

N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

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

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FEATURES

**CHAIR &
DIRECTOR'S
COLUMN**
p.2

**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF
PROTECTING MN**
p.3

**LEGISLATIVE
SESSION UPDATE**
p.4

**THE SIERRA CLUB
& JUSTICE**
p.6

**A NEW
VOLUNTEER
IN YEAR 50**
p.20

OUTDOORS

**OUTDOOR
PROGRAMS
INSPIRE AND
EDUCATE**
p.18

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS**
p.22

CAMPAIGNS

**TRANSIT IS
A CLIMATE &
COMMUNITY
SOLUTION**
p.8

**LINE 3 DELAYED
FOW NOW,
THE FIGHT
CONTINUES**
p.10

**THREE STEPS ON
A ZERO WASTE
JOURNEY**
p.11

**A MAJOR THREAT
TO CLEAN WATER**
p.12

AROUND THE STATE

**CLEAN ENERGY
ACROSS
MINNESOTA**
p.14

**ROCHESTER AT A
CROSSROADS**
p.16



Illustration credit: Brian Bradshaw



SIERRA CLUB
NORTH STAR CHAPTER



Kamau Wilkins, Chair and Margaret Levin, State Director

CHAIR & DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

The start of 2019 has brought more hope than we've had in years. We have a new slate of elected leaders in the State Capitol, growing ranks of grassroots supporters, and unique opportunities to make headway on the future of our environment. While we had setbacks at the State Capitol, (see page 4), we leave the Legislative Session in a position of strength with new champions and coalitions. Throughout the issue you can read about the breadth of our work to engage on some of the most egregious threats facing our lands, waters, and climate.

Recently, our chapter Executive Committee adopted changes to our volunteer structure, which we are pursuing in order to make volunteering more fun, meaningful, and equitable. It is also our 50th anniversary -- making this an especially good time to get involved. Explore the range of volunteer and outing possibilities on the back page.

This is a unique moment in our history. And as it always has, the difference between winning and losing comes down to the involvement of people like you. We thank you for your support.

Kamau Wilkins
Chair, Executive Committee
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Margaret Levin
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

MEET YOUR NEW CHAIR: KAMAU WILKINS

I have always felt tethered to nature. I was born in Portland, OR and moved to my grandparents farm in Ridgeland WI at the age of four. I watched my grandparents milk and process their own food. I spent most of my adolescence living outside a small midwestern town as one of very few minorities. There I fished, hunted, bird watched, canoed, hiked and camped. Through this, I built a deep love for the environment and wanted nothing more than to learn new ways to protect it.

As I grew older, my passion for environmental protection expanded into a commitment to justice and equity. My family has now settled into Rochester, MN where I am a well-known civil rights activist. I co-founded and serve as President for Rochester For Justice. Currently I work as the Southeast Minnesota Regional Director for the Youth Enrichment League. I also coach and serve on the planning team of the Racial Equity Advisory Team of the Rochester School Board, and have raised thousands of dollars for charity and food drives.

As your Chair, I am inspired to lead the Chapter to a stronger focus on the intersections between environmental health and social causes. We are in a period of time that calls us to propel our social activism and awareness, and where we, more than ever, need to be maneuvering with diligence to protect our fragile world. I am thankful for you and the Sierra Club to be here together working on our common cause. I look forward to motivating and building strong, equitable relationships within the Sierra Club -- between our volunteers & donors -- and externally with our legislators and partners across the state.



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Celebrating 50 years of protecting Minnesota



Chuck Dayton & John Herman, who were named as Environmentalists of the Decade by the North Star Chapter, with Gov. Wendell Anderson, Rep. Willard Munger, Peter Gove (Anderson's assistant at the time) and Jackie Rosholt. Photo taken in 1973, when both Chuck and John were working for the North Star Chapter. According to Dayton "1973 was about the most historic year in history for good Environmental legislation in Minnesota."

CHUCK DAYTON - FOUNDING ACTIVIST

Danette Knickmeier

Chuck Dayton has been defending Minnesota's environment longer than many of us have been alive. This is his story.

Soon after graduating from Michigan law school in 1964, Chuck went on a Sierra Club outing in Colorado. He then joined his local chapter, and quickly became a board member. To Chuck, it was a no-brainer. He thought "I was a lawyer and lawyers are always helpful."

His first venture into the legislative area was the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, passed in 1971, which gives citizens the right to sue on behalf of the environment. This is still a major environmental statute in Minnesota.

In 1971, Chuck left his partnership in a large Minneapolis law firm to join the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group as the first lawyer for this student-funded group. At MPIRG, he brought the lawsuit challenging logging in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which sparked the controversies in the 1970's culminating in the 1978 amendments banning logging, mining and most motorized travel in the BWCA.

In the early 70s, the Minnesota chapter of the Sierra Club decided to hire a legislative lobbyist for their Project

Environment effort. So Chuck and an MPIRG colleague, John Herman started a law firm and became the first paid environmental lobbyists in the state of Minnesota.

In the mid-70s, they took advantage of a time when environmentalism was extremely popular—even with the Republicans. His firm helped pass a flood of environmental state legislation, like the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (which requires Environmental Impact Statements), the Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Minnesota Rivers Critical Areas Act, just to name a few. He likes to say "We hit a lot of homeruns, but we had the wind blowing 50 miles an hour from behind home plate." For their work in the 1970's, Chuck and John Herman were named the "Environmentalists of the Decade" by the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Throughout the 70s, Chuck was heavily involved in protecting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which, at the time, was being threatened by logging, mining, snowmobiling, and motorboat use. His work coupled with that of a lot of volunteers, notably Bud Heinselmann, a retired forester, resulted in the passage of the 1978 amendments to the Wilderness Act, which banned logging, mining, and snowmobiles, and heavily limited the use

of motorboats in this treasured area we all know and love.

During this time, he had what he calls "The third best idea I've ever had after the two women I've been married to." The idea was simple: He served a Freedom of Information Act request on the Forest Service to get a list of names of every person who had ever led a paddle-only trip into the Boundary Waters. That list of 30,000 names became an instant national advocacy group known as The Friends of the Boundary Waters.

In the 80s and beyond, Chuck continued representing the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations in the courts.

Now retired, Chuck is still a Sierra Club member and donor, and with his wife, splits his time between Minnesota and North Carolina.

Words of wisdom about the future of our environment from Chuck are simple: "If you're depressed about climate change, you need to do 3 things: Talk about it, do something about it, and spend time in beautiful places. With the Sierra Club, you can do all of these things."

Danette Knickmeier is the North Star Journal editor and volunteer with the Communications Team.

2019 MN LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

We entered the Minnesota 2019 session with a new political landscape. Democrats took control of the House due mainly to changes in Metro area suburbs, Republicans continued to control the Senate chamber, and a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor took office.

This divided government led to a stalemate conclusion to the 2019 Legislative Session, with anti-environment leadership in the Senate consistently refusing to move the needle on legislation core to Minnesota values – including protecting our waters and addressing climate change. We can and must do better.

We are seeking to fundamentally change our energy and transportation systems, and prevent toxic sulfide mining. We know this won't happen overnight. **The positive side of the 2019 session was that new coalitions and new elected champions – many of whom were endorsed by the Sierra Club – emerged with the power to take on these challenges.** Notably, Governor Walz and his team led with their One Minnesota Path for 100% Clean Energy and new transit funding proposals.

We are deeply grateful to the environmental champions who fought to move a positive vision forward, and our volunteer leaders and supporters who contributed so much time, energy and passion. These leaders brought the voices of our 20,000 members directly to their legislators.

TOGETHER MINNESOTAN SIERRAS: CONNECTED WITH LEGISLATORS.

- Supporters sent **3,481 emails, 1,495 petition signatures** and made **1,622 calls** to their legislators.
- We met with them face-to-face. We participated in nearly **30 events across the state** including town halls and in-district meetings from Duluth to Rochester to Shakopee.



RALLIED AT THE CAPITOL.

Sometimes the best way to get your message across is to show up with hundreds of fellow Minnesotans from across the state – to meet with your legislator and demand action.

- We joined coalitions to create meaningful rallies and lobby days at the Capitol including Water Action Day, Transportation Forward Day, and three rallies for 100% Clean Energy.

Kayla Titus, a new volunteer with SierraAction, had this to say about meeting with her representatives during Water Action Day:

“I’M SO GLAD YOU GOT ME TO DO THIS, I WAS NERVOUS AND DIDN’T THINK I COULD, AND THEN THAT MEETING WAS SO COOL AND EMPOWERING.”

REPORT ON OUR TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Our Legislative Committee reviewed policy issues developed by volunteer teams across the state and chose to focus on three top priority issues.

COMMIT TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2050 — Move Minnesota to a healthy, equitable energy future that increases good family-supporting jobs, saves customers money, and equitably distributes the benefits of climate solutions.

| WHAT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE: | WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SENATE: | THE FINAL OUTCOME? |
|---|---|---|
| For the first time, the Minnesota House passed legislation committing to a 100% carbon-free electricity standard, a proposal which was backed by Governor Walz. | The Senate version of the Jobs and Energy Omnibus bill (SF 2611) included no commitment to 100% clean energy and harmful provisions like removing a moratorium on new nuclear plants. | The Legislature failed to make any meaningful progress on climate solutions. But with partners, we changed the narrative around climate change, making this a top issue that decision-makers heard about all session — laying the groundwork for significant steps forward in future years. |

PROVIDE CRITICALLY NEEDED NEW TRANSIT FUNDING — Transportation is the leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota. Funding transit gives more Minnesotans of every income level better access to daily needs. It moves us towards a future with clean air, abundant opportunities, and thriving neighborhoods.

| WHAT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE: | WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SENATE: | THE FINAL OUTCOME? |
|--|--|---|
| The House Transportation Finance Omnibus bill (HF 1555) passed and included a 1/2 cent regional sales tax for transit and a 20 cent gas tax for roads and bridges, along with other steps forward. Governor Walz championed this dedicated transportation funding and made sure his proposal included transit. | The Senate version (SF 1093) included no new revenue sources for transportation and no additional funding for transit. | The legislative session ended with a “lights on” compromise transportation bill, which failed to provide any new funding for transit, bicycling and walking. Current funding levels are alarming insufficient, though new partnerships with economic and equity focused groups were strengthened. |

PROTECT OUR WATERS — Toxic sulfide ore mining releases acid and toxic metals that contaminate rivers and groundwater for hundreds of years. We are proposing that mining companies be required to “Prove it First,” i.e., that they have operated and closed a similar mine in a water-rich environment without long-term pollution. Until they do, copper-nickel sulfide mines should not be permitted in Minnesota.

| WHAT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE: | WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SENATE: | THE FINAL OUTCOME? |
|--|--|--|
| The Prove it First (HF 2212) bill was re-introduced and gained support from 10 co-authors in the House, including environmental champions like lead author Rep. Jim Davnie. However, it did not receive a hearing. | Prove it First (SF 1087) received the maximum of five co-authors in the Senate, but did not receive a hearing. | Legislation introduced in 2019 will stay “alive” for the next legislative session. We will be building from a stronger position with new champions identified. |

We are proud of our work in 2019 and are counting on you to keep fighting with us as we look to 2020. Read our full 2019 Legislative Report, including about our work on second tier priorities, on our blog at sc.org/mn.

THE SIERRA CLUB & JUSTICE

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Nic Baker

The Sierra Club works to change policies that improve not only the environment, but also people's lives. Addressing the interconnections between environmental, racial, and social justice are crucial for the success of this work. As Executive Director Michael Brune writes, "If the Sierra Club ignored 'non-environmental' issues, our mission of protecting the environment would be far more difficult, if not impossible."

Environmental issues and injustice cannot be separated. Those who have little visibility due to race, income, or place of residence don't have access to much influence. They are less likely, for example, to have the ability to prevent a hazardous-waste site or other health-threatening facility from moving into their neighborhood. They are also more likely to be affected by climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation.

The Sierra Club recognizes these intersections and is committed to fighting for justice, as core to our work to protect the planet.

SIERRA CLUB EQUITY COMMITMENT:

As the leading grassroots voice for Minnesota's environment, the Sierra Club North Star Chapter is committed to:

1. Better serving our mission and our members by becoming an intercultural, anti-racist organization that is committed to partnering with communities and organizations to eradicate all forms of oppression;
2. Reflecting in our issue priorities the environmental concerns of all communities that call our state home;
3. Transforming our staff, leadership, membership, and organizational culture to be more reflective of Minnesota's diverse communities by actively recruiting and warmly welcoming members of all communities into the Chapter's work;
4. Continually evaluating the Chapter's issue priorities and campaign plans through the lenses of Equity and Environmental Justice.

THE CHANGE AND EQUITY TEAM WORKS TOWARDS:

1. Individual and Organizational Transformation. Offering training and support for Sierra Club staff and volunteers in their journey to become strong allies in the anti-racist and Justice movement.
2. Decision-Making, Policy, Structure and Core Values. Supporting structural changes to create more inclusive, just spaces within the Chapter.
3. Solidarity, Allyship and Partnership - Equity Outreach. Identifying, reaching out, and supporting existing and potential new partners within communities of color.

JOIN US.

Get involved by joining us for an upcoming partnership event or Environmental Justice movie night. To learn more about what the Sierra Club is doing to advance equity email Charles at charles.frempong-longdon@sierraclub.org

MOVIE SCREENING BRINGS LIGHT TO LOCAL RACIAL JUSTICE ISSUE

Participants enjoy a Food Justice event at Augsburg University as part of our Change & Equity Team's work. Photo Credit: Allyson Green

As part of our commitment to bringing awareness to justice issues, the club hosts a quarterly Environmental Justice movie night. On March 6th, we sponsored a locally-produced film that focused on the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul, which once had the largest African-American population in St. Paul. This was a community with close-knit neighbors, thriving businesses, and a true sense of identity.

The Rondo Community was torn apart in 1956 when excavation of the neighborhood began to make room for the new Interstate 94. Even though the actual construction didn't start until years after that, with completion in 1968, the damage had already been done. A soon-to-be highway running through the middle of the neighborhood separated the community in two.

While the community had "maintained its culture", noted a panelist after the film, "the loss was irreparable with 800 homes destroyed". A community member in the film described waking up on a Saturday morning to find a giant wrecking ball hovering over his house. In total there were 400 businesses that closed or relocated. These businesses had been a center of community life, and their loss further eroded the neighborhood's character and the closeness among its residents.

"North Star Chapter Organizer Charles Frempong-Longdon Jr. remarked that "Displacement is an example of social injustice, which also can create environmental injustice. Your opportunities—including the opportunity to breathe clean air—depend on where you live." This couldn't be more true than in the case of the Rondo neighborhood. "The interstate went through the path of least resistance, a neighborhood whose black residents didn't have much political clout." noted State Senator Scott Dibble.

People living in the Rondo neighborhood continue to deal with the legacy of losing homes, neighbors, and community cohesion — as well as the air pollution and resulting health problems caused by the emissions from thousands of cars traveling on I-94 daily.

The consensus among the panelists and Sierra Club members who spoke up at the March 6 movie event was that we cannot fight for environmental justice without fighting for social justice—and vice versa.

Nic Baker is a volunteer with the North Star Chapter Communications Team

TRANSIT IS A CLIMATE & COMMUNITY SOLUTION

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



Metro Transit rolls out new, MN union-made, zero emission electric buses. Photo Credit: Joshua Houdek



Transit advocates joined by Governor Tim Walz, Senators Scott Dibble and Melisa Franzen, and Representative Frank Hornstein at a Capitol rally. Photo Credit: Move Minnesota

Lindsay Starck

Metro Transit, Minnesota’s largest transit provider, launches its first zero emission electric buses this summer. These sleek new 60 foot “articulated” buses will run on the new C Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route, from Brooklyn Center Transit Center through North Minneapolis to downtown. Along the way, passengers will enjoy a quieter, cleaner ride.

Policymakers and environmental groups laud this development as essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, especially since transportation is now the leading cause of climate change pollution in the state, and the entire nation. In a special report last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that further global warming to 1.5° C will drastically impact sea levels, ecosystems, water supply, economic growth, and human health and security.

We’re likely to hit this dangerous level if we don’t take immediate action to curb greenhouse gas emissions now. This

is why the Sierra Club’s Land Use and Transportation Committee advocates for transportation options that are cleaner, more sustainable, and more equitable: notably transit, bicycling, and walking.

The group has been active this legislative session organizing rallies, meeting with legislators, and generating calls and emails to legislators in support of creating new, sustainable funding sources for transit and legislation to improve air quality in communities most affected by pollution from transportation. “We’ve had a lot of fun supporting clean transportation champions at the State Capitol,” says Land Use and Transportation Chair Alex Burns. “Our voices are being heard and were helping to connect the dots between climate action and transportation.” Read more about the results of work at the Capitol on page 4.

We are also connecting the dots between how we build our communities and what modes of transport are most feasible. In sprawling cities, with long distances between destinations, cars are the most convenient option. In denser cities,

clean transportation options like transit, bicycling and walking are more convenient. These options are also much cheaper than cars, giving more people access to opportunity from jobs to parks. Using clean transportation options can even make you happier—in fact, moving from a long commute by car to a short walking commute increases people’s happiness to the same degree as if they’d fallen in love! A commitment to clean transportation, it turns out, is also a commitment to sustainable, equitable communities and happy people.

As the land of ten thousand lakes and abundant forests and parks, our state has long been recognized as one of the greenest in the country. The Sierra Club’s Land Use and Transportation Program is working to ensure we build a clean, green transportation system to match.

Lindsay Starck is a volunteer with the North Star Chapter Communications Team

LINE 3 DELAYED FOR NOW, THE FIGHT CONTINUES



Protesters gather along the proposed Line 3 route, during an Enbridge shareholder meeting. Photo Credit: Natalie Cook

Rocky Wagner

People opposed to the expansion and rerouting of a tar sands crude oil pipeline through Northern Minnesota haven't yet won the fight, but we haven't lost yet either. Enbridge, the company whose Line 3 tar sands crude pipeline carries the dubious honor of having released both the first and second largest inland spills in America's history, has plans to greatly expand the same pipeline's capacity and reroute it along a new corridor through Northern Minnesota.

The new Line 3 goes through wetlands and will threaten these ecosystems with permanent contamination in the event of another major spill. Those areas include, among other sacred sites, the world's only harvesting grounds for wild-growing manoomin, or wild rice—a sacred and economic

staple of Minnesota's Ojibwe for centuries past and through the present day.

Scientists at the top of every major field have been entreating governments to begin the total phaseout of fossil fuels towards a net-zero carbon emissions within twelve years. Therefore, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) decision in favor of granting this project a "certificate of need" was a shock to many.

Who, exactly, needed it? In late 2018 with Governor Mark Dayton's term nearing an end, dissent had snowballed. There were relentless sit-ins, marches, banner drops, and petition deliveries from the Sierra Club and partners like Honor the Earth, Youth Climate Intervenor, Minnesota Can't Wait, MN Interfaith Power and Light, MN350 and many more. By December, a week couldn't pass without at least one well-attended grassroots dustup in the Capitol building.

Just days from the end of his term, Governor Dayton ordered his Department of Commerce (DOC) to file an appeal against the PUC ruling. Also at the end of 2018, the Sierra Club - in partnership with groups including two Ojibwe bands, White Earth and Red Lake, filed our own legal appeal of the PUC decision to approve the permits. Then, incoming Governor Tim Walz announced that his own DOC would be reviewing the necessity of continuing Dayton's challenge. A renewed pressure campaign of public demonstrations, grassroots lobbying, letters to editors, and continuing high profile political opposition

led Governor Walz to side in February with the overwhelming majority of Minnesotans. An executive appeal of Line 3's certificate of need stands.

Later in February, Enbridge announced delayed plans for construction until 2020. However, this is questionable at best. Enbridge has already begun "pre-construction" that includes cutting down trees and brush, and driving in equipment. They have even started testing samples of drilling under the Mississippi River, which we know because frontline activists are keeping a close eye on local happenings.

Enbridge's outstanding permits—a 401 and 404 permit, which are required under the Clean Water Act and involve the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—will be fought by Sierra Club's grassroots activists and legal experts. Also at press time in early June, the courts ruled the Line 3 Environment Impact Statement (EIS) inadequate — sending it back to the PUC for further review. If things go well, Enbridge will eventually be forced to walk away.

However, with billions on the line for a company with the largest dollar-for-dollar lobbying presence in the state, Enbridge won't walk away quietly. While Governor Walz's Commerce Department appeal and the court's rejection of their EIS are major victories, the work to protect our irreplaceable treasures must continue.

Rocky Wagner is a volunteer with the Stop Line 3 Team



Photo Credit: Natalie Cook

THREE STEPS ON A ZERO WASTE JOURNEY

Natalie Gillquist

For most of us, the term 'zero waste' is overwhelming and leaves us wondering "How can I possibly get there?" The thing to remember is that if everyone does a little, it adds up to a lot. If we take it in micro steps—each building on our individual progress—eventually everyone will be doing more than they used to and this will collectively make a huge difference. Here are three things you can do to start your journey towards Zero Waste.

1. CARRY A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE OR CUP.

You will save money, be more hydrated, and will be making an impact. That's a win, win, win. It will take some time to create the habit of carrying it, but once you do, you will wonder how you ever lived without one.

2. RECYCLE PLASTIC FILM.

Commit to expanding your recycling habits in stages, starting with plastic film. This includes plastic shopping bags, and plastic overwrap on things like paper towels, toilet paper, bulk bottled water and sports drinks. Most grocery stores have bins for accepting these items, which need to be clean and dry to be recycled. Even if you have already made steps to bring your own shopping bags to the stores (which is awesome), it is hard to escape plastic film from packaging. These materials can be detrimental to traditional recycling sorting facilities because they are highly flexible and get caught in the machines. Consider hanging a bag to collect them, and taking them to the store when you shop.

3. COMPOST FOOD WASTE.

Food waste releases methane gas as it decomposes. You may be shocked to learn that in the traditional garbage cycle, it can take decades for even a head of lettuce to decompose, due to the lack of oxygen. You can compost yourself at home, but an easier way to get started is by leveraging your community's composting options. Some communities offer curbside composting, while others offer drop-off sites and provide free

composting bags for you to collect waste in. Store full bags in your freezer to keep smells in check until you have enough to make it worth your trip to the compost drop (as an added bonus, freezers are more efficient when they are full). Check with your county to learn more about options in your area.

Natalie Gillquist is a volunteer with the Zero Waste Team.



Steve & Lori Olinger of our Zero Waste Team enjoy sharing how to compost at a Sierra Club event. Photo credit: Allyson Green

A MAJOR THREAT TO CLEAN WATER



Photo Credit: Chuck Dayton

Nic Baker

Sierra Club members love Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters, the North Shore, and all of Northern Minnesota—and we are deeply concerned about proposals to develop copper/nickel (also called sulfide ore) mining in the region including PolyMet and Twin Metals. Such mining poses a great threat to our Northern communities and environment: There is no safe mining of that type, as tailings eventually leach into the ground, polluting lakes and rivers. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency has called sulfide ore mining “America’s

most toxic industry”. Approval of PolyMet’s proposed mine threatens communities downstream, including Fond du Lac, Duluth, and all who depend on Lake Superior. Additionally, PolyMet could lead to the approval of more mines in the area.

PolyMet’s approval process is inching forward with the Department of Natural Resources granting the Permit to Mine in November and U.S. Army Corps approving their 404 water permit in March. However concerns about the long term threat and risks to our water resources are unresolved.

The Sierra Club continues to fight sulfide-ore mining. Our advocacy is focused in the following areas:

- **AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE:** We have worked with legislators to introduce a “Prove It First” bill which will prevent the granting of a permit for sulfide ore mining in Minnesota until a mining company can prove that it has constructed, operated, and closed a similar mine elsewhere without polluting water. No mine of this type has ever operated in a water-rich environment without causing significant legacy pollution.

In 1999, the Wisconsin Legislature passed a similar policy and it held for 20 years. Ten State Representatives are co-authoring the bill in the MN House, and we have the maximum number of co-authors on the Senate version of the bill. We are continuing to add new authors to the legislation and are building support to move the bill forward in upcoming legislative sessions.

- **IN THE COURTS:** We have joined other environmental groups in legal challenges to PolyMet. The Sierra Club is a co-plaintiff in one of four lawsuits challenging the U.S. Forest Service Land Exchange which transfers 6,500 acres of protected lands within the Superior National Forest to PolyMet, in exchange for scattered parcels of private land elsewhere. In December, we joined the

- **AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:** Thanks to your grassroots actions and with support from the national Sierra Club and partners, we successfully blocked repeated efforts by Congress to legislatively expedite the PolyMet land exchange, preserving the judicial review process. We are also supporting Representative Betty McCollum and other environmental champions in calling on the Trump Administration to answer for the Department of Interior’s abrupt decision to cancel an environmental study of sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters, as well as pave the way to grant Twin Metals the leases it needs for its massive, underground mine proposal.
- **LOCAL EFFORTS ACROSS THE STATE:** Members are directly involved in local advocacy to spread the word that sulfide mining is not for Minnesota, with actions including

annual party for a foreign company. PolyMet is not the neighborhood roofing service, or hockey supply store. PolyMet is the Canadian shell of a Swiss extraction giant. This \$50B conglomerate is embroiled in continual controversy about labor rights, human rights, and alleged corruption.”

Eventually, John couldn’t take it. He and friends with the group Duluth for Clean Water organized resistance to PolyMet. They have been showing up with signs for the past years and this year showed up in t-shirts that spelled out #STOP POLYMET. Immediately, the Xcel Center manager, backed by two St.Paul policemen came over and told them to conceal the shirts or leave. John and the group full of hockey fans from Duluth say, “This is our tournament and we deserve better.” While they were forced to cover their shirts, their actions were reported on by *MinnPost* and *City Pages*.



Minnesota Center for Environmental

John Doberstein and activists from Duluth for Clean Water organize resistance at the state hockey tournament. Photo credit: Duluth for Clean Water

“POLYMET IS NOT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ROOFING SERVICE, OR HOCKEY SUPPLY STORE. POLYMET IS THE CANADIAN SHELL OF A SWISS EXTRACTION GIANT.”

Advocacy, Friends of the Boundary Waters and the Center for Biological Diversity in a challenge to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s air permit for PolyMet. In its permit, PolyMet had agreed to limit the amount of ore processed daily to keep its emissions low. However, PolyMet has already signaled that it intends to process ore at a much faster rate in the future, and must not be allowed to sidestep this vital review under the Clean Air Act.

letter-writing events, film showings, workshops and petitioning.

Duluth resident John Doberstein and Executive Committee member with the North Star Chapter, has been a fan of hockey his whole life. Over the past years, he has been disturbed by PolyMet ads surrounding the annual tournament. PolyMet ads are seen everywhere, with pictures of pristine lakes, sponsorship of the tournament, and announcement of scholarships. John says, “Our proud 75-year tournament has become an

Minnesotans value clean water. We are the land of 10,000 lakes. Sulfide mining threatens our greatest lakes, including Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters, and imperils the water supply of the communities that rely on them. We will continue to fight sulfide ore mining and protect clean water for the future of our state.

Nic Baker is a volunteer with the North Star Chapter Communications Team



100% Campaign supporters fill the Capitol rotunda

Alicia Gibson

I will never forget the moment my 6-year-old daughter learned about climate change. We were driving to Chicago and I pointed out the wind farms dotting the landscape. I told her those windmills were really important because they would help us find other ways for powering our homes and cars that won't release invisible puffs of poison into the atmosphere that heat up our planet. She reacted with much more alarm than I had intended to elicit. "Poison!? Our car releases poison into the planet!? WHY ARE WE DRIVING!?" she shouted. The clarity with which my young child understood the basic danger was transformative.

The Sierra Club knows that climate change is one of the most urgent crises and has embarked on an ambitious multi-faceted strategy to move our

state to 100% Clean Energy. Working with grassroots partners, stakeholders and decision-makers around the state, we can make the transition to sustainable lifestyles, technologies, and economies so that our children can tell their children they are no longer poisoning their planet as they go about living their everyday lives.

AT THE LEGISLATURE. Some of the largest changes can only happen with leadership at the Minnesota legislature. We are leveraging our grassroots power and legislative relationships to advance a statewide commitment to 100% clean energy. Our Clean Energy Team is finding that the direct interactions with representatives make the biggest difference. Max Jay-Dixon from the Minneapolis area has learned to push through the initial intimidation factor, and he has found legislators receptive

to hearing his concerns. "It's amazing how something as simple as sharing your story, showing your personal connection to these important issues, can make a real impact on our whole state."

During the 2019 Legislative Session, we were proud to be a part of the 100% Campaign working towards an equitable clean energy future. Read more about our legislative work on page 4.

THROUGH UTILITY COMPANIES. Another arm of the 100% Clean Energy strategy is to change the practices of electric utility companies as they plan for future electricity needs. The Duluth Clean Energy Team is opposing Minnesota Power's request to build a new fossil fuel based gas plant that, according to the administrative law judge who first reviewed the request,

is unneeded. “This fracked gas plant is a bad deal for the Northland,” said Jessica Tritsch, senior campaign representative at the Sierra Club. “Fracked gas is expensive, unnecessary and risky. The proposed Nemadji Trail Energy Center would lock Minnesota Power customers into paying \$350 million for fossil fuels, when we need to be investing in common-sense energy efficiency, storage, and renewable, home-grown energy that costs less, creates more sustainable jobs and protects Minnesota’s environment.”

Ann Miller from the Duluth Clean Energy Team explains that they hold out hope for the success of the Sierra Club and partners’ challenge of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decision because, simply put, “This gas plant is a bad deal. It’s a bad deal for customers who will be on the hook to build the new \$350 million plant, and it’s a bad deal for our health, as fracked gas pollution threatens our water, air, and climate.”

Volunteer leaders from the Twin Cities and Central MN -- Xcel Energy’s service territory -- have been calling on the company to include a path to 100% clean and equitable energy in its resource plan, a 15-year energy plan due to the (PUC) on July 1st. We are proud to have already been a key stakeholder in Xcel’s agreement to retire two coal plants early - by 2030 they will be coal free. Once the Plan is filed, the public will have an opportunity to weigh in with the MN PUC process. Holding Xcel accountable to the commitments they have publicly made to clean energy is crucial—in the next 15 years 70% of our electric plants will be up for retirement. Every one of these retirements is an opportunity to achieve 100% clean energy.

IN OUR CITIES AND COUNTIES. The Sierra Club is also working to expand the number of cities committed to transitioning to 100% clean energy. Currently, Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Louis Park have committed to 100%.

Some of the most promising developments have come out of Rochester where the city council

are intergenerational, with high school students partnering with adults to run grassroots campaigns calling for climate action. This municipal work has driven home the point that every community has a part to play in achieving climate justice, and the actions cities can take, not only to reduce emissions, but also to help community members save money and improve quality of life.

WITH OUR SCHOOLS.

Like me, parents around Minnesota have found special urgency in meeting the recommendations made by the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Sierra Club program Climate Parents is asking school districts to protect the future of their students

by making 100% clean energy commitments, and partnering with solar energy providers to power their schools. Ian Lawrow, a father in Minneapolis sees not only the risks, but the opportunities of this present moment. He argues that pushing school districts to adopt clean energy policies is “a positive, proactive thing we can do for our kids and communities—all while saving our districts much-needed funds and developing new opportunities for STEM education.”

“POISON!? OUR CAR RELEASES POISON INTO THE PLANET!? WHY ARE WE DRIVING!?”

has called for a 80% reduction in greenhouse gases and is studying plans to transition to 100% renewable energy in response to our petition! Read all about Rochester’s work on page 16.

Meanwhile, volunteers in the Western suburbs are pushing Minnetonka and Wayzata to follow the lead of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Louis Park in making commitments to 100% clean energy. These organizing efforts

Working together, we can convey the truth and inspire the will to act that comes so naturally for our children. We can achieve the transition to 100% clean energy that it is our responsibility to accomplish. The work is hard, but the clean energy activists united across Minnesota experience the joy of community, fellowship in the setbacks, and empowerment in building a world we can be proud to leave to the next generation.

Alicia Gibson is a volunteer with the Communications Team



The author and her daughter.



Rochester MN Youth Climate Strike students make posters at the Sierra Club office before an event. Photo Credit: Rick Morris

ROCHESTER AT A CROSSROADS

Dr. Henry Homburger

Rochester Sierra Club activists meet with Senator David Senjem to talk about Climate Change priorities.
Top row, left to right: Ray Schmitz, Gael Entrikin, Sen. Senjem, Leticia Flores
Bottom row, left to right: Eman Abdullahi, Siham Abdi, Micah Johnson



Photo Credit: Rick Morris

Rochester is at a crossroads. As the state's fastest growing city we are faced with the question of whether we grow into a cautionary tale or into a model of human and environmental health. The Sierra Club's members and partners have been hard at work this year to make sure Rochester's answer is in favor of sustainability, justice, and equity.

THIS FORWARD-THINKING WORK IS BEING LED BY THOSE WITH THE MOST AT STAKE—OUR YOUTH.

Siham Abdi, a senior at Mayo High School, organized the city's first Student Climate Strike in March. To the cheers of hundreds at the Peace Plaza in downtown Rochester, Siham demonstrated the power of speaking hard truths. "Rochester is the leading center to get optimal health care, however, we're ignoring the biggest threat to our health: the climate crisis. We [students] are striking because marginalized communities across our nation—especially communities of color, disabled communities, and low-income communities—are already disproportionately impacted by climate change."

Throughout the year, another group of Rochester high school students have been working on a petition for Rochester to commit to 100% renewable energy. The Youth Commission spent the school year interviewing Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) board members and executives as well as city staff. Their findings led them to collaborate with the Sierra Club to run a petition asking RPU and the City Council to adopt a 100% renewable energy plan. Their petition calls for Rochester to be a leader, saying "The Youth Commission is advocating for a 100% renewable energy plan to protect our environment, promote community health, and be a model for other cities across the country."

At the time of writing, the Youth Commission is planning to bring their petition to the Rochester City Council and the Rochester Public Utilities board together with the Sierra Club's "old people petition" to demand real climate action.

The college students at the University of Minnesota Rochester Student Sierra Coalition (UMR SSC) are similarly relentless in their work and advocacy. The group reports that "early data from monitoring of particulate air pollution suggest wide variations in the level of pollutants between the single monitor on the outskirts of the city and other locations in Rochester. Further monitoring is needed to ensure the air quality in town does not deteriorate with further development of the downtown area."

The students are also advocating for Rochester's flagship university to commit to 100% renewable energy and to divest the school's endowment from all fossil fuel investments.

Lis Pearson, current chair of the UMR SSC describes why this work is important to the students studying for careers in health care, in a city proud to be number one for medical care. "Climate change is real, and as it becomes more severe, we will see detrimental impacts on human health. If we cannot take care of our own residents, how will Rochester live up to its goal to meet the rest of the world's healthcare needs?"

OLDER SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS ARE PROUD TO STAND ALONGSIDE WITH OUR YOUTH IN CITY ENDORSEMENT PROCESS.

An attitude of inclusion carried through the creation of the chapter's first political endorsement effort outside the Twin Cities in recent years. Sierra Club member Kylie Osterhus saw the opportunity as Rochester was electing its first new mayor in 17 years. "It was important for us to establish a relationship with local candidates and get an idea of where they stood on issues that concern the environment and social justice. "

Kylie was instrumental in recruiting emerging young activists to a newly formed Rochester Sierra Club political committee, and to growing their political consciousness together. "It was fun to be on a team with high schoolers interested in politics. It was exciting to meet local candidates one on one and realize they are just regular people that don't always have all the answers."

Three endorsed candidates won seats as Rochester's newest mayor and city council members. Upon her inauguration as Rochester's first female mayor, Kim Norton announced that she was joining the Climate Mayors Network and signing the "We Are Still In" mayors' declaration, pledging Rochester to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement.

"Climate change is real, and as it becomes more severe, we will see detrimental impacts on human health. If we cannot take care of our own residents, how will Rochester live up to its goal to meet the rest of the world's healthcare needs?"

Rochester Sierra Club political work continues at the state level, as members work to lobby Senator David Senjem and other legislators to support climate action.

The fight for Rochester to live up to its name of "America's City for Health" is far from over. Will the city rise to the occasion and commit to 100% renewable energy? Will our fast growth benefit the environment, workers, and the community? Answers are yet to be written, but the members and activists of the Sierra Club in Rochester are making sure that we hold the pen.

Henry Homburger is the Rochester Sierra Club media relations chair

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS INSPIRE AND EDUCATE

Sarah Curtis

Fragrant blossoms, digging a spade into soil, stretching toes in pockets of thick grass or sun-warmed sand: Whatever you love about our incredible Minnesotan summers, it's a fantastic time to get outdoors. The North Star outdoors programs make it easy—and you'll meet fun fellow Sierrans!

DAY TRIPS AND ADVENTURES WITH NORTH STAR OUTINGS

Greg Allison's first Sierra Club outing was to Arizona's Secret Canyon Wilderness in 1992—he was on a service trip with his mom. Fast forward a few years and you'll still find him on Outings, but now as a North Star Chapter and National Outings leader.

In February, Greg led the group's ski trip to the National Forest Lodge in Isabella. While most North Star outings are day trips, this was a weekend full of skiing, good food, lodge time, and nature. The group set daily plans over breakfast and then broke into skiing groups according to skill level and desired trail length. "The group ranged from ages two to retirement," Greg said, "including families who pulled children on sleds. It was a great mix of really fun people." With live music in the lodge on Saturday night, rustic cabins, a hot tub, sauna, and an (optional) polar plunge, it was a full northwoods experience. Greg said, "The weather was perfect, and the woods there are so quiet—the area really has its own special magic."

Learn about upcoming outings at www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings. You don't need to be a Sierra Club member to participate, so bring a friend! We are currently recruiting outings leaders - give back by helping connect others to nature. Contact Greg at greg.allison@northstar.sierraclub.org

FUN IS THE BOTTOM LINE FOR OWLS

Diane Garetz is a lifelong story-teller, connector of people, educator and an active member of the North Star OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier, Sierrans). The OWLS' monthly outings range from touring cultural institutions to exploring the outdoors, but they always include options to be more or less active and socializing over lunch. For example, one 2018 outing was a bike ride followed by lunch at Sea Salt eatery at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis. "Some biked, others walked the trails, and some just joined us for lunch," explained Diane. Members plan the activities, which have also included mushroom gathering, studying the impact of climate change on local parks, and most recently, lobbying for Transportation Forward MN. "Our programs combine being active, getting to know one another, lifelong learning, and community service," Diane said, "but fun is the bottom line."

OWLS meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Learn more at www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/older-wiser-livelier-sierrans-owls. Most OWLS are 55+, but all Sierrans and friends are welcome.

ICO: CONNECTING WITH NATURE, ONE S'MORE AT A TIME

Can you remember the sticky joy of your first s'more or the satisfaction of seeing your first campfire roaring away? These are among the experiences volunteers with ICO, which stands for Inspiring Connections Outdoors, shared with youth from Boys Totem Town last fall.

Liz Dengate, conservation ecologist, paddling hobbyist and backpacker, and North Star ICO Chair, described the program's mission as connecting

people with limited access to nature to outdoor experiences. Access might be limited because of a lack of economic resources or transportation options; because people are new to the Twin Cities and don't know the area; because groups don't feel comfortable outside and want some guidance for their initial trips; or any number of other reasons. ICO volunteers work with agencies to overcome these barriers by planning and leading outings. "I love connecting groups to new natural areas around the cities," Liz said, "but I also love seeing the new connections that form between people on the outings—among the kids, and between the youth, agency staff, and ICO volunteers. We just really have a lot of fun and a lot of good conversations."

Dan Frank, staff member at Boys Totem Town, attests to ICO's impact. "Most of these kids grew up on concrete and they've never been outside Minneapolis/St. Paul. For kids who haven't had access to nature, even seeing a deer outside is a new experience. Hiking, cross-country skiing, and rock-climbing are truly eye-opening adventures."

Learn more at www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/inspiring-connections-outdoors. ICO is looking for new agency partners to expand its reach to more youth, families and seniors. If you know of a group with limited access to the outdoors, that might be interested in partnering with ICO, or if you want to volunteer as an ICO leader contact mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org

Sarah Curtis is a volunteer with the North Star Chapter Communications Team

FIND ALL OUR OUTDOOR PROGRAMS ONLINE:

SIERRACLUB.ORG/MINNESOTA/GET-OUTDOORS

A NEW VOLUNTEER IN YEAR 50

Marya Hart

I had been aware of the Sierra Club for some time before I began to volunteer—after all, it is the nation’s oldest environmental organization. But I didn’t realize I was joining the North Star Chapter just in time for their 50th anniversary or that I would soon become a core part of the team.

I decided to volunteer shortly after the premiere of my environmental chorale, *A Prairie Cantata*, last November in Fergus Falls. I’d immersed myself in research about the prairie biome to write the cantata and had become an educated layperson on the subject. After the cantata was done I thought, “*I gotta do something.*” What I wanted to do was to be useful to the natural world in a practical way and help affect political change. So now here I am, a regular volunteer with the North Star Chapter.

One of my projects is collecting stories to celebrate the Chapter’s 50th anniversary of protecting our home—the great state of Minnesota. All year long,

we are asking folks to share their favorite place in Minnesota, memories of the Sierra Club, and one action they will take to protect our state.

I’ve been inspired by how many people have pledged to stop the Enbridge pipeline. This initiative is led by the Stop Line 3 Team: an amazing group of activists, now boning up on administrative rules and procedures for upcoming hearings on the pipeline. This kind of work isn’t “sexy”, or even particularly outdoorsy. This is simply a group of concerned citizens who identified an important issue, made alliances with other groups—the most crucial of which include Indigenous people—and are willing to do the hard work of making change in Minnesota.

Several years ago, I think I would have simply wrung my hands when I thought about Big Oil, or when I saw pictures of the wasteland that is the Alberta Tar Sands. Now, I’m part of a group that will put a stop to this travesty. That’s *doing something*.

Marya Hart is the volunteer editor of A Deeper Dive, our volunteer e-newsletter.



A volunteer shares her story during our Solstice Party & Launch of our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Photo Credit: Candace Baker



Celebrating 50 years of protecting Minnesota



SELECTED QUOTES FROM OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY STORY SHARING COLLECTION



ONE ACTION I WILL TAKE TO PROTECT MINNESOTA IS:

"Attempting to lower my own carbon footprint, and supporting local and national groups which contribute to preservation of the planet."

MY FAVORITE PLACE IN MINNESOTA IS:

"Any time I am in a Minnesota park or nature preserve area, waking up to the sound of birds outside my tent as the smell of campfire smoke and morning dew meld together."



MY FAVORITE SIERRA CLUB MEMORY IS:

"Some of my earliest memories are of attending Sierra Club meetings with my parents. I got fired up at all of them and took home new ideas about the world. More than two decades later, I'm still a Sierra Club member."



JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING EVENT TO SHARE YOUR STORY IN PERSON, INCLUDING OUR PICNIC ON JULY 21 AT FORT SNELLING STATE PARK. OR, EMAIL YOUR STORY TO MARYA HART AT MARYA.HART@NORTHSTAR.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Call for Nominations

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

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR TERMS BEGINNING 2020

The ExCom is made up to 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 2020. 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, 2019 – Deadline to submit names to Nominating Committee for consideration
- September 17, 2019 – Nominating Committee reports nominees to ExCom
- October 1, 2019 – Deadline to submit petitions to Secretary
- November 3, 2019 – Week of ballot mailing

- January 6, 2020 – 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 or 612-659-9124.

List of current at-large ExCom members below – See photos and bios online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/chapter-leadership>

| NAME | RESIDENCE | END OF TERM |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sammie Ardito Rivera | Minneapolis | 2019 |
| Kate Brauman | Minneapolis | 2020 |
| Marty Cobenais | Bagley | 2021 |
| Luther Dale | Shoreview | 2019 |
| John Doberstein | Duluth | 2020 |
| Katie Eukel | Minneapolis | 2021 |
| Katie Hatt | Minneapolis | 2020 |
| Javier Morillo-Alicea | Minneapolis | 2019 |
| Sam Murphy | Minneapolis | 2021 |
| Lois Norrgard | Bloomington | 2019 |
| Siri Simons | Minneapolis | 2021 |
| Tom Thompson | Duluth | 2019 |
| Kamau Wilkins | Rochester | 2020 |
| Sarah Wovcha | St. Paul | 2021 |



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
sierraclubplanning.org



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SIERRA CLUB
 NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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!



The Sierra Club Foundation benefits from workplace contributions to the Minnesota Environmental Fund, which provides a payroll giving option to support local 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.



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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



Illustration Credit: Mikaela Armstrong

Volunteers Wanted!

Contribute your time to protect the air, water, lands and climate we all depend on.

CAMPAIGN TEAMS: Lead grassroots advocacy campaigns on our most pressing issues

Stop Line 3, 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm
 scott.russell@northstar.sierraclub.org
 marcy.leussler@northstar.sierraclub.org

Land Use & Transportation, 1st Monday at 7:00 PM
 alex.burns@northstar.sierraclub.org

Zero Waste, 1st Monday at 7:00 PM
 lori.olinger@northstar.sierraclub.org

100% Clean Energy, 4th Tuesday at 6:30 PM
 vinita.banthia@northstar.sierraclub.org

Stop Sulfide Mining, Monthly meeting date/time pending
 margaret.levin@sierraclub.org

Geographic Teams: Organize in your city for 100% Clean Energy

Rochester, 2nd Monday at 6:30 PM
 rick.morris@sierraclub.org

Duluth, 1st Thursday at 4:00 PM
 ann.miller@northstar.sierraclub.org

Minnetonka/Wayzata, meeting times vary
 patty.okeefe@sierraclub.org

STEWARDS: Research, monitor and advocate for policies related to water, forests, and wildlife
 Monthly meeting date/time pending, steve.ring@northstar.sierraclub.org;
 bob.graves@northstar.sierraclub.org

CAPACITY TEAMS: Share your talents and skills with us

SierraAction: Use our grassroots power to impact legislation
 4th Wednesday, satish.desai@northstar.sierraclub.org;
 joshua.davis@northstar.sierraclub.org

Communications: Hone your photography, design, and writing skills
 Quarterly meetings, mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org

Equity Outreach: Spread the word about protecting our planet
 Ongoing events, charles.frempong-longdon@sierraclub.org

Outings: Find new friends and explore Minnesota parks
 Ongoing events, greg.allison@northstar.sierraclub.org

Inspiring Connections Outdoors: Plan and lead activities for youth new to the outdoors
 Ongoing events, mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org

OWLS: A 55+ group of “Older, Wiser, Livelier Sierrans”
 2nd Tuesday, at 10:30 am, ellen.abbott@northstar.sierraclub.org; karen.alwin@northstar.sierraclub.org