESOTA

The CARE Committee focuses on pushing and supporting local governments to adopt clean energy goals, in an effort to meet our mission of helping lead Minnesota on an equitable path toward a

100% renewable energy future. The Sierra Club currently has active clean energy campaigns in the Twin Cities Metro, Rochester, in Central Minnesota, and Duluth and we need more members to join us in organizing to expand commitments to renewable energy.

To be a part of this life-changing movement, we urge you to attend a CARE team meeting, contact us to get connected, or start a team in your area. CARE is open to all community members and anyone interested in joining should contact Patty O'keefe at [patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org](mailto:patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org).

*Mauricio Leon is the co-chair of the CARE Committee and Vinita Banthia is a CARE Committee volunteer.*

“DOING THIS WORK MADE US FEEL LIKE A PART OF SOMETHING GREATER. WE MADE HISTORY.”



Sierra Club Activists and Council Member Cam Gordon celebrate on City Hall steps

Photo Credit: Mary Blitzer



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS YEAR'S 23RD ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB BIKE TOUR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Join us for a scenic bike ride with guest speaker at educational rest stops along the way! This fun, leisurely tour highlights growth, development and transportation infrastructure in the Twin Cities region.

Stay tuned to [sierraclub.org/mn/tour](http://sierraclub.org/mn/tour) or contact [joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org) at 612-259-2447 for details.

# SIERRA CLUB IN THE CITY

## MAKING CITIES AFFORDABLE, EQUITABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE FOR MORE PEOPLE

Erin Daly and Joshua Houdek

Meet the North Star Chapter Land Use and Transportation (LUT) program, which focuses on the intersections between environmental sustainability and the way cities are built. More people are living in cities across Minnesota. The Twin Cities region is expected to add 700,000 more people by 2040. As Metropolitan Council Chair Alene Tchourumoff points out, "that's nearly the entire state of North Dakota. With it, they'll bring an 80% increase in transit demand." (Star Tribune, 3/21/18). The LUT program advocates making smart land use and transportation options because of numerous environmental and justice benefits, including: lower carbon footprints, cleaner air, water, and an opportunity to preserve natural open space which filters water and provides critical habitat for plants and animals.

For the last 60 years, Minnesota cities have been built around private car use, making it difficult for people to change transportation habits. Our core cities are becoming less affordable, forcing people to live further out in the suburbs leading to more building on open space, longer commutes and less free time to spend with families or connecting with nature.

Sierra Club supports building Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and cities across Minnesota in a way that provides equitable transportation options for everyone. We support providing affordable housing so that all residents have access to jobs, schools, parks, and opportunity.

Right now, cities across the metro region are planning for growth. For example, Minneapolis 2040 is the city's draft comprehensive plan that shapes how it will grow and change over the coming decades. Public comment is being accepted until July 22, 2018.

Your voice matters. If you live or work in Minneapolis, weighing in at [Minneapolis2040.com](http://Minneapolis2040.com) is a great way to make a positive impact for the future of your city. Wherever you live, we encourage you to get involved in your city's comprehensive planning process and advocate that land use and transportation should be centered around people walking, bicycling, and rolling first, then public transit, then driving. We think this is important for a number of reasons, including:

- Communities are healthier and safer when people can incorporate physical activity into their daily transportation.
- Roads become safer for people of all ages and abilities whether they are walking, bicycling, accessing transit, or driving.
- Providing transportation options reduces traffic congestion. When safe, convenient, and affordable options exist, there's less incentive to drive alone.
- Growing cities to maximize transportation options is good for the environment, as there is less air pollution from car exhaust.
- Compact, mixed-use neighborhoods with ample transportation options are more equitable communities, as those with fewer resources can access jobs, the grocery store, and the local park.

Want to learn more? The Land Use and Transportation Committee generally meets on the first Monday of the month, 6:00pm, at the Chapter office. Get more info by contacting Joshua at [joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org) or 612-259-2447.

*Erin Daly is the chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee and Joshua Houdek is the Land Use and Transportation Program Manager.*

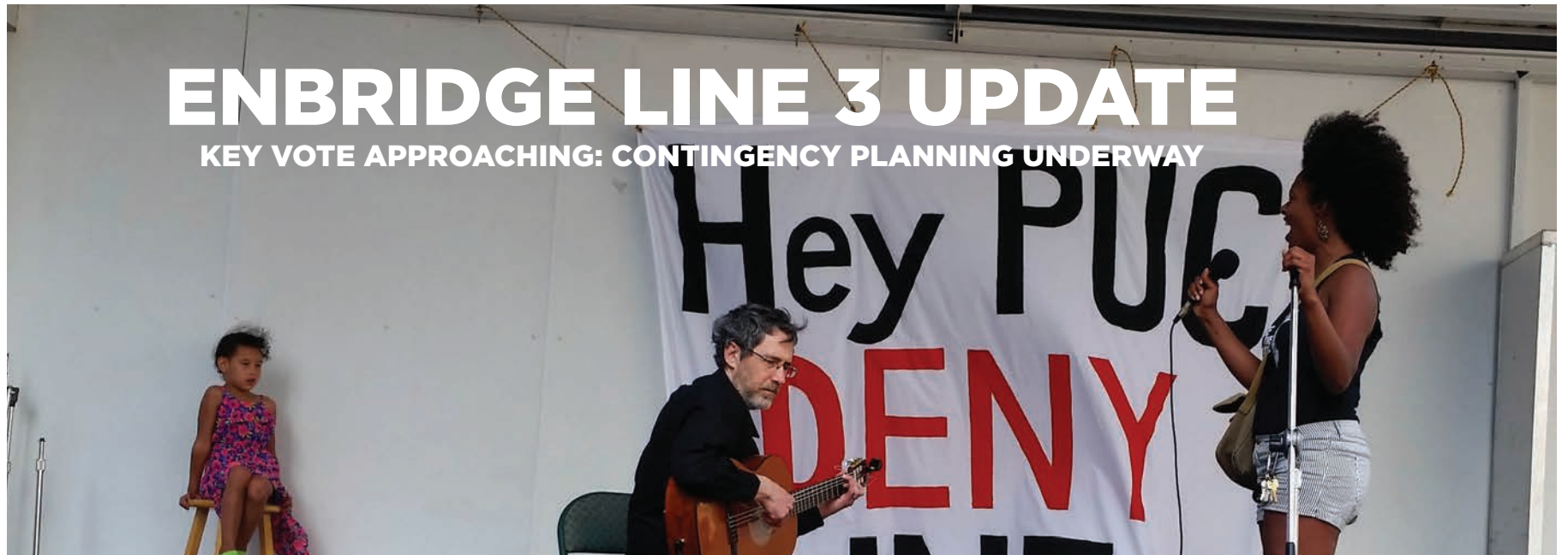


The LUT program is campaigning for better transit, including clean, electric buses.



# ENBRIDGE LINE 3 UPDATE

## KEY VOTE APPROACHING: CONTINGENCY PLANNING UNDERWAY



Annie Oakley warms up during Block (Line 3) Party.

Scott Russell

After years of analysis and debate, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is set to vote on giving Enbridge the approval for Line 3 in late June (just after this newsletter goes to press).

Enbridge, a Canadian energy transportation giant, wants to abandon its old and decaying Line 3 in northern Minnesota and build a new and larger pipeline in a brand new corridor. The project would increase climate change, put Minnesota's clean waters at risk of crude oil spills, and violate Anishinaabe treaty rights.

Of the 72,249 public comments filed on Line 3, 68,244 were opposed to the project—that's 94 percent! (A big thank you to the thousands of Sierrans who submitted comments.) It should be a slam dunk "no" vote, but the North Star Chapter is making contingency plans depending on the outcome.

Beyond rallying public comments, we are seeking to broadly influence public opinion and the

Public Utilities Commission. You may have heard about the 2 day Block (Line 3) Party, we threw on the doorsteps of the PUC in May. The Block (Line 3) Party was held in partnership with environmental organizations and Indigenous groups. At the Party we strengthened relationships and built solidarity for continuing to oppose Line 3. We also sent a message to the PUC that Minnesotans don't want Line 3 and are prepared to fight it.

Regardless of which way the PUC rules, lawsuits are likely to follow. Watch our blog and website for updates.

### HERE ARE IMPORTANT LINE 3 DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER.

In February, the PUC ruled the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was "adequate." The Sierra Club opposed the finding, saying the FEIS failed to address many environmental concerns and tribal community impacts. Still, the FEIS contains useful data to oppose the project. For instance, it conservatively estimated Line 3's "social cost of carbon" at \$287 billion over 30 years.

In April, Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly issued her long-awaited report and recommendations on Line 3's Route Permit and Certificate of Need. The report didn't add clarity to the PUC vote, but it did offer more ammunition to stop Line 3.

The good news: O'Reilly's report rejected Enbridge's preferred route, saying the costs outweighed the need. The bad news: she left one option open – remove the existing Line 3 and rebuild in the same trench. That had the benefits of removing

the old pipeline and adding \$1 billion in job creation for pipeline removal. However, that plan continues to run Line 3 through the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac reservations, which is a non starter, because the Tribes have said they do not want the pipeline on their sovereign land.

A key issue the PUC should evaluate is whether with Enbridge, Minnesota has a business partner it can trust. Enbridge has a history of major spills, both in Minnesota and Michigan. And problems persist. In May, for instance, the U.S. government fined Enbridge \$1.8 million for inadequate pipeline inspections.

O'Reilly's report adds questions about Enbridge's trustworthiness. The report said:

- Enbridge's environmental assessment was neither "credible" nor "persuasive."
- Enbridge seemed indifferent to the project's impacts on the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe). Its spill analysis "did not consider the cultural loss that would occur as a result of damage to the natural environment, including the impacts to wild rice."
- Enbridge relied on optimistic industry data to argue the pipeline is "needed." The model was "untested and unknown."

### THE LIST GOES ON.

We should be worried that a foreign company seeking to build a major infrastructure project through our state's cleanest waters – and a company with a history of spills – isn't making an honest assessment of Line 3's need and risks.

The Sierra Club Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee will continue organizing resistance to Line 3. You are a critical part of this resistance. Join the committee on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and stay tuned for future action alerts. Contact Natalie Cook, [natalie.cook@sierraclub.org](mailto:natalie.cook@sierraclub.org) with any questions.

*Scott Russell is the co-chair of the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee.*



Margaret Breen, Youth Climate Intervenor speaks as part of the Block (Line 3) Party. Photo Credit: Carson Kowalski



# MINNESOTA'S WATERSHED MOMENT

## POLYMET MINING POLICY UPDATE

Elanne Palcich and Lori Andresen

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter Mining Committee has been involved in the PolyMet permitting process since 2005, reading thousands of pages of environmental review, attending hearings, and submitting comments. The process has clearly shown that sulfide mining in Minnesota's water rich region will degrade and pollute the water and environment of the Arrowhead region, and will require water treatment for at least 500 years – virtually forever.

Yet our politicians continue to push the toxic PolyMet sulfide mine forward. Their latest plan is to override four separate lawsuits filed by eight



Volunteers create a lighted sign over I-94 in Saint Paul. Photo Credit: Devon Cuperly

environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, as part of the PolyMet Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. These lawsuits challenge the U.S. Forest Service decision to transfer 6,500 acres of protected Superior National Forest land to PolyMet for its open pit sulfide mine. Instead of following the intent of long-standing laws written for watershed and environmental protections, the U.S. Forest Service is choosing to give away public land to a foreign mining company in exchange for scattered parcels of private land elsewhere.

Following the filing of the lawsuits, 8th District Congressman Rick Nolan authored H.R. 3115, a bill that would compel the Forest Service to complete the land exchange with PolyMet, thus overriding citizen rights to due process and bypassing bedrock environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This special favors bill allows one project, PolyMet, exemption from the due process of court challenges. H.R. 3115 passed the U.S. House last November and was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, whose members include Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

In March, H.R. 3115 was included in a mix of “poison

pill” riders being negotiated for inclusion in the must-pass Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 2018. Following outcry by citizens and environmental organizations including hundreds of comments from you—Minnesota Sierra Club members—H.R. 3115 did not make it into the bill.

However, in a WDIO TV interview on April 16, both Senators Smith and Klobuchar acknowledged their support of H.R. 3115, with Smith claiming, “...we are going to get this done.”

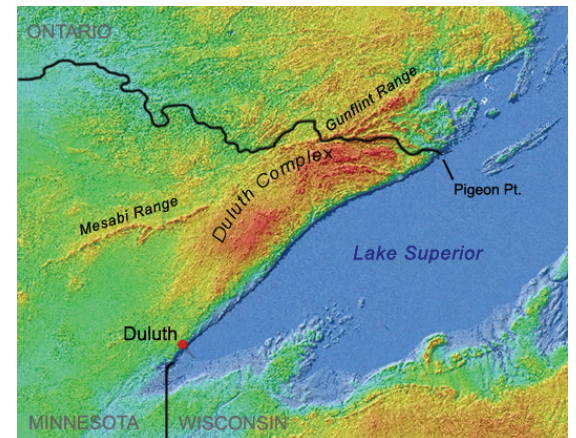
The permitting of PolyMet has never been about a single mine. It is about a massive sulfide mining district extending from outside Duluth, to PolyMet, to the BWCAW, ultimately polluting both the Lake Superior and Rainy River watersheds. Mineral exploration and leasing is taking place across the entire Arrowhead region. Additional mineral leasing in Aitkin and Itasca counties would create a toxic trail in the Mississippi River watershed.

Our political leaders are complicit in a plan that will turn the Lake Superior watershed, where the PolyMet mine would be located, into a sacrifice zone under the pretense of saving the BWCAW, where another sulfide mine, Twin Metals, would be located. It seems unlikely that if PolyMet is permitted, then Twin Metals will not go forward. The more likely end result will be permitting of mines across the region leading to the degradation of internationally important watersheds--Lake Superior and the Rainey River.

This is a watershed moment in the history of Minnesota. Call Senators Klobuchar (202-224-3244) and Smith (202-224-5641) and tell them you support citizen due process and value our clean waters. Call Governor Dayton (800-656-3717) and Commissioner Landwehr ( 888-646-6347) in support of water as our most important natural resource and Lake Superior as our most-loved lake. Our politicians must support citizens interests over those of polluting mining corporations with a history of broken promises.

*Elanne Palcich and Lori Andresen are co-chairs of the Mining Committee.*

**READ MORE ABOUT  
VOLUNTEERS, WORK TO  
STOP POLYMET ON OUR  
BLOG [SIERRACLUB.ORG/  
MINNESOTA/NORTH-STAR-  
BLOG](http://SIERRACLUB.ORG/MINNESOTA/NORTH-STAR-BLOG).**



The Duluth Complex of sulfide mineralization lies between Lake Superior and the BWCAW. Mineral exploration is taking place throughout this area. Photo Credit: NASA

## TWIN METALS SULFIDE MINE PROPOSED EVEN CLOSER TO BOUNDARY WATERS

Luther Dale

Twin Metals, which is owned by Chilean mining conglomerate Antofagasta, recently announced a plan to move its proposed toxic sulfide ore mine even closer to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), further escalating the risk of toxic pollution.

The new plan would locate a proposed industrial concentration facility on Birch Lake which flows directly into the Boundary Waters.

The Sierra Club is fighting back, in partnership with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. Recently the Campaign and partners delivered three letters signed by over 170 businesses, outdoor groups, and environmental organizations to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke expressing grave concern about the threat of sulfide ore copper nickel mining and urging action to protect the BWCAW.

We will continue working to prevent toxic sulfide mining, and protect all Minnesota waters from this threat. For more information, contact Luther Dale at [luther.dale@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:luther.dale@northstar.sierraclub.org).

*Luther Dale is a member of the Executive Committee and chapter liaison to the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.*



# EXPLORING WITH A PASSION

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS CREATE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Exploring the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Photo Credit: Jose Arrieta

Sarah Curtis

Summer is the ideal time to explore Minnesota with the North Star Chapter's outdoor programs: Outings; Older Wilder Livelier Sierrans (OWLS); and Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO). Find more details online at [sierraclub.org/minnesota/get-outdoors](http://sierraclub.org/minnesota/get-outdoors)

## OUTINGS: NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - JUST ENJOY!

Sierra Club founder John Muir created the outings concept — he believed that experiencing nature was the first step toward stewardship. Today, North Star Outings maintains this focus on getting out and exploring our natural world through activities such as cross-country skiing, biking and hiking.

Participation is easy — select an outing online at [sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings](http://sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings) and RSVP. Options exist for all skill levels; read the descriptions carefully to find one with a pace and difficulty level that meets your needs.

Greg Allison participated in his first outing in 2010, hoping to hike with others and learn more about the community. Since then, he's built friendships and connections with like-minded people, and today serves as the North Star Chapter's Outings co-chair.

Greg encourages people to not only participate in outings, but to consider becoming a trip leader as well.

"You don't have to be an expert at native plants or animals or even the activity to be a leader," he says.

Visit [sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings](http://sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings) to learn about upcoming outings and becoming a trip leader.

## OWLS: A 55+ GROUP OF "OLDER, WISER, LIVELIER SIERRANS"

The OWLS group's monthly activities combine social time, learning opportunities and physical activity. Members take turn planning events, which can be anything from a guided tour of Theodore Wirth Regional Park, to visiting a recycling facility, to exploring the Russian Museum of Art.

Co-chair Karen Alwin joined OWLS when she retired in 2004. Karen enjoys the activities, as well as spending time with others who share a common interest in the environment. The group has also allowed her to continue learning, growing and engaging in discussions about the world around her.

"It opens up your world to different opinions" she says. "It's important to be exposed to new ideas and friends."

Karen also values learning about the issues impacting the local environment, and is inspired by fellow members in their 80s and 90s.

"They're aging the way I hope to — as part of an active community that looks forward to seeing each other," she says.

New OWLS are always welcome. To try a Tuesday outing or learn more about the group, contact Karen at [karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org) or co-chair Ellen Abbott at [ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org).

## INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS: VOLUNTEERS LEADING YOUTH ON OUTINGS

The North Star Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program partners with agencies serving urban youth to provide outdoor experiences for kids ages 6 to 18. Most of these kids and teens have limited access to nature due to where they live and their family's finances. ICO seeks to give them an opportunity to experience and connect with nature.

"The first step is to go have fun," says North Star Chapter ICO co-chair Greg Springer. "Hike, build fires and eat s'mores. Over time, kids build longer-term relationships with nature: experiencing fall colors, learning about leaving no trace, doing overnights, and developing an attitude of appreciation toward nature and stewardship."

Greg joined ICO to contribute to the community, but he's found surprising benefits.

"Kids open up another part of us we may not admit we still possess: a carefree curiosity, a different way of observing and interacting with a world, an infectious enthusiasm," he says.

One of his most cherished memories is a bouldering trip to Taylors Falls with boys from a correctional facility.

"The kids were jumping right into the activity, free climbing and having a blast," he remembers. "That's what it's about — that moment when you realize they're all in."

Volunteer participants and leaders make the ICO program possible, helping underserved kids and teens experience, engage with and learn about the world around them.

To learn more or volunteer, email [mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org).

*Sarah Curtis is a Communications Team Volunteer*





AROUND THE STATE

# ROCHESTER IS READY FOR 100%

## ROCHESTER ACTIVISTS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD

Dr. Henry Homburger

Two days after the Earth Day People's Climate March, more than a dozen local Sierra Club activists made their voices heard at a board meeting of Rochester Public Utilities (RPU). The RPU board had invited comments on its infrastructure plan and the activists were there to respond.

The infrastructure plan is the most important planning document outlining how RPU will supply Rochester with electricity over the next 25 years. Activist speakers unanimously called for a clean energy option and spoke against the option of expanding dirty gas infrastructure in the current infrastructure plan. **RPU board and senior staff agreed that the time had come to plan for a true clean energy future in America's City for Health.** They committed to including several scenarios in the new infrastructure plan that increase renewable energy, including an option that outlines a plan to achieve 100 percent renewable energy.

The decision to plan for a real clean energy future in Rochester has taken several years, but has progressed steadily and incrementally. The Sierra Club, together with its allies in the community, has fought in alliance with our allies in the community throughout the years to eliminate Rochester's dependence on fossil fuels. In 2014, Rochester designated funds to develop an Energy Action Plan. In late 2015, Mayor Ardele Brede issued a proclamation stating that "That together we will strive to achieve a goal of attaining 100 percent renewable energy by 2031." Two months later, RPU closed down its downtown Silver Lake coal plant.

That same year in its 2015 infrastructure plan update, RPU pledged to make Rochester power generation completely coal free by 2031. In 2016, the Destination Medical Center (DMC) plan adopted a sustainability resolution.

Now, in 2018 we have a commitment to create a plan for 100% renewable energy. This a critical and necessary step if Rochester is to achieve its goal of becoming fossil fuel free by 2031. The city is truly at an energy crossroads.

Climate action in Rochester comes at a time when our rural neighbors to the east in Winona County are fighting the frac sand mining industry that relentlessly seeks to mine the river bluff land, and our Native American and Indigenous neighbors to the north have taken on predatory corporations bent on expanding pipelines that threaten their waters and treaty lands. For the health and well-being of our local neighbors and for our own residents and visitors, we must continue to walk the path to a 100 percent renewable energy future.

The Rochester Sierra Club members hold an organizing meeting the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at 125 LIVE, 125 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901. There we plan monthly advocacy and outreach events, share updates, and work to build the movement. Come join us! Follow our facebook page at [facebook.com/RochesterMNSierra](https://facebook.com/RochesterMNSierra) or send a note to our Rochester organizer Rick Morris at [rick.morris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.morris@sierraclub.org) to get involved.

*Dr. Henry Homburger is the Rochester Sierra Club media relations chair*



Rochester Sierra Club activists celebrate outside of the Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) board room moments after securing a commitment from RPU to create a plan for 100% renewable energy. Photo Credit: Staff





Palisade Head - Silver Bay, MN, Photo Credit: Lauren Bixby

## CENTRAL MINNESOTA:

In Central Minnesota, Sierrans have been following the relocation of the Northern Metals plant and related air quality issues. We also had four Sierrans attend Water Day at the Capital on May 2nd and with the political season starting you will find our members active in the 6th District congressional race. We will be resuming our clean energy campaigns this summer and fall.

Contact Marlene and Bill Haider at [mhaider1231@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaider1231@hotmail.com) for more information about upcoming meetings and actions.

## DULUTH:

Linda Herron

Climate Change, water, and copper-nickel sulfide mining were the primary issues for the Duluth Sierra Club Clean Energy Team this spring. The team took action by attending Water Action Day at the state Capitol, the DFL convention in Rochester, and many local lectures and presentations.

Ann Miller attended the Water Action Day in St. Paul on May 2 along with other local environmental organizations concerned about the impact of legislation on the state wild rice sulfate standard. She met with Senator Erik Simonson (DFL District 07) to discuss his vote for removing the current standard which he said was not being enforced.

Tom Thompson (ExCom member) and Jo Haberman, attended the DFL convention in Rochester June 1-3. At the DFL convention grassroots party leaders vote on which

candidates to endorse. Both Tom and Jo pressed for adoption of the Sierra Club resolution on sulfide mining. Jo reported: "Tom gave an outstanding and powerful defense of the proposed resolution..."

Other activities of the Duluth Team included speaking against a gas plant proposed by Minnesota Power at a February hearing, a presentation by James Hietala at the Climate Change Convening in Grand Rapids and attendance at local lectures on renewable energy and mining.

We want you to join the Duluth Team! Contact Linda Herron, (218) 728-2843, to join the next meeting.

*Linda Herron is a member of the Duluth Sierra Club Clean Energy Team*



WHAT WILL YOUR  
LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

*If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today*

**LORI SULLIVAN** Director of Gift Planning  
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)  
[sierraclubplanning.org](http://sierraclubplanning.org)



# N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

NEWS ON OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY FOR MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

### LIST OF CURRENT AT-LARGE EXCOM MEMBERS -

See photos and bios online at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/executive-committee>

NAME	RESIDENCE	END OF TERM
Sammie Ardito Rivera	Minneapolis	2019
Louis Alemayehu	Minneapolis	2018
Kate Brauman	Minneapolis	2020
Marty Cobenais	Bagley	2018
C. Scott Cooper	St. Paul	2020
Luther Dale	Shoreview	2019
John Doberstein	Duluth	2020
Katie Eukel	Minneapolis	2018
Katie Hatt	Minneapolis	2020
Javier Morillo-Alicea	Minneapolis	2019
Lois Norrgard	Bloomington	2019
Siri Simons	Minneapolis	2018
Tom Thompson	Duluth	2019
Kamau Wilkins	Rochester	2020
Sarah Wovcha	St. Paul	2018

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is the governing committee of the Sierra Club North Star Chapter. The ExCom has overall responsibility for: Strategic planning and budgeting; Establishing and overseeing the subcommittees that plan and implement the conservation campaigns, electoral efforts, communications, and outdoor activities; and hiring and overseeing the state director.

### ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR TERMS BEGINNING 2019

The ExCom is made up of fifteen at-large elected Sierra Club members in Minnesota. Any current member is eligible to run. Members are elected for a rotating three-year term, and those elected at the end of this year will begin their terms in

January 2019. We invite you to submit names to the Nominations Committee for consideration for ExCom election. Members who are not nominated by the Nominations Committee can petition for candidacy with the signature of 25 members if submitted by the petition deadline.

### ELECTION TIMELINE:

- **July 31, 2018 - Deadline to submit names to Nominating Committee for consideration**
- **September 18, 2018 - Nominating Committee reports nominees to ExCom**
- **October 2, 2018 - Deadline to submit petitions to Secretary**
- **October 16, 2018 - Elections Committee appointed to count ballots**
- **October 22, 2018 - Week of ballot mailing**
- **January 4, 2019 - Closing date of election**

If you are interested in running for the ExCom or for more information, please contact the chapter office at [north.star.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:north.star.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 612-659-9124.

## VOLUNTEER & OUTING INFORMATION

For the most up to date information view [sierraclub.org/mn](http://sierraclub.org/mn). Find the next volunteer & activist orientation and many more volunteer events. Everyone is welcome at any of our meetings and events. For questions about volunteering, email Mary at [mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org)

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Project based, calling everyone with writing, editing, design, and photography skills.

Generally meets on the 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm bimonthly to assign projects.

Chair, Jenny Kedward, [jenny.kedward@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:jenny.kedward@northstar.sierraclub.org)

### GEOGRAPHIC COMMITTEES AND CONTACT FOR MEETING INFORMATION

#### Central Minnesota / St. Cloud

Marlene and Bill Haider at [mhaider1231@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaider1231@hotmail.com)

#### Duluth Clean Energy Team

Linda Herron at [larkspurherron@msn.com](mailto:larkspurherron@msn.com)

#### Rochester, 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm

Rick Morris at [rick.morris@sierraclub.org](mailto:rick.morris@sierraclub.org)

### CAMPAIGN AND ISSUE COMMITTEES

Groups of volunteers who plan and organize around specific topics. Meeting times and (co-)chair contacts below.

#### Beyond Oil and Tar Sands, 3rd Wed. 6:30 pm

Scott Russell, [scott.russell@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:scott.russell@northstar.sierraclub.org)  
Carson Kowalski, [carson.kowalski@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:carson.kowalski@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Clean Air and Energy, 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm

Mauricio Leon, [mauricio.leon@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mauricio.leon@northstar.sierraclub.org)  
Allan Campbell, [allan.campbell@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:allan.campbell@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Forests and Wildlands, 2nd Monday, 7:15 pm

Fred Hefty, [fred.hefty@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:fred.hefty@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Land Use and Transportation, 1st Monday, 7:00 pm

Erin Daly, [erin.daly@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:erin.daly@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Mining, 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm by phone

Lori Andresen, [lori.andresen@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:lori.andresen@northstar.sierraclub.org)  
Elanne Palcich, [elanne.palcich@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:elanne.palcich@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Water and Wetlands, 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Steve Ring, [steve.ring@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.ring@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### Zero Waste Task Force, contact chair for meeting times

Lori Olinger, [lori.olinger@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:lori.olinger@northstar.sierraclub.org)

### OUTDOORS GROUPS

Check the Sierra Club home page to find upcoming events and more information. Trips are monthly, or more frequent in summer:

#### Outings

Physically active and friendly group meeting up to explore Minnesota parks.

Greg Allison [greg.allison@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:greg.allison@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### OWLS

A 55+ group of "Older, Wiser, Livelier Sierrans".  
Ellen Abbott [ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org)  
Karen Alwin, [karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org)

#### INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Sierra Club volunteers take youth new to the outdoors on trips.

Liz Dengate and Greg Springer, [mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org)

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