

# N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

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

Fall/Winter 2018  
Volume 38, Issue 2

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Illustration credit: Brian Bradshaw



**SIERRA CLUB**  
NORTH STAR CHAPTER



## CHAIR & DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Minnesota Sierra Club member,

We are so grateful for your support, which makes all of our work possible.

Earlier this year, we introduced a new look to the North Star Journal and we were delighted with all the positive comments we received.

For this issue, there's another big change—we completely updated the format to have more of a magazine-type feel. Last spring when our amazing Journal team met to discuss the new issue, they spent time discussing the purpose and goals of the publication. From that discussion came more ideas for improvement, which led to the new format. Then we asked ourselves, why not share those goals with our members? Because, after all, you're reason The Journal exists.

With that said, in this issue, and all issues going forward, we'll remind you of those goals. And update them as necessary.

The North Star Journal is:

- A primary source of information about the environmental work being done across the state with the resources you so generously donate
- A transparent view of how our staff and volunteers are organizing to protect Minnesota's air, water, lands and climate
- A spark for inspiring involvement and connection with local communities and important issues
- A place for promoting the intersection of racial, social and environmental justice
- In election years, a source for learning about your political candidates

In short, it's your place to find news and information on the Sierra Club's efforts to keep Minnesota's environment healthy and all members of our community thriving. We hope you find it useful, and we would love to hear your comments on how we are doing.

Please look for your invitation to our December Solstice Party, which this year will include the launch of our 50th anniversary celebration.

Finally, make sure to vote on November 6.

Sincerely,

Katie Eukel  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Margaret Levin  
State Director  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter



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

The North Star Journal is published bi-annually by the North Star Chapter (Minnesota) of the Sierra Club, 2327 E. Franklin Ave, Suite 1, Minneapolis MN 55406. The North Star Journal has a circulation of 15,900 for the Fall/Winter 2018 issue.

Member subscriptions are included in annual dues to the national Sierra Club.

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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.

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This publication is available on the web [www.sierraclub.org/minnesota](http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota)

## FEATURES

# YOUR SIERRA CLUB IN ACTION



### WE IMPACT LEGISLATION.

During the 2018 state legislative session we generated hundreds of personal calls to Governor Dayton, hosted 150 volunteer phone bank hours to contact legislators, and our lobbyist amplified your voices every day at the State Capitol. This activism resulted in key vetoes from Governor Dayton, regulatory rollbacks defeated at the Legislature and new momentum to defend clean water standards.

### WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN NATURE,

From September 2017 - July 2018, the Older, Wiser & Livier Sierrans met 10 times with 116 participants to socialize, exercise, and keep the brain synapses moving!

Inspiring Connections Outdoors led 18 outings connecting 150 youth participants to the outdoors.

Our local outings group took 10 trips together.



### AND WITH EACH OTHER.

From September 2017 - July 2018, we hosted a total of 265 events, with over 2,000 Sierran participants.

### WE PROTECT MINNESOTA.

From working to stop Line 3 to getting Minneapolis to commit to 100% clean energy, our volunteer activists are leading the charge to protect our home. A spotlight on the campaign to Stop Line 3 shows this energy:

- 29,783 comments submitted to the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC)—telling them to not grant a certificate of need!
- 16,025 emails to Governor Dayton telling him to Stop Line 3.
- 750 people attended the Block (Line 3) Party at the PUC.
- 70 water protectors and activists in attendance during each of the final 6 days of hearings at the PUC.
- 26 Indigenous, environmental, youth and faith leaders risked arrest in Bemidji to show continued solidarity against Line 3, including Sierra Club President Loren Blackford and Chapter Director Margaret Levin.



Illustration credit: Brian Bradshaw

# MINNESOTA IS OUR HOME

# VOTE

## NOVEMBER 6, 2018



Illustration by Drew Shannon

We have all been living with the consequences of the 2016 election, from sweeping attacks on our public lands to denial of climate change to violation of human rights.

The 2018 midterm election is our chance to change this. Your vote is power. Claim it.

### SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENTS:

\*Current as of October 1st, for the most up to date list please check [sc.org/mn-election](http://sc.org/mn-election)

#### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1: DAN FEEHAN
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2: ANGIE CRAIG
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3: DEAN PHILLIPS
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4: BETTY MCCOLLUM
- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5: ILHAN OMAR

#### MINNESOTA GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TIM WALZ, PEGGY FLANAGAN

#### MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

STEVE SIMON

#### MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- |     |                    |     |                  |
|-----|--------------------|-----|------------------|
| 03B | MARY MURPHY        | 48A | LAURIE PRYOR     |
| 04A | BEN LIEN           | 49A | HEATHER EDELSON  |
| 07A | JENNIFER SCHULTZ   | 49B | STEVE ELKINS     |
| 07B | LIZ OLSON          | 50B | ANDREW CARLSON   |
| 14B | DAN WOLGAMOTT      | 51A | SANDRA MASIN     |
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| 19B | JACK CONSIDINE     | 52A | RICK HANSEN      |
| 21A | LORI ANN CLARK     | 52B | RUTH RICHARDSON  |
| 25A | JAMIE MAHLBERG     | 53B | STEVE SANDELL    |
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| 26A | TINA LIEBLING      | 57A | ROBERT BIERMAN   |
| 36A | ZACK STEPHENSON    | 58B | MARLA VAGTS      |
| 36B | MELISSA HORTMAN    | 59A | FUE LEE          |
| 37A | ERIN KOEGEL        | 59B | RAY DEHN         |
| 37B | AMIR MALIK         | 60A | DIANE LOEFFLER   |
| 39B | SHELLY CHRISTENSEN | 60B | MOHAMUD NOOR     |
| 41B | MARY KUNESH-PODEIN | 61A | FRANK HORNSTEIN  |
| 42A | KELLY MOLLER       | 61B | JAMIE LONG       |
| 42B | JAMIE BECKER-FINN  | 62A | HODAN HASSAN     |
| 43A | PETER FISCHER      | 63A | JIM DAVNIE       |
| 43B | LEON LILLIE        | 63B | JEAN WAGENIUS    |
| 44B | PATTY ACOMB        | 64B | DAVE PINTO       |
| 45A | LYNDON CARLSON     | 65A | RENA MORAN       |
| 45B | MIKE FREIBERG      | 65B | CARLOS MARIANI   |
| 46A | RYAN WINKLER       | 66A | ALICE HAUSMAN    |
| 46B | CHERYL YOUAKIM     | 66B | JOHN LESCH       |

# OUTDOOR PROGRAMS INSPIRE AND EDUCATE

Find all our outings online: [sc.org/mn](http://sc.org/mn)

Jenny Kedward

Fall often brings us inside, retreating under flannel blankets and sipping pumpkin spice lattes. But brisk evenings and shorter days don't stop Minnesotan Sierrans from getting outside. The North Star outdoor programs make it easy and enjoyable to take advantage of the shorter, orange-maple days. Take it from a few nature lovers who joined recent outings. You'll see there are plenty of reasons to get out there all year long.

## A GRAND AFTERNOON

Scott Lagaard has been a long-time member but only recently got involved with the Outings group. Coming from East Central Minnesota, he met up with other new and

regular members at the Sierra Club office in Minneapolis and headed out on two wheels to explore the Grand Rounds—one of the country's longest continuous systems of public urban parkways. It encompasses natural features like lakes, creeks, woodlands, riverbanks, and wetlands, as well as constructed features, like canals, parks, playgrounds, golf courses, athletic fields, picnic grounds, gardens, and bridges.

Scott and his fellow members biked along the south Chain of Lakes through Edina, and back into the city on the Midtown Greenway. This was Scott's first outing, but will probably not be his last. To him, the ride was the perfect marriage of his love for biking and a chance to get to know the Sierra Club better. "It just made sense", he said, "The people were nice. It was an environmentally minded group that I can mesh with well."

To get involved or learn more about Outings,

visit [MeetUp.com](http://MeetUp.com) and search "MN Sierra Club Outings" or contact [outings@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:outings@northstar.sierraclub.org).

## WISE BODY AND MIND

Glen Hambleton from New Brighton regularly meets up with other OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Sierrans) on the second Tuesday of the month. In August, this active and engaging group of 55+ members met up in August to tour the Lake Nokomis Blooming Alleys Project in South Minneapolis.

"Each month when the OWLS meet they have an objective of doing something physically active or mentally stimulating regarding nature," according to Glen, "This was a combination of both: a walk and coming to understand the issues associated with a federal statement that Nokomis was officially unhealthy." Along the six block

guided tour, Glen and others learned how the City of Minneapolis is working with neighbors to clean up the water in Lake Nokomis using rain gardens.

OWLS gatherings are intended to be recreational and social, and members often visit a local restaurant to grab a bite to eat afterwards. Glen encourages anyone over 55 with a passion for nature and a desire to stay active to join the group. He's proud to say that "We've developed close friendships over the years. And it's physically inspirational."

To get involved or learn more about OWLS, contact Karen at [karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org) or Ellen Abbott at [ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org).

## GET OUT, GIVE BACK

For those looking to connect with younger folks while enjoying nature, Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) is a great option. The group partners with community agencies to take kids and adults with limited access to the outdoors on half-day, full-day, and occasionally overnight outings to local and regional parks. This might be participants' first wilderness or outdoor recreation experience, their first one in a long time, or their first time getting the chance to develop new leadership skills in the outdoors. Volunteer leaders are trained to lead unforgettable experiences for kids and adults.

To get involved or learn more about ICO, contact Greg Springer at [mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org).

Visit [www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/get-outdoors](http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/get-outdoors) for more information on all North Star outdoor programs.

*Jenny Kedward is the Sierra Club North Star Chapter Communications Chair*





### MEET COURTNEY COCHRAN

At the end of July, I started in my new role as the Duluth Organizing representative for the Sierra Club. I have lived in Duluth for nearly a decade and come from years of community organizing around local and statewide housing and homelessness policy. I am an avid outdoor lover and spend most of my free time paddling, swimming, and hiking around Northeast Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. I am excited at the opportunity to work for the Sierra Club and continue to fight for the health and wellness of my home, my neighbors, and my watershed. In my first few weeks, I was welcomed with a big dose of warm, Northern Minnesota hospitality through a Sierra Club members picnic and by the long-standing Duluth Clean Energy Team.

Besides the hospitality and dedication of our members and volunteer leaders, the thing that has struck me the most in my first 30 days with the Sierra Club is the urgency of this fight. Northeast Minnesota is the hotbed of industry in our state. The climate impacts are hitting us hard and fast up north. It can be hard to focus in the climate fight in Northern Minnesota when multiple sulfide mines, coal plants, natural gas plants, and oil pipelines are all looming and threatening our air and water quality. In this urgency, we continue to focus on growing our movement stronger through collaborative events such as the People's Climate March and coalitions spaces.



Photo credit: Tom Thompson Duluth area Sierra Club members gathered in July.

## DULUTH PUSHES FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Courtney Cochran

Currently, our main focus in the Duluth area is moving Minnesota Power towards a clean energy future for Northeast Minnesota. Minnesota Power still uses a majority of coal energy to meet the energy needs of the region and, at a hearing in July, proposed to build a new gas plant in Superior, Wisconsin. Sierra Club's Duluth Clean Energy Team is leading the charge in opposing the proposed gas plant and was vocal during the hearings' public comment period about the need to move away from fracked gas and towards clean, renewable energy as a region. The Administrative Law Judge for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) agreed with the public testimony and expert testimony by Clean Energy Organizations. Judge Jeanne Cochran stated in a July recommendation to the PUC that not only did Minnesota Power fail to prove the need for this expansion to meet the energy needs

for the region, but there was insufficient attempt to investigate clean energy options made by Minnesota Power.

We agreed with Judge Cochran and will continue to oppose this gas plant proposal as the PUC considers their decision. In October, we will also be gearing up citizen engagement in Minnesota Power's Resource Plan, which will determine their plan to meet the region's energy needs for the next fifteen years. We will be working to push for retirement dates for the remaining Boswell coal units in Cohasset, and expand wind, solar and energy efficiency. Join us because we need your voice to help push for a clean, healthy future for Northeast Minnesota.

To learn more and get involved, contact Courtney at [courtney.cochran@sierraclub.org](mailto:courtney.cochran@sierraclub.org).

*Courtney Cochran is the Duluth Organizing Representative for the North Star Chapter*

A PROUD MEMBER OF



**The Sierra Club Foundation benefits from workplace contributions to the Minnesota Environmental Fund, which provides a payroll giving option to support 19 member organizations that protect, conserve and restore Minnesota's environment.**

**To learn more about adding this giving option at your workplace, please contact Margaret Levin at 612-659-9124 or [margaret.levin@sierraclub.org](mailto:margaret.levin@sierraclub.org).**



## ROCHESTER WORKS FOR RENEWABLES AND JUSTICE

Photo credit: cjohnson7 - Flickr, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2424270>

Dr. Henry Homburger

The Sierra Club is deeply committed to its vision of a Rochester that works for everyone. Whether it's working to transition our city off fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy, or fighting for affordable housing that keeps more energy dollars in families' pockets, we are working for a Rochester that is truly livable for everyone who lives there.

Over the past year, with the help of a dedicated team of volunteers, we've made great strides toward this goal:

The Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) has made a commitment to write a plan to meet 100% of electricity needs from renewable sources; Our allies passed a City Council resolution that calls for a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; Discussions are underway over a new utility rate structure that will encourage energy conservation, electrification, and utility scale renewable energy; Rochester Public Transportation is buying new buses powered by electricity instead of diesel or natural gas; our university students are studying the air quality in Rochester, and have found several asthma hotspots that may be helped through these reforms.

Still, while Rochester is often voted in the top 10 most livable cities in the US, this is not a reality for everyone who lives here. We are faced with an affordable housing crisis, gross disparities in how students of color are disciplined relative to white students in our public schools, an inadequate public transportation system that underserves certain populations and areas of the city, and energy rates that place an undue financial burden on

### “WE ALL DO BETTER, WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER.”

lower income households. While our electricity generation and heating and cooling remain dependent upon the extraction industries, the pollution they generate unfairly affects Native peoples, rural poor, and communities of color.

We strive to put justice at the core of the Sierra Club's efforts. Whether we are supporting our partner organization Rochester for Justice in their efforts to eliminate school discipline disparities, or promoting affordable utility rates, a decrease in fossil fuel dependence, or cleaner transportation, we are guided by an idea that Paul Wellstone expressed so well: “We all do better when we all do better.” When the

RPU doubled down on its punitive “bad credit” deposit policy, we fought back out of a sense of justice. As stories surfaced that people were priced out of housing because of this policy, we worked with our allies to pressure the utility company to change.

Now, the RPU has committed to implementing a program called 3 Rivers Community Action that will not only assist families who struggle to pay their utility bills, but will also provide

assistance to make their homes more energy efficient and affordable to live in. And when our partners work to improve education, or policing, or housing, we stand with

them. Indeed, “We all do better when we all do better” – and that's the only way we will.

This is a call for all SE Minnesotans to join us!

For more information, visit our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RochesterMNSierra/](https://www.facebook.com/RochesterMNSierra/)

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

# ENBRIDGE LINE 3: OUR FIGHT CONTINUES

Scott Russell

Environmental groups and Tribal Nations are researching every possible opportunity to stop Enbridge Line 3, after the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC's) shocking vote to approve the project.

The PUC's June vote was irresponsible. Line 3 threatens Minnesota's clean waters and the world's climate. The main beneficiary is a large Canadian corporation.

Commissioners buckled to fear and bad logic. Some Commissioners worried that if they denied the new Line 3, Enbridge would continue to operate the old and failing Line 3, resulting in a horrific spill. Corporations should never be allowed to operate unsafe infrastructure. The DNR and the federal government are responsible for regulating pipelines to ensure safety. The PUC isn't responsible for this. To make matters worse, the PUC didn't act on the things it could control. Those include stopping the new Line 3 and its projected \$287 billion climate change costs.

Our campaign now enters a new phase, organized in three big buckets: mobilizing,

legal challenges and pressure to block project permits.

**MOBILIZING:** On August 29, Sierra Club state and national leaders joined in non-violent civil disobedience in Bemidji to send a message to Gov. Mark Dayton that he needs to take a stand on Line 3. Historically, the Sierra Club hasn't participated in civil disobedience, with two exceptions in Washington D.C.

The Bemidji action was the first time the Sierra Club supported civil disobedience outside of the capitol. This unprecedented response was triggered by Dayton's lack of comment on Line 3 until the PUC made its decision. As of early September, it's been two months since the PUC vote, and Dayton has remained silent (even though his own Commerce Department recommends rejecting the project). We needed to ramp up the pressure.

Water protectors occupied a Bemidji intersection for four hours of speeches, chants, and jingle dress dancing. In St. Paul, supporters occupied Dayton's anteroom with tablets to show the event's live stream.

Ultimately, 26 people from indigenous, environmental and religious groups received

disorderly conduct charges from Bemidji police. These included: Loren Blackford, President of the national Sierra Club; Margaret Levin, director of the Sierra Club North Star Chapter; members of the North Star Chapter Executive Committee; and Nellis Kennedy-Howard the Sierra Club's Director of Equity, Inclusion and Justice. Read Nellis' article *Defending the Sacred* from Line 3 page 12.

**LEGAL CHALLENGES:** The PUC's deeply flawed process opens doors for legal challenges. Tribal nations also could challenge the pipeline for violating their treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather along the proposed pipeline route. The Sierra Club will be supporting partner organizations' legal challenges. Fundraisers to support this critical work are forthcoming. Watch our website and Facebook page for details.

**PERMITS:** Line 3 still needs federal, state and local permits. Dayton promised these approvals "are by no means assured," and the applications would need to meet "Minnesota's highest standards." The Sierra Club and other organizations will scrutinize these permits. A critical one is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Clean Water (401) Permit, the state's version of the federal Clean Water Act.

Call Dayton, 651-201-3400, and have your voice heard. Remind him of his 2016 "Year of Water Action" when he said: "We have a shared responsibility to protect Minnesota's precious lakes, rivers, and streams for future generations."

Tell him stopping Line 3 is needed to ensure he leaves a clean water legacy.

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



Photo credit: Heather Wilson.



Photo credit: Heather Wilson. Left to right: Rick Morris, Sierra Club Rochester Organizer; Lorna Hanes, Water Protector

## WE NEED TO RAMP UP THE PRESSURE.



Photo credit: Heather Wilson. Isabel Watson, Youth Climate Intervenor



Photo credit: Heather Wilson. From left to right: Kevin Whelan, MN 350, Executive Director; Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth, Executive Director; Loren Blackford, Sierra Club, National President; Nellis Kennedy-Howard, Sierra Club, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice; Rick Morris, Sierra Club, organizer, Rochester MN.

# DEFENDING THE SACRED FROM LINE 3

Nellis Kennedy-Howard

Nellis Kennedy-Howard

“What should we do, folks? Stay, and risk arrest? Or leave, and risk our homeland?”

As I sat in the middle of an intersection in Bemidji, Minnesota, two weeks ago today, 26 of us grappled with this question. We were at an arrestable action to #StopLine3 -- one of only three such actions in Sierra Club history. And we had a big decision to make.

If built by Enbridge, Line 3 would be the one of the largest crude oil pipelines on this continent, carrying up to 915,000 barrels per day of one of the dirtiest fuel on earth -- tar sands crude. Line 3 would pass through lakes, wetlands, ancient wild rice beds, and the heart of Ojibwe treaty territory.

Back to that big decision. We had only moments to decide if we wanted to move along. I looked left and saw my near and dear friend, Winona LaDuke, with whom I've been fighting Enbridge pipelines since 2008. I looked right and saw Suzanne, my wife and member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. In that moment, it was abundantly clear to me all that was worth fighting for.

Being in Bemidji felt a bit like coming home, because for many years Northern Minnesota was my home. Suzanne and I lived not far from her family on the Leech Lake reservation for four years while I worked for Honor the Earth, fighting Enbridge. On this land, Suzanne had her naming ceremony, as well as healing ceremonies for her lupus, and water ceremonies at Mississippi headwaters. I participated in many of those ceremonies, smudging sage, praying, and listening to the Ojibwe Singers.

Suzanne's family is well known on the reservation -- her grandmother, Dorothy Howard, was the oldest woman in the tribe at the time of her death four years ago. She was part of the Ojibwe Hymnal Singers and a familiar face to the pow wow circuit. Her grandfather was a World War II survivor and chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for Anishinaabe peoples. In the years we lived there, we danced at pow wows, sugar bushed, went wild ricing, picked berries, and participated in other traditional practices and ceremonies. I've learned so much about Anishinaabe people from being part of this family and how they differ from my own tribe. This land and its peoples live in my heart, now and forever.

I am from a different Native community, the Diné people, and grew up frequently

visiting family on the Navajo reservation. But there are many points of connection between my experience and Suzanne's. Leech Lake, where Suzanne spent every summer growing up, is home to the St. Regis paper mill company -- one of earliest superfund sites in the nation. Suzanne's family home was on what is now this Superfund site. My family's home on the Navajo Nation is also home to one of the earliest superfund sites in U.S. history: the Church Rock uranium spill. Throughout U.S. history, Native lands and communities have been dumping grounds for pollution -- treated as energy sacrifice zones, disposable.

Which brings me back to sitting in the middle of that intersection in Bemidji, Minnesota. We were there to stop the next environmental disaster on Native land before it happens. For me, it was a moment of coming full circle. Ten years ago I was meeting with Ojibwe tribal councils about Enbridge's pipeline plans and touring the

## “WHAT SHOULD WE DO, FOLKS? STAY, AND RISK ARREST? OR LEAVE, AND RISK OUR HOMELAND?”

site where their proposed pipeline would tear apart the land. There was a spill near Leech Lake shortly thereafter -- I remember seeing crude polluting pristine waters and its wildlife. In many ways, it was like coming home to stand shoulder to shoulder with Winona, with people like Marty Cobenais, Julia Nerbonne and Tom Goldtooth. But it was also heartbreaking to know that ten years later we are still fighting the same fight -- a tale all too familiar in Indian Country.

As I sat and thought about my decision whether to risk arrest that day, I remembered the words of Leech Lake chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. He said earlier this year: “The Lake Reservation will always be our home. Unlike a house, however, we can never rebuild or move if a disaster were to happen.”

I rose to my feet and told my friends and family all around me that I would stay. That



Photo Credit: Sarah Little Red Feather. Author Nellis at the direct action

I had to stay. Why? Because I have the privilege to leave.

My homeland is on the Navajo Nation. I can tweet about Line 3 all day long and I can call Governor Dayton to demand he stop the pipeline. But at the end of the day, I can walk away. The people who live at Leech Lake, the people who have since time immemorial known no other home -- they don't have that same privilege.

Leech Lake is more than special -- it's sacred and I'm committed to defending the sacred.

Leech Lake is home to one of the largest nesting areas of bald eagles in the U.S. It is home to the Anishinaabe people, who have been harvesting wild rice and maple syrup using

traditional Ojibwe practices on this land for ten thousand years.

Line 3 endangers the Anishinaabe people who have been on this land since time immemorial. It endangers the ecosystems of wild rice, maple syrup, moccasin flowers, and chokecherries. It endangers the wildlife of muskrats, loons, walleye, and bald eagles. It endangers everything I hold sacred in this world and the next.

In case you're wondering, I did choose to stay in the middle of that intersection. We will do what is necessary to protect the sacred because that's what generations have done before us and what generations will need to do after us.”

*Nellis Kennedy-Howard is the Sierra Club's Director of Equity, Inclusion and Justice*



# ONE STEP FORWARD PROTECT LAKE SUPERIOR & THE BOUNDARY WATERS & TWO STEPS BACK

Photo credit: Michael Shoop.

“THE SIERRA CLUB STRONGLY CONDEMNS THIS DECISION BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION. THE BOUNDARY WATERS IS THE MOST VISITED WILDERNESS AREA IN THE COUNTRY.”

Justin Fay

## ONE STEP FORWARD:

**JULY 24, 2018 WAS A DAY OF VICTORY FOR THOSE FIGHTING TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT MINNESOTA'S WATERS.**

For years, Minnesota-based PolyMet Mining Corporation has been working to create a massive mining district extending from outside Duluth all the way up to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. And the environment could pay a steep price.

Evidence shows that the company's sulfide mining activity in Minnesota's water-rich region will create tailings requiring water treatment for at least 500 years - virtually forever. If this treatment fails the result will be degradation and pollution of the water and environment of the Arrowhead region, including Lake Superior.

PolyMet is now trying to consolidate its holdings in the region. On June 28, the company closed a deal with the U.S. Forest Service that would transfer about 6,900 acres of private land within the Superior National Forest boundary to the Forest Service in exchange for 6,500 acres at the mine site near Hoyt Lakes. PolyMet needs this land exchange for its copper-nickel sulfide mine, a dangerous type of mining that has never been done before in Minnesota.

Environmental organizations have filed four separate lawsuits challenging aspects of PolyMet's land exchange. The Sierra Club is co-plaintiff on one legal challenge, seeking judicial review of the exchange under the Federal Weeks Act, which allows the use of federal funding to purchase forest land for conservation.

In fact, the Sierra Club North Star Chapter has been involved in fighting PolyMet since 2005, scouring thousands of pages of environmental review, attending hearings,

and submitting comments.

In response to this rising resistance against the deal, PolyMet attempted to covertly solidify the land exchange by having it tacked onto federal legislation, the unrelated National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The amendment would have reaffirmed the deal and nullified the lawsuits against it.

**BUT ON JULY 24, 2018, THE NDAA PASSED - WITHOUT THE POLYMET AMENDMENT.**

It was never appropriate for Congress to interfere in pending litigation, and we should continue to expect nothing less than full judicial review of these critical issues without further political interference. Minnesotans deserve their day in court. This decision by Congressional negotiators to omit PolyMet's land exchange from the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) clears the way for Federal Courts to review the multiple legal challenges to PolyMet's land exchange deal.

This win is owed in part to the many Sierra Club activists who showed their opposition through phone calls, emails and letters. And the results are huge. With the amendment dropped, we can keep fighting the PolyMet mine in court and wherever else we need to.

## AND TWO STEPS BACK:

Then on Tuesday September 6, shortly after we declared at least a partial win, the Trump Administration directly threatened the future of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Administration officials announced that the United States Forest Service will allow companies to pursue sulfide ore mining leases immediately adjacent to the Boundary Waters. This announcement also included an abrupt end to an incomplete and never-released environmental study of sulfide mining impacts in the BWCA watershed that was started under the Obama Administration.

## IN RESPONSE, THE NORTH STAR CHAPTER ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

“The Sierra Club strongly condemns this decision by the Trump Administration. The Boundary Waters is the most visited wilderness area in the country. As a cornerstone of northern Minnesota's economy and a unique piece of our nation's natural legacy, the Boundary Waters simply must be protected.

“Minnesotans care about each other and our home, the great state of Minnesota. Today's decision further cements the Trump Administration's true vision for Minnesota's future: corrupt cronyism driving corporate profits at the expense of future generations. We continue to stand firmly alongside northern Minnesota's downstream communities, tribal leaders, businesses and concerned residents as they confront the threat of toxic sulfide mining throughout the region.”

Whatever the setbacks, we will keep fighting to protect Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters, and the Arrowhead region.

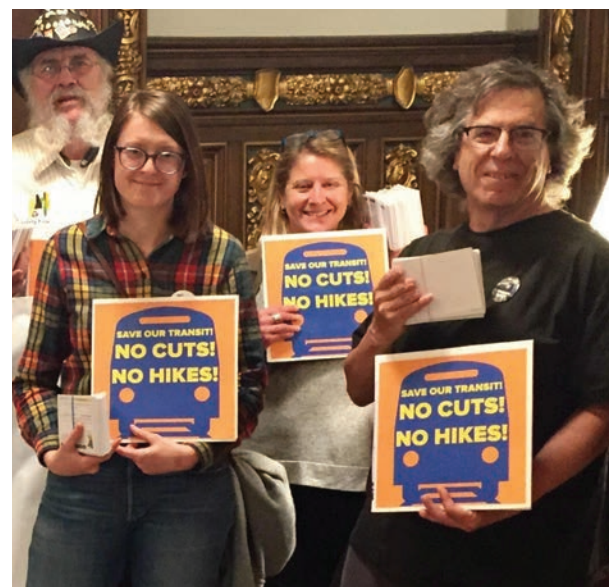
*Justin Fay is the legislative director for the North Star Chapter*





# CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL

# TRANS PORTATION FORWARD



Sarah Musgrave, far right, pictured at the capitol

Sarah Curtis

The Twin Cities metro region is expected to add 700,000 more people by 2040 (that's nearly the entire state of North Dakota). As the population increases, clean transportation options become more and more important. Currently transportation is the leading cause of climate change pollution in Minnesota. Air pollution in the Twin Cities contributes to about 2,000 premature deaths every year and sends 1,000 people to the hospital for asthma, lung and heart disease treatments. Those most at risk are elderly, people of color, and those living in poverty due to being more exposed to higher concentrations of air pollution.

The Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Committee advocates for transit solutions to move more people, mitigating climate change, improving air quality, and creating a more equitable transportation system. This committee works to secure equity commitments, increase job access and community involvement to promote sustainable land use to accommodate the projected growth

and increased need for clean transportation options.

LUT also likes to have fun! The committee of volunteers organizes Transit to Green Space outing and the annual Sierra Club Bike Tour in September. Learn more at [sc.org/mn-lut](http://sc.org/mn-lut) or contact Joshua Houdek at 612-259-2447.

## MAKE CLEAN TRANSPORTATION HAPPEN: GET LOCAL AND VOTE!

An interview by Sarah Curtis

Sarah Musgrave is Sierra Club's Land Use and Transportation vice chair and representative to the Legislative Committee. She gets around by bus, train, bike and her own two feet - resulting in a very clean carbon footprint! But she is dismayed by what is happening at the Minnesota State Legislature in regards to clean transportation options. The recent political climate at the State Capitol has been hostile to the transportation sector, which is now the leading contributor to climate change in Minnesota. And when Dakota County prompted the disbanding of the Counties Transit

Improvement Board in 2017, Hennepin County and other partners had to step up to keep projects like the METRO Blue and Green Line Extensions moving forward.

As a result, the Transportation Forward coalition, of which Sierra Club is an active member, has directed efforts toward community-based work. Sarah says the most important thing we can do is build support from the ground up. "We must work locally. Most communities have transportation boards and committees. Find out when your local group meets and get involved in advocating for better transit options and safer walking and biking connections. The momentum from local efforts will carry forward to influence state lawmakers." Sarah also stresses the importance getting out the vote. "Be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday November 6th," she says. "We all need to do our part to create a more favorable legislative environment that will help fund clean transportation options for everyone."

*Sarah Curtis is a volunteer with the Communications Team*

# ADVOCATING FOR A MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE

Charles Frempong-Longdon Jr.

"Equity". Small word. Big impact. Used in a sentence—such as "Here at \_\_\_ we strive to achieve equity for all citizens"—it sounds good, but what does it mean? What does it weigh? How can we as people go about defining fairness in our complex world?

The Sierra Club has dedicated itself to fight for a more equitable future. For the North Star Chapter being equitable means our advocacy work should fight environmental racism.

Environmental racism is real and refers to the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color. These disparities include breathing dirtier air, greater exposure to pollutants, and having less access to healthy food, clean water, and great parks.

The East Phillips and Northside communities of Minneapolis are vibrant, growing and diverse communities. They are also communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental racism. In order to address this racism, we must deconstruct the racist policies themselves: whether the policy is placing industrial uses in communities of color or running highways through neighborhoods. This idea of deconstruction led directly to the development of the Minneapolis Green Zones Initiative. A Green Zone is a place-based policy initiative aimed at improving health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts in communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental pollution, as well as social, political and economic vulnerability.

The Sierra Club is supporting community efforts to turn these Green Zones policy

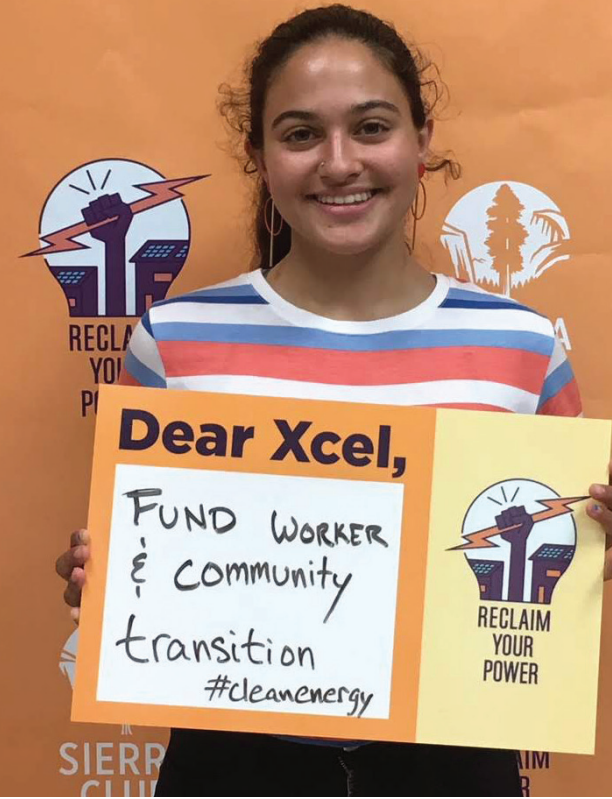
statements into reality. In East Phillips this means supporting community members in their advocacy for using some of a city-owned site for a "Green Initiative" to create affordable housing, jobs, solar power, and community businesses. On the Northside this means supporting community led initiatives to ensure equity and sustainability are at the forefront of the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal along the Mississippi River.

Equity strives to be in balance, a principle in which actions encouraging progress are evenly distributed to benefit us all. We are bound by our truest principles to uphold this idea, that we can build and live in a better world together as one.

*Charles Frempong-Longdon Jr. is an Organizing and Communications Intern with Sierra Club*



# RECLAIM YOUR POWER: MINNESOTANS SHAPE OUR ENERGY FUTURE



Priyanka Zylstra

The Sierra Club Beyond Coal team is focused on influencing how Xcel Energy, the largest energy utility in the state, plans for the future of energy use in Minnesota.

We know Minnesota has an opportunity to vastly reduce carbon emissions and ensure the state makes a just and equitable transition to 100 percent renewables. Decades of burning dirty fossil fuels and years of fracked gas have worsened our climate and our health. We must transition to 100 percent clean energy as soon as possible because delays further the suffering of our communities and ecosystems.

Right now Xcel Energy is developing an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Minnesota. Essentially, the IRP is a 15-year energy forecast for how much energy is needed and where Xcel Energy will be sourcing it from (coal, natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind, etc.). For this plan, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission asked Xcel Energy to evaluate the retirement of its remaining coal and nuclear plants, which accounts for 70 percent of its energy fleet. Giving us the opportunity to influence how Xcel Energy will

replace this dirty energy, which will impact our communities' health and the environment for decades to come.

While Xcel Energy has put forth a vision for 85 percent of the energy it produces to come from "carbon-free" sources, including 60 percent from renewable sources, the Sierra Club believes Xcel can do more to put

## PUT MINNESOTA ON A FASTER PATH TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

Minnesota on a faster path to 100 percent renewable energy. After the recent publication of a study by GridLab and the McKnight Foundation, we know more is possible and feasible. This study shows Minnesota could retire all coal plants, never build a new gas plant, and still save people money by investing in clean energy. We are asking Xcel Energy to make strong moves in the 2019 IRP.

Over the past few months, Xcel Energy has hosted various stakeholder sessions leading up to its IRP proposal. These sessions are not designed for the majority of customers; they use very technical terms, occur during workday hours, and are difficult to access using public transportation. The Sierra Club hosted the Reclaim Your Power event series to center community voices in the energy

planning process, giving people a chance to determine their energy future. The Reclaim Your Power events explain the Xcel Energy IRP process, feature local community activists and engage folks in various activities through which we can better articulate our energy needs and vision. The Sierra Club will bring the community input gained from the Reclaim Your Power events to Xcel Energy.

In addition to bringing community input to Xcel Energy, the Sierra Club has four main asks for Xcel Energy in this IRP:

- Retire its remaining coal plants by 2030 and replace them with renewables and energy savings, not gas.
- Create a plan to transition to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Fund and support community and worker transition.
- Ensure equitable access to all of clean energy benefits, including family-sustaining jobs and community economic development.

If Xcel Energy takes these steps, Minnesota could soon see a clean energy future that doesn't leave anyone behind.

*Priyanka Zylstra is an organizing intern with the Sierra Club and is featured above*



# THE ZERO WASTE TASK FORCE SAYS: SKIP THE STRAW

Kelly Dooley and Michelle Verzal

The Zero Waste Task Force, the newest volunteer group within the Sierra Club North Star chapter, is gaining momentum in Minnesota.

The topic of achieving Zero Waste is broad when we consider all to be tackled as individuals, and then in our neighborhoods, cities, and state. The Task Force promotes individual action: composting, recycling, using the most sustainable products, and generally buying, using, and wasting LESS. And group action: the Ban the Bag Campaign,



textile recycling, and promoting composting and reduction of waste for businesses and apartment and condo buildings are also important to us. Of course, for each issue, it is essential to include a plan to combat the difficulties and additional issues that come with the high costs associated in achieving Zero Waste for individuals and communities with limited financial means. (It is still more than double the price to purchase a compostable trash bag than a regular one!)

While recognizing that there are many paths to achieving Zero Waste, we currently have honed in on the Skip the Straw campaign. This campaign coincided with the exciting recent plastic straw bans by corporations such as Starbucks, American Airlines, Hyatt and Hilton and includes educating ourselves and immediate communities about single-use plastics. The following is excerpted from our recent blog post, which was also modified and printed in several Letters to the Editors for papers in the Twin Cities Area:

“We have all heard about the plastic pollution in the oceans and observed those graphic images of dead marine life with plastic-filled stomachs, sea turtles trapped in plastic bags or with straws in their noses. My first observation of the plastic pollution was a little less graphic, but still concerning. During a study abroad in the Turks and Caicos, a stretch of beach on my island was littered with trash on a weekly basis. People would clean the beach, and within days the currents would bring in the next load of trash. My second experience was while snorkeling at Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. I expected to see crystal clear waters, but to my surprise, plastic debris was everywhere, clouding the view of the colorful coral reefs and marine life.

After witnessing the plastic pollution first hand, it took me nearly eight years to do something about it. Because it was not about properly recycling the plastic I purchased, yet more about reducing the waste that I produce.

One action step that is so simple, yet is easy to overlook is skipping the straw. I didn't

even think about skipping the straw until it became an internet sensation. Just because this movement is a sensation, doesn't mean it is a fad. Skipping the straw at cafes, bars, and restaurants is the right thing to do.”

To read more you can find the full blog submitted by Kelly Dooley here: [sierraclub.org/minnesota/north-star-blog](http://sierraclub.org/minnesota/north-star-blog)

The Zero Waste Task Force is Committed to:

1. Educating ourselves! We plan to tour Eureka Recycling and a compost site, attend Zero Waste events, and hear from specific individuals or organizations that have achieved Zero Waste.
2. Acquiring and disseminating existing information. This includes supporting existing campaigns in the area, such as the St. Paul Sustainable To-Go Packaging Ordinance.
3. Celebrating and promoting the things that the Twin Cities is already doing well. (The abundance of diaper services in the area has been discussed!)

Please join us! We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

*Kelly Dooley and Michelle Verzal are both members of the Zero Waste Task Force*

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

CHAPTER LEADERS

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



We are nearly 80,000 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

Thank you for being a part of the North Star Team!



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)



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is the governing body of the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, with responsibility for overall activities, budgeting, and strategic planning.

There are fifteen members of the Excom, elected by members of the Sierra Club in Minnesota for rotating three-year terms. Members reflect a diversity of backgrounds and talents, brought together

by their common interest in environmental protection, and a commitment to help the chapter thrive and grow in its work as the leading grassroots voice for Minnesota's environment.

Please take the time to read the statements and mark and return a ballot. Your vote is important regardless of your level of involvement in Chapter activities.



**Marty Cobenais**  
**Bagley, MN**  
**marty.cobenais@gmail.com**  
**218-308-1184**

Boohzoo, (Hello) I have been a part of the North Star Chapter Ex-Comm for the past 7 years. Prior to being appointed to the Ex-Comm, I worked with the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) as their Pipeline Organizer.

During my work at IEN, I worked on Enbridge's Alberta Clipper (Line 67 & 13), the Heavy Haul in Montana and the Keystone XL pipeline. I have conducted several pipeline tours in the Bemidji area for various groups and organizations. I also helped organize the direct action in Bemidji, Mn over the Line 3 replacement that Enbridge is currently seeking permits in the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I currently am a co-caretaker, with my significant other (Dawn) at The Farm By The Lake, a environmental retreat center in Bagley, MN. I am also a substitute rural mail carrier.

Between the two of us, Dawn and I have 5 grown children, and 4 grandchildren.

I believe that the Sierra Club is moving in a diverse direction and I was encouraged to join the Ex-Comm at the beginning of it, and I see that there is still more work to be done on that issue, so this is why I am seeking to be re-elected, Miigwich (Thank you).



**Katie Eukel**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**keukel@gmail.com**  
**612-208-1674**

I've been an active volunteer with the Sierra Club for nearly a decade, and I've been honored to serve as Chapter Chair for the past two years. It's a deeply meaningful experience, especially as our dangerous political climate threatens everything that the Sierra Club values.

In my professional life, I'm a principal at Seiche, which is a strategy and communications consultancy focused on social impact. Every day, I work with clients committed to addressing climate change, advancing clean energy and protecting our wild places, among other issues. I work in Minnesota, and I work across the

country. It's work that I carry with me when I serve on the Executive Committee; the Sierra Club is not alone in our fight to achieve just climate solutions. We need a Sierra Club, now more than ever. I'm especially excited about the Chapter's work to build our political power and advance equity, which is necessary to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. I'm committed to ensuring that the Chapter grows and diversifies our membership to achieve our ambitious goals, and I would appreciate your support in continuing to serve on the Executive Committee.



**Bruce Goff**  
**Eagan, MN**  
**651-315-0000**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 20 years and have participated off-and-on with the CARE Committee (Clean Air and Renewable Energy). I have also authored some short articles in the North Star Journal. Professionally, I am a licensed attorney currently focused on IT-related issues as well as healthcare compliance. I have also served as secretary to the board of a small for-profit company. I am a veteran having served over 20 years in the active Army & National Guard. While helping to raise our children in Eagan and Rochester, I have found time to serve on multiple city advisory commissions and a homeowner association board. I enjoy fitness in many forms including trail running, gardening, and healthy cooking.

The North Star Chapter and most advocacy organizations find themselves beset with a growing list of interdependent issues. I strongly support the alliances the Chapter is building so that we can mutually support each other's causes and effectively bring more voices to action. As we Sierrans focus directly on environmental issues, together with our allies we should continue to advocate for better and more transparent governance so that our public and business institutions work for all.



**Sam Murphy**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**smurphy612@gmail.com**  
**612-418-3323**

I am currently the treasurer of our chapter of the Sierra Club, and am excited to become more involved in the management of the organization.

I have an MBA, and my work career was focused on finance, business and investing. Starting 15-20 years ago, I began volunteering and joining the boards of non-profits as a balance to my career. I have been on the board (often as treasurer) of a number of organizations, and value the opportunity to work with people who are passionate about leaving the world a better place.

My undergraduate education was in Environmental Science, and I have always had a deep connection to the environment. I was on the board of the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy for six years and have been a long time donor to the Sierra Club. I never really thought of myself as an activist, but the recent political shift at both the national and regional level pushed me to become more involved with the Sierra Club last year.

I believe my financial and non-profit management experience is a good match for the North Star Chapter. Our organization is playing an important role in countering the rise of corporate influence in our political system, and I look forward to keeping us vibrant and focused on the important tasks at hand.



**Siri Simons**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**siriasimons@gmail.com**  
**651-497-5260**

My aspiration to reduce carbon emissions in an equitable way drives my interest in serving on ExComm. My desire to mitigate climate change has taken me from leading a successful campaign to transition the University of Minnesota off of coal as a Sierra Club volunteer in 2011 to my current role as a Sustainability Planner at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. I have worked for the Sierra Club



as a staff member in Alaska and on the 2015 Tar Sands Resistance March, as well as in various volunteer positions in the last seven years. In addition to serving on the ExCom for the last 2 years, I bring experience community organizing, event planning, budgeting and administration, program evaluation, facilitation, and knowledge of climate, energy, and equity issues.

I am passionate about enhancing systems that engage a diverse range of volunteers and support the North Star Chapter's mission to protect Minnesota's people and environment. As a State employee, I promote a statewide lens on our work as a Chapter by bringing what I see and hear in Greater Minnesota to our meetings. Finally, as a current Masters in Urban and Regional Planning student at the University of Minnesota, I would work to strengthen the Sierra Club's relationship with the UMN if elected for another term on the Committee.



**Sarah Wovcha**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
**swovcha@post.harvard.edu**  
**651-291-1537**

My first experience in environmental activism was in 1971 as a 4 year old in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where my siblings and I tabled to raise awareness about Gray Wolves. My family, originally from the Iron Range of Minnesota, has spent part of every summer of my life at an old log cabin along the Canadian border. When Voyageur's National Park was established in the region we recognized it as a critical factor in saving the wild character of the land. As I visit there with my own children now we face new threats begging renewed activism, including proposed copper/nickel mining that would impact the region's watershed. As a lawyer with a masters degree in public health, I will bring to the Executive Committee a life long passion for Minnesota's wild places as well as expertise in evidence-based advocacy. As the director of a non-profit serving low-income children for the past 18 years and a past long-time director of the Wedge Community Coop, I will bring twenty-three years of experience in successfully serving mission-driven organizations. I am most excited to support the North Star Chapter in improving sustained access to outdoor opportunities for disadvantaged children and families.

## ELECTION BALLOT FOR NORTH STAR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019

Please vote for up to five candidates:

	MEMBERS VOTE HERE	JOINT MEMBERS VOTE HERE
Marty Cobenais	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Katie Eukel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bruce Goff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sam Murphy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Siri Simons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sarah Wovcha	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Write-ins:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## PLEASE VOTE FOR 5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, DEADLINE FOR VOTING IS JANUARY 5, 2019.

### VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

#### To vote by mail:

- Your member number is printed above your mailing address on the back of the ballot. This will be used to verify membership; however, your vote will be kept confidential.
- Please read the candidate statements provided.
- Vote for up to five candidates of your choice by clearly marking "X" in the box next to their names on the ballot, or by writing in a non-listed candidate's name on the line provided. Joint memberships are allowed two votes. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate). The five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve three-year terms on the North Star Chapter Executive Committee.
- Place your ballot in an envelope and mail it to be received by January 5, 2019 to:

**Elections Committee**  
**Sierra Club North Star Chapter**  
**2327 E Franklin Avenue #1**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55406**

#### To vote by email:

- Locate your 8-digit membership number which is printed above your mailing address on the back of the ballot. Your vote will be kept confidential, but this number is required to verify membership.
- Please read the candidate statements provided.
- Vote for up to five candidates of your choice by listing them on an email message to ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org. You may write in one non-listed candidate's name. Joint memberships are allowed two votes. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate). The five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve three-year terms on the North Star Chapter Executive Committee.
- Send your email message to ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org before January 5, 2019 at 5 p.m.

### Current members of the North Star Chapter ExCom:

TERM EXPIRES 2018	TERM EXPIRES 2019	TERM EXPIRES 2020
LOUIS ALEMAYEHU	LUTHER DALE	KATE BRAUMAN
MARTY COBENAIS	LOIS NORRGARD	C. SCOTT COOPER
KATIE EUKEL	JAVIER MORILLO-ALICEA	JOHN DOBERSTEIN
SIRI SIMONS	SAMMIE ARDITO RIVERA	KATIE HATT
SARAH WOVCHA	TOM THOMPSON	KAMAU WILKINS



Sierra Club - North Star Chapter  
2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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# N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

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

or current resident



## VOLUNTEER AND OUTING INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date information visit [sierraclub.org/mn](http://sierraclub.org/mn). Find the next volunteer and 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,  
[mhaider1231@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaider1231@hotmail.com)

#### Duluth

Courtney Cochran,  
[courtney.cochran@sierraclub.org](mailto:courtney.cochran@sierraclub.org)

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

Rick Morris, [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)  
Hanna Wallmow,  
[hanna.wallmow@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:hanna.wallmow@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)  
Bob Graves, [bob.graves@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.graves@northstar.sierraclub.org)

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

Alex Burns, [alex.burns@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:alex.burns@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, 2nd Tuesday, 7:00pm

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)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
NORTH STAR CHAPTER