

JOURNAL

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The Perils of Mt. Polley and PolyMet

Elanne Palcich and Lori Andresen

On August 14, 2014, the dike wall at the tailings basin of the British Columbia Mt. Polley copper mine was breached. More than three billion gallons of polluted water spewed out of the basin into Quesnel Lake, pushing down trees ahead of it, destroying aquatic life, contaminating drinking water and potentially impacting the Coho salmon run.

A tailings basin breach like that at Mt. Polley could be repeated at the proposed PolyMet sulfide mine site. In 2005, PolyMet purchased the crushing facility and tailings basin of the former (bankrupt) Erie and LTV taconite plant. The tailings basin is currently leaking 2.9 million gallons per day of contaminated water into the St. Louis River watershed. The current leakage is already in violation of water quality discharge permits.



Mt. Polley tailings breach in British Columbia, August 2014
Photo credit: Caribou Regional District.

"Mt. Pollet and PolyMet" continues on page 5



Major Risks to Minnesota Wetlands Lie Ahead

Judy Helgen

In recognition of the high value of wetlands to Minnesota and the need to protect them, the Minnesota State Legislature passed the Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) in 1991. WCA's goal is to achieve "no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands." A recent Executive Order from Governor Mark Dayton has asked agencies to maintain no net loss of wetlands and seek changes that will "improve wetland conservation in Minnesota" and restore the integrity of wetlands. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Water Quality Rule has placed wetlands in the same class as lakes and rivers

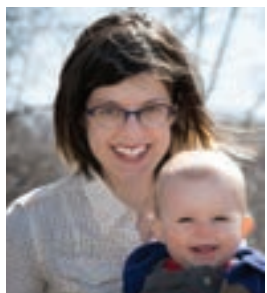
and prohibits pollution to wetlands. In this rule, "the policy of the state is to protect wetlands and prevent significant adverse impacts on wetland beneficial uses caused by chemical, physical, or biological changes."

We are aware of the great historic losses of wetlands in Minnesota (see map on p. 7) and perhaps less aware that Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has documented scientifically that many thousands of wetlands statewide are in poor or "impaired" condition (see MPCA figure).

"Minnesota Wetlands" continues on page 7

Post-Election, Looking Forward

Margaret Levin, North Star Chapter Director



Like me, you probably woke up bleary-eyed on the morning of November 5, trying to digest the disappointing results of this midterm election. It's easy to feel discouraged, watching environmental champions across the country get sidelined.

An anti-environment

majority now controls both chambers in Congress, and -- although Minnesota fared better than most -- our state House.

But this election was not about defeating pro-environment candidates or policies. In state after state, even corporate candidates backed by Big Coal and Big Oil were compelled to greenwash their voting record and change their tune on climate change. Rather, it was about corporate interests pouring millions of dollars into discriminatory voter suppression laws and cynical ad campaigns.

In Minnesota, North Star Chapter volunteers gave long hours this fall, making calls to turn out the vote and support our endorsed candidates. In the 12 state House districts where we focused our work, environmental candidates prevailed in all but two. Vocal advocates of sulfide mining lost in our U.S. Senate, 8th Congressional and State Auditor races. And Governor Dayton, who supported and signed the state's first-ever solar energy standard in 2013 and has committed to end our state's reliance on coal, convincingly won reelection to a second term.

Although we have lost some friends in public office, our movement in the streets is growing stronger and broader. Poll after poll has shown that the public wants clean air, clean water, and action to tackle the climate crisis. Together, we will prevail against corporate interests who are polluting our air, water, climate and democracy.

Without a doubt, our efforts to protect Minnesota's air, water, lands and climate will be more difficult at the State Capitol in 2015. That's why the Sierra Club North

Star Chapter will need your help more than ever to achieve our goals:

Defend Clean Water, Healthy Forests and Wetlands – PolyMet and other toxic sulfide mines proposed across the Arrowhead Region would destroy forests, wetlands and habitat, polluting Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters for generations to come. Other ill-conceived proposals threaten irreplaceable forests and wetlands. A continued, vigilant defense will be needed to protect these precious ecological resources.

Grow Clean Energy and Jobs – Last year, we passed groundbreaking legislation to establish a 1.5 percent solar energy standard, with a 10 percent goal by 2030. As a result, we are already seeing new, good paying jobs: more than 15,300 Minnesotans now work in clean energy industries. To keep Minnesota moving forward, it's time to update the state's Renewable Electricity Standard and scale up energy savings programs to generate at least half of our energy from clean, renewable sources by 2030.

Expand Green Transportation Options – Minnesota urgently needs a clean, efficient transportation system that will pay environmental and economic dividends far into the future, reducing pollution and carbon emissions. Together with Move MN, a growing and diverse coalition dedicated to fixing our transportation problem, we can secure needed funding to bring a 21st century transit system to the metro region and better transit, bike, and walking connections across the state.

Our recent successes show that we have the tools to accomplish great things. But we will need renewed creativity, determination and fortitude to tackle the challenges ahead. With your involvement, I am confident that we can succeed.

It is an honor to work with you, and on your behalf. Onward!

Warmly,



The North Star Journal

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The Sierra Club North Star Chapter, a 501(c)4 non-profit organization, is the leading grassroots voice working to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment. Since 1968 we have involved volunteer leaders to act through environmental advocacy, community organizing and outdoor exploration. We are committed to becoming a diverse and inclusive organization working to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of our communities.

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The North Star Journal welcomes submissions and photographs on environmental and related issues. Articles of less than a thousand words will be given preference. E-mail submissions only. We reserve the right to edit all copy for clarity and concision. Photos can be color and should be a jpeg format of 5x7 size at 300 dpi. Please send all submission materials and requests to the editor.

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Monthly Volunteer Meetings

Please see northstar.sierraclub.org or call the Chapter Office at 612-659-9124 for committee contacts and to confirm meeting times, dates and location.

Most meetings are held at the Chapter Office at 2327 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. If a regularly scheduled meeting falls on a holiday, please contact us for rescheduling information.

Refer to contact list on page 13 for more information.

New Volunteer Orientation, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Beyond Oil and Tar Sands: 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

Clean Air and Energy Committee: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Forests Committee: Mondays TBD, contact Chair.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors: 1st Sunday of the month, 7:00 p.m. - Contact Chair for location.

Land Use and Transportation: 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Mining Committee: 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Wetlands and Water Committee: 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m.



EPA Clean Power Plan: Continuing the Transition to Clean Energy



Sierra Club organizer Karen Monahan with American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa climate justice interns Barni Hussein and Muna Khalif. The groups partnered together on an event highlighting drought, famine, climate disruption, clean energy solutions and the Clean Power Plan.

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution from the nation's existing power plants – 30% by 2030. Minnesota was recognized for the progress we made over the past decade to reduce coal plant pollution and build out a robust, affordable clean energy power system.

Minnesota utilities announced they were well-positioned to achieve the Clean Power Plan because they were already

reducing carbon pollution thanks to Minnesota's clean energy policies like the 25% by 2025 renewable energy standard. However, as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency considers how to achieve the Clean Power Plan in Minnesota, utilities have begun to argue that Minnesota's goals are unfair to them and their customers because they have done more than other states. Yet utilities failed to note that such clean energy leadership derived from smart policies that benefitted our state, and that the Clean Power Plan is a key step forward for Minnesota's clean energy economy.

Minnesota is in the middle of a transition beyond fossil fuels to renewable energy, and our residential electricity rates are below national averages. Minnesota still gets over half our electricity from coal; however, in the last decade, Minnesota reduced its use of coal by 33%. Renewable energy now accounts for almost 20% of Minnesota's electricity generation each year. According to Xcel Energy, wind energy is saving their customers money. The clean energy sector is growing rapidly, with 75% growth since 2000. In 2013, more than 15,300 Minnesotans worked in clean energy and added more than \$1 billion in direct wages to the Minnesota economy.

Not to be forgotten: the cheapest, cleanest energy is energy we don't have to produce. Energy efficiency is a key part of achieving the EPA Clean Power Plan. Energy efficiency has saved Minnesotans millions of dollars over the last few decades, and created thousands of stable jobs that cannot be outsourced such as insulating homes, installing new windows, and upgrading heating and cooling systems and lighting. Today, Minnesota's energy efficiency businesses employ about 9,000 people. In 2008, the Sierra Club worked with the HIRE coalition to ensure all Minnesotans had access to training and jobs in energy efficiency.

Minnesota utilities, urged by their customers and state officials, have made real progress. However, we still have a long way to go. Power plant pollution costs Minnesotans \$2 billion in health and environmental costs each year – 90% of those damages come from coal plants. According to the Clean Air Task Force, coal-burning plants in Minnesota contribute to more than 200 deaths, 350 heart attacks and more than 3,700 asthma attacks each year. The EPA Clean Power Plan will reduce all power plant pollution, and is expected to generate \$7 in health savings for every \$1 invested in clean energy or efficiency.

Minnesotans called on their utilities to begin this transition to a clean energy economy for all because it was the right thing to do. Now, it is more important than ever that we continue to call on Governor Dayton and our utilities to continue the transition to clean energy that will benefit all Minnesotans and achieve the state's goal of 80% greenhouse gas reductions by 2050. Show your support for the EPA Clean Power Plan by taking action here: www.sc.org/actonclimate

More Resources:

Minnesota and Climate Change: Our Tomorrow Starts Today (Minnesota Environmental Quality Board): www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change

Clean Power Plan (US EPA): www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards



Support the Minnesota Chapter

While your membership dollars are crucial to support the Sierra Club's local, regional and national campaigns, you also have the option to donate directly to the North Star Chapter. 100% of your additional contribution to our Chapter stays here in Minnesota – to work locally on issues that you care about! Sustaining and tax-deductible options available. Visit action.sierraclub.org/donateMN to give online, or contact us: 612-659-9124 or margaret.levin@sierraclub.org. Thank you for your generous support!



Inspiring Connections Outdoors: New Name, New Beginning

Anne Marie Buron



Photo credit: Sierra Club Planet

This summer, the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program received a new name: Inspiring Connections Outdoors. The program began in the early 1970s and now includes 55 chapters and 14,000 participants across the country.

So why change the name? The Sierra Club explains, "to some people the words 'Inner City' have negative connotations, and have been a barrier to deeper engagement on the part of many participants, volunteers, would-be volunteers, donors, and agency partners." Additionally, because the program also works with youth from rural and suburban neighborhoods, the name just did not seem to fit anymore.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors strives to provide youth the opportunity to explore the outdoors as well as opportunities for personal growth and development. You might say that the program is about inspiring a generation of environmental advocates, and so, the new name Inspiring Connections Outdoors captures the essence of the program and our pride for the program.

The name change comes at a perfect time for our own MN ICO program as volunteers work to expand and revamp the program. In the past few months, we have been recruiting new volunteers, strengthening agency partnerships and building new ones. We are excited for the future of the program!

To get involved, please contact Liz Dengate at mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org.

Anne Marie Buron is the volunteer Program Coordinator with the Minnesota Inspiring Connections Outdoors program.



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- Labrador Passage:** Peter Marshall
- River of Doubt:** Paul Schurke
- Cold Love:** Lonnie Dupre
- Got Clean Water (sulfide mining update):**
Paula Maccabee
- Superior Trail History, Lake Superior Ice, and Birds of Sanibel:** Rudi Hargesheimer

Catch the Excitement of Winter!

Visit the North Star Chapter Sierra Club booth at the Expo!

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Solstice Party

Volunteer Celebration and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Dodge Nature Center Farm Education Building
 1701 Charlton Avenue in West St. Paul**

Join us for the Annual Solstice Party to recognize the recipients of the 2014 North Star Chapter Volunteer Awards -- celebrate the season and our work together! Friends and family are welcome.

Main dish provided, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Enter at Farm Education entrance on Charlton (do not use Marie Avenue entrance). Park in the lot and walk up hill to the Education Building.

RSVP to north.star.chapter@sierraclub.org or 612-659-9124.

The construction of the LTV basin is very similar to that of Mt. Polley. In both cases, the dikes consist of coarse rock tailings intermixed with fine tailings. Since the fine tailings hold more water, a shift in weight can cause them to liquefy. In its 2012 comments on the PolyMet Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warned that the existing LTV basin is unstable. As part of the current supplementary DEIS, the basin needs to be structurally retrofitted.

The excess capacity of PolyMet's purchased processing facility is an added concern. PolyMet itself plans to use only one-third of the processing capacity. This would enable potential neighboring mine projects to use the tailings basin, thus producing additional mine waste and additional weight.

Existing taconite mine operations have already experienced problems with mine waste containment. In October of 2000, a tailings pipe break at North Shore Mining's Milepost 7 site spilled tons of taconite tailings into the Beaver River, suffocating the larval and insect food supply for the river's fish. In 1993, an ash heap at the former LTV power plant turned into uncontrollable sludge after heavy rain, with about half of it crashing down the hill and covering Highway 21 near Taconite Harbor, some reaching into Lake Superior. In 2012, HibTac's dike suffered a 1,000 foot long crack, impacting adjacent wetlands.

Along with the weakness in PolyMet's tailings basin, PolyMet's proposed mine has additional liabilities. Analysis for the supplementary DEIS indicated that the water at the mine site would need to be treated for a minimum of 200 years post-closure, and at the plant site for a minimum 500 years. This is simply an unacceptable risk.

In addition, PolyMet's proposed open pit mine operation would destroy or impact approximately 7,000 acres of wetlands. Mitigation for the direct impacts would occur primarily outside of the St. Louis River/Lake Superior watershed, in an area to the south that is unlikely to support comparable ecosystems and cannot replace the lost functions to the St. Louis River system. The entire mine site has been rated by the Minnesota Biological Survey as of "high biological diversity".

Since open pit mining is not allowed on U.S. Forest Service land protected under the Weeks Act of 1911, PolyMet is proposing a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), to gain control of the surface rights at the proposed mine site. It is the duty of the USFS to deny an open pit mine operation on public land currently protected by Federal law. The USFS has succumbed to political pressure by considering a land swap instead.

No USFS study has addressed the cumulative impacts of exploration, drilling, and potential mine projects and mine expansion to water, land, wildlife and to the degradation of those natural resources for future generations.

Just as Mt. Polley's tailing waters ran rampant through forests and wetlands, carrying a load of toxic heavy metals and sedimentation into a pristine watershed, PolyMet's proposed plan allows for the destruction of wetlands and parts of Superior National Forest, along with perpetual pollution of the St. Louis River watershed and Lake Superior.

Mt. Polley is a warning. Tailings basins do not come with perpetual warranties. The collapse of a dike sends out toxic contaminated waters that are impossible to contain. No physical structure lasts forever, and the amount of financial assurance necessary for perpetual maintenance cannot be properly predicted nor insured. Proposed mining that comes with the liability of perpetual maintenance should not be allowed.

Whether it's Mt. Polley or PolyMet, the potential for environmental destruction is just below the surface.

Get involved! For more information about our Mining Committee contact the Sierra Club North Star Chapter at 612-659-9124 or north.star.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Elanne Palcich is a volunteer leader with the Mining Committee. Lori Andresen is Chair of the Mining Committee.



Rochester Members Working for Healthy Energy

With an enthusiastic response from Sierra Club members and the broader community, we have been busy making waves and building support for clean, renewable energy in the City of Rochester this year.

This July, the Sierra Club organized the Conservation Building exhibit at the Olmsted County Fair, including, of course, a Sierra Club booth! We filled the building with tables and exhibits, and had an overwhelmingly positive response from fairgoers. It was also a great opportunity to make connections with other groups, including The Audubon Society, the Quarry Hill Nature Center, and local clean energy business Solar Connection. As always, our volunteer leaders made sure we used this outreach opportunity to ask local people to show their support for our campaign priorities.

In October, members attended the City Council meeting to present over 250 clean energy pledges collected from local residents. The pledges show residents' commitment to prioritize clean, renewable energy and efficient green buildings, and ask Rochester to prioritize these clean energy goals.

This is especially salient because although the Silver Lake Power Plant stopped burning coal last year, Rochester still gets the majority of its electricity from coal via the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA). SMMPA is the regional power provider which supplies electricity to the local utility, Rochester Public Utilities (RPU). RPU has the distinction of being the largest municipal-owned electric utility in the state, which means it is operated by the people of Rochester, and owes allegiance to citizens, rather than to profit-motivated shareholders.

To continue its leadership and identity as a health-oriented community, Rochester leaders and citizens must ensure that their power comes increasingly from clean, renewable sources like solar and wind, and by energy savings through efficiency.

Now, the Mayo Clinic expansion and the Destination Medical Center (DMC) plan provide a unique opportunity to influence a multi-billion dollar development effort, and ensure that the project – which could bring \$6 billion of investment



Sierra Club volunteers collected clean energy pledges at the Olmsted County Fair.
Photo Credit: Andrea Kiepe

to Rochester – will be powered by clean energy and will increase livability and sustainability across the region. The DMC has the potential to be a powerful and prestigious example of the direction Minnesota can go, particularly in rural communities, and set a premier standard for future community revitalization projects. As Sierra Club leader Ray Schmitz said, "Rochester has the opportunity with DMC to become the most sustainable city in the United States – perhaps in the world. But we have to tell people that's what we want to see happen."

To learn more about our campaign for clean energy solutions in Rochester, contact organizer Andrea Kiepe at andrea.kiepe@sierraclub.org.

A Cleaner, Greener Way to Go

Joshua Houdek



Wouldn't it be nice to have more convenient transportation options to get where you need to go? With comprehensive and balanced statewide funding, we can create a clean, efficient transportation system that will pay environmental and economic dividends far into the future. That's why the Sierra Club is an active member of Move MN, a growing coalition of over 200 communities, organizations, associations, and businesses dedicated to fixing Minnesota's transportation problem. Our state cannot grow and attract good jobs when our roads and bridges are wearing out, transit options are woefully inadequate, and communities lack safe bicycling and walking opportunities. In order to truly fix the problem and keep Minnesota competitive, Move MN proposes that new funding must be multi-modal, balanced state-wide, gimmick-free, and dedicated to transportation.

The 2015 legislative session presents an important opportunity for environmental advocates who believe we need greener transportation options. As Sierra Club members, grassroots advocacy is at the core of what we do. We hope this spirit will

encourage all of us to help bring a 21st century transit system to our metro region and better transit, bike, and walking connections across the state. Let's make 2015 the Transportation Session at the Minnesota Capitol!

Here's what you can do:

- Take action at northstar.sierraclub.org/BikeVideo
- Talk to your friends, neighbors, and local decision makers about why transportation is important to you. Ask us for a "Talking Transportation Guide."
- Contact Joshua at 612-659-9124 to get involved in Sierra Club's Transportation campaign.

Joshua Houdek is the Program Manager for the Sierra Club North Star Chapter's Transportation Program.

Paddle to D.C. Raises Awareness about Sulfide Mining Threat

Amy and Dave Freeman live on the edge of our nation's most popular protected wilderness: the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Alarmingly, both it and Lake Superior are threatened by sulfide ore mines that are being proposed in these pristine watersheds.

To protect these precious waters and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Dave and Amy are paddling and sailing their petition canoe from their home to the capitals of Canada and the United States. The Paddle to D.C. is a 100-day trip sponsored by a coalition of Minnesota and national organizations, including the Sierra Club North Star Chapter and the Sierra Club as part of its national Our Wild America campaign. Dozens of events in communities along the way will celebrate wilderness and urge the federal government to prohibit sulfide mining within the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Since 2001, Dave and Amy Freeman have traveled over 30,000 miles by kayak, canoe and dogsled through some of the world's wildest places, from the Amazon to the Arctic. National Geographic named Dave and Amy Adventurers of the Year in 2014 and their images, videos, and articles have been published by a wide range



of media sources from the CBC, NBC, and FOX to the Chicago Tribune, National Geographic, Outside, Backpacker, Canoe and Kayak, and Minnesota Public Radio.

On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, which set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands, including the one million acre Boundary Waters, for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system.

The major focus of Paddle to D.C. is to protect the Boundary Waters from the destruction of copper nickel mining. The proposed sulfide ore mines in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness would cause acid mine drainage, threatening the pristine waters of the BWCA with sulfuric acid and other contaminants, as well as the livelihood of the 18,000 people who work in the thriving recreation and tourism industry in Northern Minnesota.

For more information, check out the web site at www.paddletodc.org.

"Minnesota Wetlands" continuation from page 1...

Now, proposed sulfide mining activities — by PolyMet and others — threaten to degrade or destroy thousands of acres of wetlands in northeastern Minnesota. Will the goals of state and federal laws be enforced to protect wetlands? By whom?

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which implements WCA, and the Department of Natural Resources' Minerals Division are working to weaken WCA by proposing new legislation this fall and making changes in policy.

By law, when developers plan to harm wetlands, they're first asked to avoid the damage; then to minimize impairment; and lastly, if not avoidable, to mitigate for the losses by restoring wetlands of the same type within the same watershed.

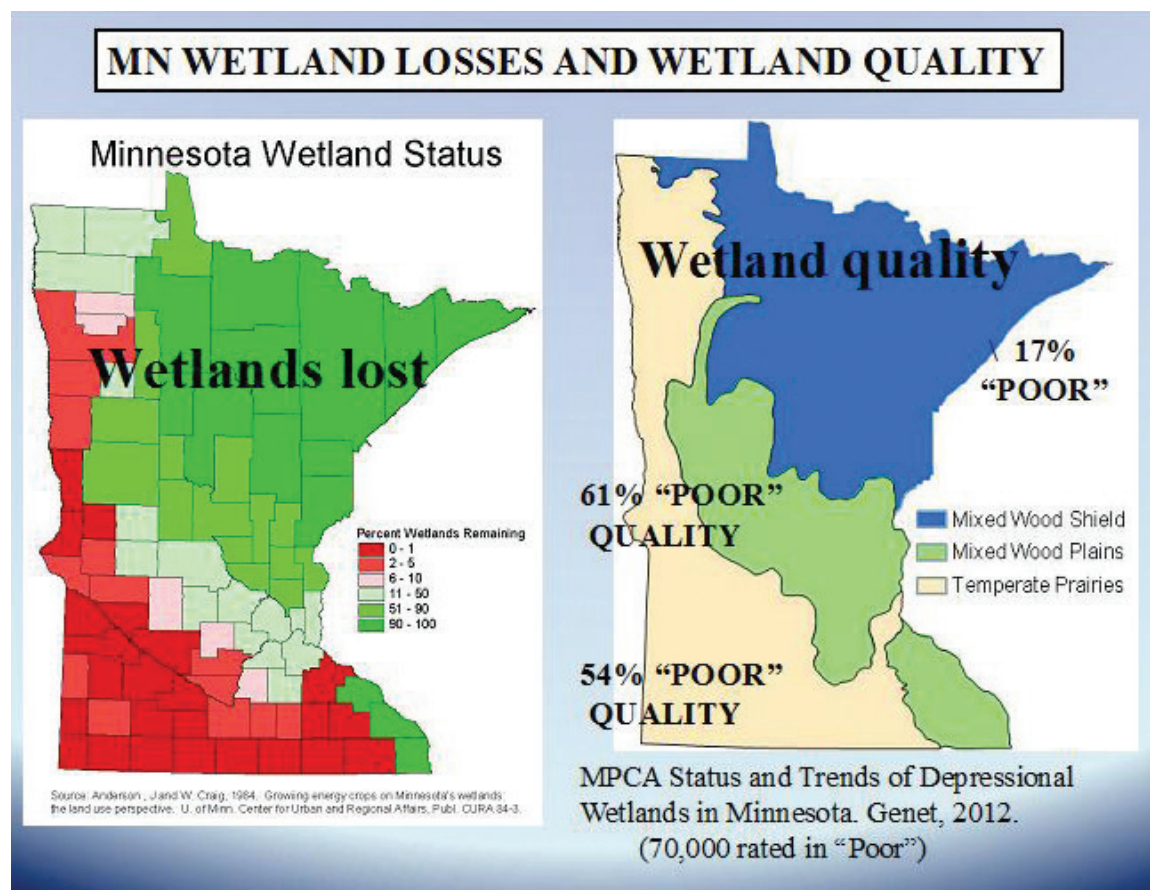
Here's the rub: national scientists have concluded that restorations of wetlands do not recreate the habitat, hydrology and biological quality of the natural wetlands that were destroyed. A National Research Council report recommends avoiding destruction of wetlands that are difficult or impossible to restore, namely, fens, bogs, and forested wetlands. What type of wetland predominates in St. Louis County where the PolyMet mine is proposed? St. Louis County—where PolyMet plans to mine—is comprised of 62 percent bogs and 26 percent shrub and wooded swamps. These types cannot be replaced.

Sierra Club Wetland and Mining Committee members support the following:

1. Mitigation should take place in the same watershed where the mining will occur (Lake Superior). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to allow the combination of the Rainy River and Lake Superior watersheds into one watershed for mitigations. This should be reversed.
2. WCA should keep the current acreage ratio of 1.5 to 1 for out-of-watershed replacements. BWSR and others are proposing to loosen this to a 1 to 1 ratio. WCA should also retain the 1.5 to 1 acreage ratio for out-of-kind replacements. BWSR proposes a 1 to 1 ratio for out-of-kind, which means that a mining company that destroys 1000 acres of bog could mitigate by creating 1000 acres of cattail marsh. Don't make it easier!
3. Credit should not be given for the destruction of wetlands by allowing "alternative mitigation strategies." BWSR proposes giving credit for re-meandering channelized streams, or restoring riparian banks as alternative ways to improve the overall aquatic resources in the watershed. We applaud the idea of improving streams and other aquatic resources, but not as credit to destroy wetlands. This won't meet the goal of no net loss, and sets a bad precedent.
4. We oppose an in lieu fee program, especially because the type of wetlands in northeastern Minnesota cannot be replaced. We do not want a "pay to destroy" program. And in lieu must require successful restorations in advance of destruction of wetlands with scientific assessments. Wisconsin is testing an experimental

program that will charge developers \$60,000 per acre of wetland destroyed for oversight of restorations by a state agency.

Finally, how many acres of wetland have already been lost from mining in northeastern Minnesota since WCA passed in 1991? What do we really know about the wetlands now at risk from PolyMet and new mines? Unlike lakes, wetlands lack names and often are portrayed as less worthy. This makes losing them easier. People respond to short term job creation, but not to the long term loss of beneficial wetlands that support biodiversity, water quality, and alleviate flooding. Who knows how much carbon each acre of bog sequesters? Or mercury? Who's documented their diverse, wetland-



dependent plants and aquatic invertebrates, scoped their birds, or listened to their frogs? Who will grieve their loss or pay the real costs of their lost landscape functions if state agencies look the other way and allow the destruction of vast areas of irreplaceable wetlands?

If you want to help or need more information, contact Sierra Club North Star Chapter at 612-659-9124 or north.star.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Judy Helgen is a volunteer leader with the Water and Wetlands Committee.



19th Annual Sierra Club Bike Tour Highlights Minneapolis

Jill Boogren



The protected bikeway along 6th St. SE Photo credit: Joshua Houdek



Photo Credit: Greg Springer

More than showing how better bikeways benefit cyclists, the Tour showed how transportation improvements help build better neighborhoods, too.

Over 100 cyclists rode across Minneapolis in September as part of the Sierra Club's 19th Annual Bike Tour. Guest speakers along the 21-mile route showcased bike and transportation-related developments connecting neighborhoods and making it easier to get around.

First time Tour rider Grace Schneider of Ham Lake was excited to learn her way around on new bikeways. She said it was a very different experience than riding where she lives, where biking is not a primary mode of transportation.

"It felt more normal to be on my bike in Minneapolis," said Schneider. "If I jumped on my bike to go on Highway 65 in Ham Lake it would be weird. It's not as interconnected."

Showing these connections was one of the goals of the ride. The Dinkytown Greenway and Bluff Street Trails, which include a tunnel under the 35W bridge and creates a seamless route between the University of Minnesota and downtown, were great examples. Speakers Ted Tucker and Robin Garwood, aide to Minneapolis Council Member Cam Gordon, talked about their development and the need to extend the Greenway to St. Anthony Main.

This is all part of a push to add 30 more miles of protected bikeways citywide by 2020.

"The goal is to be able to connect the dots for people who want to get to work or to the grocery store or to anywhere they want to go, so they can go safely and easily," said Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition's Alex Tsatsoulis, veteran Tour organizer and Chair of the Sierra Club's Land Use and Transportation Committee. "If [cyclists] suddenly have to hop out onto a busy roadway for a couple of blocks, they may not make that trip because they don't feel safe."

Tsatsoulis, who is expecting a child, said he doesn't want to ride with his child in heavy traffic. He would instead look for protected bikeways, which add comfort and safety because they are separated from cars.

Riders saw examples of these protected bikeways on the Tour – dedicated greenways, a raised bikeway along the road (6th Street SE – see photo), and bike lanes separated from traffic by bollards (Plymouth Avenue bridge). A stretch of Washington Avenue downtown will have a fully protected bikeway when it is reconstructed in spring 2015.

More than showing how better bikeways benefit cyclists, the Tour showed how transportation improvements help build better neighborhoods, too.

Near the Prospect Park light rail station, Colleen Carey, President of The Cornerstone Group, talked about how access to bike-walk-transit options can transform neighborhoods. Bri Whitecraft of Dero Bike Rack Company mentioned the importance of infrastructure like bike parking and commuter programs to encourage biking. And Autumn Amadou-Blegen of Surly Brewing

Company told how the METRO Green Line and University of Minnesota Transitway were key factors in selecting the site for their Destination Brewery.

Another first-time Tour rider, Nathan Bruemmer, of Minneapolis, said he enjoyed hearing about Surly.

"What resonated with me is they were talking about developing this place with transportation in mind, being close to the train, being close to accessible bike [routes]," said Bruemmer. "It's real important in the city to have green transportation even when it's just fun. Yes, there are jobs there. But when it's something fun, if it's easier to get there, all the better."

Schneider appreciated speakers making these connections, too.

"There is this connection in investing in public transportation and boosting our economy," she said. "There's a relationship there. Something I never thought of before."

After seeing the state's first installed Bike Signal light and the 18th Avenue Northeast Bikeway, riders stopped for lunch at Gluek Riverside Park. There, Speaker Cordelia Pierson spoke about the Dinkytown Greenway and about Mississippi River access.

Then it was on to Open Streets Lowry. Open Streets -- which closes the streets to motorized traffic -- is a way of knowing how streets can be used by people not just by cars, said speaker Sam Rockwell. He was joined by Kenya McKnight, who said 50% of people in North Minneapolis do not drive; they take transit or walk.

"We have an existing bike culture," said McKnight, "but we need to expand it."

She talked about the possibility of a proposed North Minneapolis Greenway and stressed that it is about pedestrians, too, not just cyclists.

Both Schneider and Bruemmer said they enjoyed the conversations they had with people from different areas and would ride the Tour again.

"Everyone was in a pretty social mood," said Bruemmer. "You definitely got a feel of what other areas in the metro area need to be fixed."

Missed the tour? Check out the Chapter's exciting new video "Bikeways for Everyone" at northstar.sierraclub.org/BikeVideo

For more info. on Sierra Club's work to expand transportation options, contact Joshua Houdek at 612-659-9124.

Jill Boogren is an Organizer with the North Star Chapter's Land Use and Transportation Program.

Climate Change and Public Health

Bruce Snyder, M.D., FAAN

As a physician, I feel it is important to focus attention on the implications of Climate Change for public health by highlighting certain areas of concern. Climate Change is altering our world in a number of ways: extreme weather events are increasingly common, sea levels are rising, and summers are longer and hotter. These changes will impact the health of people in Minnesota and throughout the world.

Public Health Risks

Since the 1970's, every decade has been warmer than the last, and dangerous heat waves have taken many lives. A European heat wave in 2003 caused over 45,000 deaths. A 2010 Russian heat wave killed an estimated 56,000. 2013 brought severe and record-breaking heat waves and drought around the world. In the U.S., emergency room visits for heat-related illnesses doubled between 2000 and 2010.

Unfortunately, those higher temperatures also mean more lung and heart disease from rising levels of ozone and air pollution. Those with asthma and emphysema are particularly vulnerable. More frost-free days and warmer temperatures raise pollen levels worsening allergies and asthma attacks. For example, Minnesota's ragweed season grew by three weeks between 1995 and 2011. The number of U.S. asthma cases increased significantly from 2001 to 2010.

Our spring floods washed raw sewage and other pollutants into area lakes. Outbreaks of water borne illnesses tend to increase after severe storms, and heavy rains expand insect breeding sites. Warmer temperatures also allow disease causing insects to spread farther and remain active longer. In recent years, Minnesota has seen record numbers of diseases carried by ticks; and globally, diseases like Malaria and other diseases carried by mosquitoes will spread to new areas.

Between 2010 and 2012, record drought conditions affected East Africa causing severe famine. Over 250,000 deaths occurred. Severe drought persists in the area, and refugees have sought relief in crowded and unsanitary camps where disease and malnutrition continue to take lives. Global warming threatens fresh water supplies by melting glacial ice and snow-pack. Consider that Himalayan glaciers are important water sources for China, India, and Pakistan. Competition for scarce water resources could trigger armed conflict.

Severe storms cause injuries and drowning. In 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest Philippine typhoon on record, killed over 6,000 people and injured many more in that country alone. Additionally, rising sea levels and storm surges can displace sizeable populations along coastal areas, where over a third of the world's population lives. Typhoon Haiyan, for example, displaced more than 6,000,000

people. As climate change worsens, the numbers of "climate refugees" may run into the tens of millions.

Weather disasters exact a toll on mental health, as treatment services may be unavailable. High levels of anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder occurred after Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, while suicide rates increase during extreme heat events.

Extreme storms can disable hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, and other health care centers. When multiple area facilities close it becomes difficult to find hospital beds for the very ill. Transportation systems, electric power, communications, sanitation, safe water supplies, as well as emergency response and public safety services may be disrupted for extended periods. Medical records may be unavailable. People with chronic illnesses may be unable to access medications or medical equipment.

Preparation and Continued Action Needed

Preparations to address climate risks to public health must include the reevaluation of regional disaster plans; improved backup for health care facilities; and improved sewage systems. Resources for infection control will be crucial. Health care facilities in vulnerable locations should reevaluate their ability to withstand increasingly frequent and severe weather disasters. These preparations will be expensive, and merit careful attention from our community and political leaders.

This is why I am committed to continued local action on climate change. One way I do this is as a member of the North Star Chapter's Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Sierra Club office in Minneapolis and we invite you to join us.

The majority of Minnesota's electricity still comes from burning coal, and coal-burning plants are also the largest source of carbon pollution. However, clean, renewable energy sources like solar and wind power are affordable and available in Minnesota. As this sector grows with our electricity needs, there is no future for coal in our state. Join me in supporting a transition away from coal towards clean energy in Minnesota.

Bruce Snyder is a volunteer leader with the Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee.



The Sierra Club Foundation benefits from workplace contributions to the Minnesota Environmental Fund, which provides a payroll giving option to support 23 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.

Impressions of the People's Climate March

Louis Alemayehu



Photo Credit: Sierra Club

On September 21, more than 400,000 citizen activists, including over 25,000 Sierra Club members, travelled to New York City to join what is being called the largest climate march in history. It was also the largest-ever gathering of Sierra Club members and supporters in the history of the organization. Louis Alemayehu, who attended the march, shares his reflections:

"I am a refugee from the 60's," I announced to the mostly younger activists on the bus ride taking us across half the continent and back home again, after the Peoples Climate March in New York City. As an elder now, I have also witnessed half of the twentieth century, and I am now 14 years into the twenty-first. I see some significant changes in who we are and how we are here living in days of prophesy and transition from the traditional wisdom of the Mayans, the Zulus and Tibetans.

We have forgotten as modern cultures that all life is interconnected in profound, intricate and beautiful ways; that we can't take and not give back; that what goes around, comes around; that keeping things in balance is the sacred task of all humans. Now modern science in a way has caught up with these essential truths as it warns us of climate change and our role in what is unfolding globally.

One of the things that is different from the 1960's to 2014 was the incredible mix of people at the march: black, red, yellow, white and brown; elders and babies; Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhist and atheist; gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered. We all walked together side by side, arm in arm. At the front of the march was a contingent of 400 Indigenous peoples from North and South America that included Minnesota's own Tom Goldtooth and Paula Horne from Greengrass, North Dakota. There were people from Africa, Asia and Europe who came to join us because they know we share this cause for ourselves, and hopefully future generations yet to come.

I feel that we returned home energized and empowered because we know we are not alone. We are a world of peoples who love Earth and all her vital systems and creatures. We are relatives. The challenges that we face today cannot be addressed or solved in isolation from one another. We are relatives. We are inter-beings. I am because you are... animal, vegetable, and mineral. Let's breathe deep and do the work of healing the world. As an elder, I see the changes becoming a part of a new understanding of the "Common Good" unfolding, slowly, surely and with an increasing rapidity. Don't ever give up!

Louis Alemayehu is a member of the Executive Committee.



Photo Credit: Sierra Club

Upcoming Outings – Get Outdoors!

For updated listings, please check the outings area of the chapter website at northstar.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/outings or join the MN Sierra Club Outings "meetup" at www.meetup.com.

Contact the outing leader by Friday via email (preferred) or phone if you would like to attend. You will be instructed as to what you need to bring, meeting location and time. As much as possible, the Sierra Club encourages carpooling, and we generally limit our group size to 12 people.

Join us to get out and explore, enjoy and protect the planet!



Saturday, November 22

Hike, 8 miles

Lake Rebecca Park Reserve

A gently rolling Big Woods landscape and numerous wetland areas make up the beautiful Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. Lake Rebecca Park Reserve includes more than 20 miles of hiking trails.

Leader: Greg Allison, greg_allison@ymail.com

Friday, November 28 to Sunday, November 30

Backpacking

BWCA or Lake Superior Trail

Three days of cold weather backpacking in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or on the Lake Superior Trail. The intention is to walk, not ski or snowshoe, so we will pick a trail with little snow. Difficulty is easy to moderate.

Leader: Basil Loney 651-774-2640.

Saturday, December 6 to Sunday, December 7

Winter Camping

Banning State Park

Beginner winter camping introduction at Banning State Park, 100 miles north of the Twin Cities. We will camp in the regular car campground and hike, ski or snowshoe. The Kettle River in Banning is very scenic with cliffs, ice formations and historic rock quarry to visit. Since we are car camping in the regular car campground, you will be able to bring plenty of gear and clothing to spend your first winter camping night out comfortably. Help provided with equipment and clothing choices. Also, there are winter camping books in the library and on the internet. The main idea is to use the gear you have and not buy new items to see if you enjoy this activity. Saturday night supper/dessert supplied, you bring breakfast and lunches. Difficulty is easy.

Leader: Basil Loney 651-774-2640.

Saturday, December 20

Hike/Snow Shoe, 5+ miles

Afton State Park

Grand oaks grace the rugged, rolling landscape of this park. Trails traverse remnant and restored prairies, wind down deep ravines and rise up to the grassy ridgetops and bluffs overlooking the scenic St. Croix River. The trails are perfect for hiking and snowshoeing including four miles of maintained snowshoe and six miles of winter hiking trails.

Leader: Greg Allison, greg_allison@ymail.com

Friday, December 26 to Sunday, December 28

Camper Cabin

TBD

Stay in a state park cabin camper unit for two nights. These cabins are small, inexpensive and have electric lights and heat. Look on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website. The park has not been selected yet, it will probably be about 100 miles from the Twin Cities. State parks have plenty of trails for skiing and snowshoeing. Costs are inexpensive, cabins are \$50/night for 4 people, and there are outdoor latrines.

Leader: Basil Loney 651-774-2640.

Saturday, January 17 through Monday, January 19

Winter Camping

BWCA, Ely District

Three days of winter camping in the Ely District of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Leader: Basil Loney 651-774-2640.

Friday, February 13 to Monday, February 16

President's Day Weekend Cross Country Ski Trip

National Forest Lodge

Join us for our annual trip to the National Forest Lodge. The North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and the North Star Ski Touring Club are teaming up for a weekend of skiing, snowshoeing, family-style dining and great Saturday night music at the National Forest Lodge near Isabella, MN. We'll stay for three nights and three days. The price is \$255 per person and includes lodging and 9 meals, from Friday dinner to Monday lunch. The lodge has 30 km of remote, peaceful cross-country ski trails winding through 2,000 acres of Superior National Forest land. There's a wood-fired sauna on the lake (Lake Gegoka) and a post-sauna jump into the lake is always an option! There is also a shared outdoor hot tub for cold weather star-gazing. To learn more about the lodge go to nationalforestlodge.com. For details about signing up for the trip, contact the trip leader.

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com

Saturday, February 14 through Monday, February 16

Winter Camping

BWCA, Gunflint District

Three days of winter camping in the Gunflint District of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Leader: Basil Loney 651-774-2640.



Enbridge Illegal Scheme to Double Tar Sands, Bypassing Review

Marcy Leussler



Photo Credit: Terry Houle

Enbridge Energy has a new and nefarious plan to increase tar sands oil shipped through Minnesota.

The Alberta Clipper line (line 67) is an existing pipeline which transports tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada through northern Minnesota. Tar sands oil has been said to be the most energy intensive fuel on the planet and a disaster for the climate. Further, expanding its flow through Minnesota puts communities at increased risk of spills and long term pollution.

Line 67 was originally approved for a flow of up to 450,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil, and required a Presidential Permit, because it crosses the Canadian – U.S. border. Now, Enbridge is requesting an amendment to this permit to increase the flow of oil up to 800,000 bpd, eventually. The crude will be sold to refiners on the international market, and the proposed increase of 350,000 bpd would produce 76,394,500 tons of carbon emissions each year. That is the equivalent of over 16 million cars on the road, or 20 coal-fired power plants, operating each year.

This review process for the proposed expansion is underway and includes a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), and opportunity for the public to review the plan and give comment.

Instead of waiting for this process to complete, Enbridge wants to bypass the review and public comments and "switch" the tar sands oil to a different pipeline, Line 3, just before the US border, then "switch" it back to the Alberta Clipper Line after it has crossed into the USA. However, the Line 3 Presidential Permit and national interest determination – issued back in 1968—did not consider the use of Line 3 for the transport of tar sands, much less at the high volume Enbridge plans.

In July 2014, a U.S. State Department official wrote a letter to Enbridge's attorneys stating that Enbridge's plan does "not require authorization." This is clearly a violation of the existing permit and federal law. It is not legal for Enbridge to effectively double its transport of tar sands oil without a new permit or a public comprehensive environmental review.

If this decision is not reversed, the State Department is violating the Presidential directive that stated that tar sands projects are not in our national interest if they contribute significantly to carbon pollution and climate change. We must hold President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry to their commitments to bold action on climate change, and that means proper review of this potential increase to the pipeline – and holding our leaders accountable to follow the public process.

Are you concerned about tar sands and their impact on our climate and our state? Join the North Star Chapter's Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee! We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Co-Chairs Terry Houle at terry.houle@northstar.sierraclub.org or Brian Anderson at brian.anderson@northstar.sierraclub.org.

Marcy Leussler is a volunteer leader with the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee.

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For the schedule of committee meetings and other volunteer opportunities, please check the North Star Chapter calendar at northstar.sierraclub.org or call the office at 612-659-9124.



Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Lois M. Anderson
4067 Wilshire Circle
Shoreview, MN 55126-2986
612-998-4098
peacefulrn@hotmail.com



For 40 years I have canoed lakes and rivers, climbed mountains and trails with Sierra Club members and friends.

I wish to be on the Sierra Club Executive Committee to give back to the Club, after receiving many years of membership benefits. My particular interest is to bring inner city children and families closer to trails, lakes and woods in and near the Twin Cities.

My background as a public health nurse and educator will assist the Club in identifying practical entry ideas and barriers for this project.

In addition, I will continue to support the Club's decisions and political impact issues with letter writing, calls and volunteer activity.

C. Scott Cooper
2168 Carroll Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-260-9950
cscottcooper@gmail.com



I have served on the North Star Chapter's ExCom for six years, and am honored to serve as the Chapter Chair for the first time this year. I have over twenty years of experience serving on nonprofit boards, managing progressive political nonprofit organizations, and running successful issue campaigns, and I am happy to bring what I've learned from those experiences to my volunteer work for the Chapter.

After working in Paul Wellstone's US senate office for six years, I spent twelve years doing grassroots lobbying for progressive public interest issues at the Minnesota legislature. I currently serve as the CEO of the RE-AMP Network, a network of 165 nonprofits and foundations working together on climate change across the Upper Midwest.

I'm excited about the opportunity to help lead the North Star Chapter's growth over the coming years, increasing our resources and political power, and helping to grow and diversify our work and our membership.

John Doberstein
4414 Cooke St
Duluth, MN 55804
218522-0595
jdoberst@gmail.com



I became an active volunteer with the Sierra Club in 2006 because the environment and the outdoors is deeply rooted into my spirituality, and I felt that if I don't do something, then who will? As a volunteer, I've had the opportunity to represent the Club in the NE Minnesota region; help organize educational outings; put together and speak at various forums; attend both local and national conferences; work with Labor to build partnerships around green jobs; lobby on behalf of the environment in St. Paul and D.C.; and most of all, feel a sense of satisfaction that I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

I currently participate on the Duluth Energy Team and continue to work on protecting Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams and air from potential pollution from sulfide mining. I'm a Realtor and Certified EcoBroker® in my day job, and I also do energy efficiency consulting and auditing in the region. My wife and I have two beautiful girls, and on top of it all, I'm also extremely active in my community with environmental, social and political issues that I care deeply about. Thank you for the opportunity, and I would be honored to be re-elected.

Sam Grant
1643 Dunlap Street N. Apt 7
St. Paul, MN 55108-2247
510-619-6206
samgrant3@gmail.com



I joined the ExCom in 2014 and have been focused on helping the North Star Chapter be an exemplar for the Sierra Club nationally on how to practice diversity, equity and inclusion in the environmental movement.

I have been organizing around the intersections of environmental, economic and cultural justice since the 1980s. I currently teach course work on these subjects at Metropolitan State University, where I have been on faculty since 1990, and Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

I am also actively involved in the food sovereignty movement, working on a local food systems organizing and development strategy in North Minneapolis. Internationally, I am designing a sanitation-led integrated watershed management model for rural communities in Ethiopia.

My interdisciplinary background in ecology, economics, public policy and social change make me a great ally within the context of the Ex Com's work. I have been leading our local Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work and have served as our lead representative to the Sierra Club's national work in this area.

Christy Newell
3145 5th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408
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newellchristym@gmail.com



I have served on the Executive Committee for 3 years, during which I served as Secretary for 1 year. I believe in the power of grassroots organizing to create change and in the North Star Chapter's ability to protect our communities. I am especially excited about our chapter's commitment to be a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization that will lead Sierra Club chapters nationwide.

I am Co-Founder and Coordinator for the MN Youth Environmental Network and have a diverse history of organizing experience: from working with labor unions and photographers to advocate for green jobs with Blue Green Alliance, to developing the University of MN's priorities for their Climate Action Plan as Undergraduate Representative to the U of M - Twin Cities Sustainability Committee, to training hundreds of youth in the organizing skills needed to create a clean energy future.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue as a volunteer on the Executive Committee and look forward to building power to address our most pressing environmental challenges

Bruce D. Snyder, MD
1600 Diane Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55118
651-452-1321
bsnyd@gmail.com



During my career as a Neurologist I've had the opportunity to work in academic and private practice settings doing teaching, research, administration and patient care. I have served as Chair of the HealthPartners Dept of Neurology and I am a Clinical Professor of Neurology at the UM medical school. I have worked with a number of environmental organizations including the Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby and Physicians for Social Responsibility. I am a member of the Health Care Climate Council and HealthCare without Harm. Currently I am working on building Climate awareness among Minnesota physicians and health care providers. I love hiking, biking and witnessing the peace and beauty of our state. I want to help preserve this for the future.

Working with the Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee I've seen our Chapter's staff and volunteers work effectively with other environmental organizations, the legislature, and state agencies achieving significant successes on critical environmental goals.

I would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Executive Committee and our staff to build membership, grow financial support, integrate communication and activities among our Committees, and enhance community awareness of our activities.

Annie Young
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612-236-5985
anniey@visi.com



I recently retired from 45 years of community organizing. My experience draws from living off the land, then working in the non-profit community, food co-ops and as a strong political activist. In 1992 we were part of the blossoming of the Environmental Justice movement across America, demanding that communities of color and low-income people be included in decision making and citizen participation in the environmental movement. I helped found the Green Institute and Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota.

For the last 25 years I have served on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. I am passionate about disinvestment from fossil fuels to a more just society fueled by renewable energy.

I was honored to be asked to serve. I feel that I can bring my long history in environmental issues plus advocacy for the poor and disenfranchised, and contribute to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We need new strategies for engaging our increasingly diverse communities today. It is a long, hard struggle delving into institutional racism and white privilege and will take years, but the work must be pursued with full dedication and commitment -- so that we look like and are a part of the communities in which we live.

Please Vote for your Chapter Leaders

Deadline for voting is January 5, 2015

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 of the Chapter.

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 Sierra Club's North Star Chapter thrive and grow in its work as the leading grassroots voice for Minnesota's environment.

Current members of the North Star Chapter ExCom:

Term expires 2014	Term expires 2015	Term expires 2016
C. Scott Cooper	Louis Alemayehu	Luther Dale
John Doberstein	Jason Bender	Mat Hollinshead
Christy Newell	Marty Cobenais	Javier Morillo-Alicea
Sam Grant	Katie Eukel	Lois Norrgard
Annie Young		Tom Thompson

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.

Voting instructions:

To vote by mail:

- Your member number is included with 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. 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 by January 5, 2015 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 included with 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. 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, 2015 at 5 p.m.



Election Ballot for North Star Chapter Executive Committee 2015

Please vote for up to five candidates:

	Members vote here	Joint members vote here	
Lois Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Scott Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Doberstein	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christy Newell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruce Snyder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annie Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-ins:			
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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MINNESOTA

North Star Chapter

The leading grassroots voice to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment.



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Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act: In September, Executive Committee member Tom Thompson represented the North Star Chapter on a trip into the Boundary Waters, organized by the Friends of the BWCA and the U.S. Forest Service to celebrate the Wilderness Act.

Photo Credit: Tom Thompson



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