

N O R T H S T A R JOURNAL

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

FALL/WINTER 2021 - 2022
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SIERRA CLUB
NORTH STAR CHAPTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR

This has not been an ordinary year, and we want to thank you for your steadfast support. This past summer the evidence of climate chaos was clearer than ever, with destructive wildfires and drought. Time is running short to avert the environmental crises ahead, unless we act with urgency. We've had our hands full, with efforts including:

Replacing our state's last coal-fired power plants with clean, renewable energy. This past summer, following years of grassroots organizing, Xcel Energy dropped their plans for a new fossil gas plant in Becker.

Uplifting the efforts of Line 3 water protectors through litigation, federal advocacy, support for our allies on the frontlines, and amplifying the voices of Indigenous resistors. In a time when we should be cutting back fossil fuel use to zero, a new tar sands pipeline is a huge step in the wrong direction.

Celebrating a big victory when Minnesota became the first Clean Cars state in the Midwest. Tens of thousands of Sierrans showed up to support this critical step that will reduce carbon pollution and clean up our air.

Launching, with partners, the Move on from PolyMet campaign after recent legal wins against this proposed toxic mine. We are calling for a new course that protects our water and downstream communities.

What's ahead of us in 2022? Several important goals are ahead:

- Mobilizing Minnesotans to act at local, state, and national levels to aggressively and equitably reduce carbon emissions from electricity and transportation, meeting the challenges outlined in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.
- Fighting environmental racism and decisions that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, such as the continued operation of the Hennepin County garbage incinerator which pollutes North Minneapolis.
- Holding Minnesota leaders accountable to honor Indigenous treaty rights, and defending lands and waters at risk from pipelines, sulfide mining and other threats.
- Continuing work around the state to build support for transformational federal investments that will tackle the climate crisis, create family-supporting jobs and build a cleaner, more equitable economy.

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sierraclub.org/minnesota/newsletter



Jenna Yeakle, John Doberstein

Earlier this year, the Sierra Club North Star Chapter joined a broad and growing coalition of environmental protection and justice organizations to call on Governor Walz to move on from the proposed PolyMet sulfide mine in Northeast Minnesota. This demand to do better by Minnesotans is the result of years of local political organizing, clean water advocacy at the legislature, and the movement for environmental justice led by Indigenous leaders and everyday people. Now, we are at a critical moment for the future health of northeast Minnesota. We are inspired by the thousands of Sierra Club members and supporters who have signed onto the letter asking Walz to set a new course for Minnesota that protects and affirms our water and our communities.

The campaign's message is threefold. First, Governor Walz inherited a deeply flawed proposal with far too many permit failures. For the first time since Walz was elected, PolyMet's proposal is back at our state's regulatory agencies, and it's our Governor's responsibility to determine the best way forward.

Second, our current state permits don't actually protect our air, water and land. There have been several scandals involving undue corporate influence in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Among a dirty laundry list of problems, we know that our MPCA

failed to find out if PolyMet had been falsely advertising the size of their project and that the DNR essentially handed out a permit without an expiration date, which breaks state law.

Finally, a majority of Minnesotans want to move on to something better. In September of this year, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) released poll results with their State of the Environment 2021 Minnesota Survey. MCEA asked Minnesota voters if Walz should move on from the PolyMet proposal, and they said yes. A majority of Minnesota voters agree that "Governor Walz should 'move on from PolyMet' and propose a different economic development plan for the area."

To learn more about the campaign and join in the call for a better future, visit <https://www.moveonfrompolymet.org/>.

Jenna Yeakle is an Organizing Representative with the Sierra Club based in Duluth and enjoys riding her bicycle up and down the hills.

John Doberstein is a Realtor, a long time Sierra Club volunteer, and an avid outdoor enthusiast.

Biden Acts to Complete Study of Sulfide Mining's Impacts to Boundary Waters

In our continued efforts to prevent toxic sulfide mining in all Minnesota watersheds, the Sierra Club applauded a critical step forward on October 20th when President Biden, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the administration would re-start a process of studying a 20-year ban on proposed sulfide ore mining on federal land near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service instigated a withdrawal of mineral rights that will start with a two-year "segregation" and will study the potential impacts of sulfide ore mining on the Rainy River Watershed. Following the completion of the study, the Department of Interior can decide to move forward with the 20-year withdrawal of mineral rights.

A similar process originated under President Obama in 2016, but was later stopped by the Trump administration which refused to make the study's results public.

The proposed moratorium could help to block the Twin Metals mine, whose leases are facing legal challenges, and advance protections for both the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park from copper nickel mining at the edge of the watershed.

We thank the visionary advocates who made this possible, building on the unrelenting leadership of Rep. Betty McCollum who recently re-introduced legislation to protect the Boundary Waters, and support from Sen. Tina Smith who urged President Biden to follow the science earlier this year.

Take Action! A 90-day public comment period is underway. Visit sierraclub.org/minnesota to submit your comment today.

RIVER RESILIENCE



Photo credit: Jenna Randerson

Lindsay Starck

Many Minnesotans have heard that the ten thousand lakes in our state were created by Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox as they stomped back and forth through the wilderness. What fewer people may realize is that this legendary lumberjack and his best bovine friend also may have created the Mississippi River when one of their giant water carts sprang a leak and launched a cascade from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico.

But these days, the Mighty Mississippi — whose name comes from the Objive for “Great River” — is in peril. Ecological deterioration has resulted in drastic reduction in water quality, a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, wetland and habitat loss, increased flood risks, less wildlife, reduced recreational opportunities, and fewer jobs.

This is why Minnesota U.S. House Representative Betty McCollum introduced a bill proposing the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) Act to

the United States Congress in June 2021. The bill was co-sponsored by Missouri Representative Cori Bush, Tennessee Representative Steve Cohen, and Kentucky Representative John Yarmuth. The bill is intended to make the Mississippi River stronger, cleaner, and safer.

“I grew up along the Mississippi River in South St. Paul, Minnesota,” Representative McCollum says. “It was and continues to be a working river. From the northernmost headwaters to the Mississippi Delta, people and communities rely on the river for recreation, jobs, and clean water — and wildlife rely on its ecosystems and habitat.”

The river is home to hundreds of species, serves as an important transportation corridor, supplies 20 million people with drinking water (including residents of the Twin Cities) and 1.5 million people with jobs, and generates nearly \$500 billion annually in natural resource and recreation value.

The MRRRI Act is modeled on the geographic approach of successful programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Everglades Restoration Plan. By encouraging cooperative conservation work between states, tribes and communities, these initiatives have proven resistant to political threats.

In the words of Trevor Russell, the Water Program Director for Friends of the Mississippi River, “It’s time to start making these investments in river resilience.”

One of the distinctive elements of this bill is the way in which environmental justice is embedded in its mission and its language. The bill recognizes that “consequences of ecological degradation have disproportionately harmed rural communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and communities of color” and suggests approaches such as “community based participatory research,” “project or community-wide planning,” “outreach

and community engagement,” and “restoration-related job training and workforce development.”

The MRRRI Act will build upon existing environmental research and mitigation efforts by providing funding for projects and activities to protect and restore the Mississippi River in ten states formally defined as Mississippi River States (Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin). Yet its impact will be felt far beyond those borders. As the third-largest river basin in the world, in essence the Mississippi River runs through forty-one percent of the contiguous United States.

Since it has become clear that existing programs are insufficient to meet the challenges and reverse the river’s decline, the focus areas of the MRRRI Act include:

- Improving water quality by reducing agricultural nutrients, polluted runoff, and sediment while protecting water sources.

- Increasing community resilience through restoring the ability of the floodplain, wetlands, delta, and backwaters to minimize and ameliorate flood and storm risks.
- Protecting and restoring wildlife habitat.
- Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Strengthening communication and partnership activities.
- Monitoring, collecting, and evaluating scientific data.

Agencies, states, tribal nations, and local governments up and down the river have joined together in a powerful, promising show of solidarity in the face of the Mississippi’s greatest challenges yet. The Act creates space for a two-year-long EPA-led development phase in which the stakeholders of the river will have an opportunity to contribute to a final action plan. That plan will be launched, in part, with \$300-\$350 million in federal funds.

The Waters and Wetlands Stewards urge members of the North Star Chapter to keep an eye out for the MRRRI Act and to speak up in favor of it. Currently, advocates are working toward co-sponsorship in the House, reaching out to mayors for support, and expecting to announce an author for the bill in the Senate.

In the words of Representative McCollum: “We all have a connection to this river, and now we have the opportunity to help keep the Mississippi mighty by establishing the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI).”

Lindsay Starck is the communications lead with the North Star Chapter’s Water and Wetland Stewards, an English professor at Augsburg University and an avid kayaker on Lake Nokomis.

THE FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT THE CAPITOL CONTINUES

Photo credit: COPAL - Comunidades Organizando el Poder y La Acción Latina



Marya Hart

Why did 16 DFL state senators — all staunch environmental champions — vote against last session’s Environmental Protection bill? Because it did not include the Frontline Communities Protection Act (FCPA).

Currently, when entities apply to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for a point source pollution permit, the only pollution the MPCA is required to consider is that which would be emitted by the applicant. This protects polluters, not neighborhoods or the environment. This would be like your doctor pronouncing you healthy after taking your pulse, but ignoring your temperature, heart rate, breathing, or blood pressure.

But the FCPA, also known as the “cumulative impacts” bill, would require the MPCA to analyze and consider the “cumulative levels and effects of past and current environmental pollution from all sources on the environment and residents of a geographic area” when granting a permit.

For example, if a new smelting plant or hazardous waste site were proposed in an area with pre-existing sources of pollution, the MPCA would be required to assess and consider the extent to which the new pollution would add to the residents’ health and safety burdens.

Legislative work on this issue in Minnesota stretches back to 2008, when Representative Karen Clark introduced a bill that would have required the MPCA to analyze cumulative impacts before issuing a permit. Similar efforts are underway in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

Leaders on the FCPA in Minnesota include Community Members for Environmental Justice (CMEJ), the Environmental Justice Table, and Minnesota non-profit (and Sierra Club partner) Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL).

According to Marco Hernandez, COPAL’s Public Policy Director, his organization’s involvement in environmental justice issues grew from their analysis of the link between the climate crisis and forced migration from Central and South America. After witnessing environmental devastation and learning from organizers in Honduras and El Salvador, COPAL decided to take action, and in 2019, partnered with CMEJ to stem the concentration of pollution in Minnesota’s low income neighborhoods and communities of color.

The North Star Chapter supports this and other organizing campaigns of our partners. Chapter volunteer Delaney Russell has been active in this campaign

“THIS LEGISLATION DIRECTLY RELATES TO OUR CHAPTER’S PURPOSE TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES’ WELL-BEING THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.”

Delaney Russell

and describes it this way, “this legislation directly relates to our chapter’s purpose to ‘protect our communities’ well-being through environmental protection.’ Because our state’s regulatory framework fails to protect communities, our states and cities are able to continue a long history of concentrating polluting sources where there is less local power to oppose them, which tend to be communities of poverty and/or of color. This harms them and it harms all of us. Our chapter is committed to stopping that harm as an essential part of meeting our mission.”

Examples of affected communities could include St. Paul’s East Side,

North Minneapolis, and East Phillips neighborhoods, which are polluted by highways and dirty industries and whose residents have high rates of asthma, cancer, and infant mortality.

Every cumulative impacts bill since 2008 has been watered down by legislators and regulators who do not embrace environmental justice, and last session’s FCPA, too, was a limited bill. It only pertained to the seven metropolitan counties, and it did not specify enforcement mechanisms, standards of proof, or means for community input.

Unfortunately, our GOP-controlled Senate couldn’t even go that far; the FCPA was not enacted. So next session, expect the return of the Frontline Communities Protection Act, with more sponsors, an even broader organizing campaign, and more teeth.

COPAL is reaching out to Minnesota farmers of color and to constituents and legislators in the Twin Cities, Mankato, and Rochester, and is working to create an Environmental Justice Board with enough power to refuse pollution permits in overburdened communities.

Hernandez says he’s happy with the North Star Chapter’s consistent, long-term involvement,

and pleased that Sierra Club is building grassroots power by working in coalition with BIPOC-led organizations.

As Delaney Russell said, “This bill is meant to be one step in a long-term strategy a broken regulatory process. As we continue to build more partnerships with more community members, we will give space for environmental justice leaders to continue to lead and shape the strategy and vision for this bill.”

Marya Hart is the chair of the North Star Chapter Communications Team, pianist, and composer.

CLEAN CARS MINNESOTA: IT'S OFFICIAL!



Leonardo points to mom and dad's (Lucas and Sarah) new zero-emission electric car. Photo credit: Joshua Houdek

Minnesota is the First Clean Car State in the Midwest



Joshua Houdek

When Sarah and Lucas went shopping for their zero-emission electric car this summer, there were few options to choose from on Minnesota dealers' lots. In fact, they even considered ordering a car from out of state. "We were really surprised, especially living in the middle of the metro, that we couldn't find what we were looking for," they said. "We need more choices for clean ways to get where we need to go."

For families across Minnesota and adjoining states who want to save money, reduce climate pollution, and do their part to help clean the air, Clean

Cars MN will help. In July, Governor Walz announced that Minnesota is officially the 15th clean car state in the nation, in addition to the District of Columbia, and the first in the Midwest. Minnesota's Clean Car standards will require new cars and light trucks sold in the state to emit less climate-disrupting pollution. The standards will also increase the availability and sales of zero-emission cars.

"The success of Clean Cars MN was the direct result of tens of thousands of people showing up in support of Minnesota leading the way in the Midwest on this important policy that will help us act on climate and clean up

our air," said Margaret Levin, Director of the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter.

It was a long road to reach this landmark accomplishment: a 670-day journey, in fact. Sierra Club leaders from the local chapter and the national Clean Transportation for All campaign were leaders in multiple spaces, including Minnesotans for Clean Cars and the Coalition for Clean Transportation. We're proud to be the first state in the Midwest to sign onto these standards. There is still much more to do to expand clean transportation options for all Minnesotans — like more transit and safer biking and walking — but this is a significant step forward.

What's next? It's time to build momentum for electrifying our medium and heavy-duty vehicles in Minnesota. Polluting trucks and buses disproportionately contribute to our ongoing climate and public health crisis. Polluted air means higher rates of asthma and other severe respiratory diseases, as well as greater risks of hospitalization, lost work opportunities, and premature deaths. Public health burdens increase costs for families and businesses, and are disproportionately borne by communities of color and low-income communities.

California made history in 2020 by adopting the nation's first and most

ambitious clean truck rule, an effort led by environmental justice communities. The state's Advanced Clean Trucks rule requires manufacturers to produce zero-emission trucks beginning in 2024, and increases production targets through 2035. Californians will be breathing less dirty diesel fumes in the future; Minnesotans should too.

Fortunately, Lucas and Sarah finally found a zero-emission car in Minnesota, and are pleased with their choice. The car-buying process will be easier for other Minnesotans thanks to Clean Cars MN. The family needed to wait even longer for their utility company, Xcel Energy, to hook up power to their

new charger in the garage...but that's another story.

To learn more about electrification, or to get involved in promoting clean transportation options for all, contact joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org or 612-259-2447.

Joshua Houdek is Senior Program Manager for the Sierra Club North Star Chapter's Land Use and Transportation Campaign. He enjoys moving through the cities by bike, transit, or car if needed.

DON'T GIVE WINTER THE COLD SHOULDER

5 Activities to Help You Embrace Winter

Alec Olson

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SEASONS, SUMMER AND FALL GET ALL THE LOVE.

Spring is a bit unpredictable in Minnesota.

And then there's winter.

Some talk about it as if mourning, downtrodden by the end of their favorite season — dreading the inevitable arrival of the cold, the wind, the snow and ice.

But not all. Some Minnesotans embrace the formidable time of the year that brings frigid temperatures, hazardous driving conditions, and icy adversity.

Why? Do they know some sort of secret that the others don't?

It's likely they've learned to embrace the cold by finding an activity they enjoy. They've likely also embraced the famous Scandinavian saying: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes."

Minnesota offers beautiful landscapes year-round. Public lands, state parks, and recreational areas are a dream for outdoor enthusiasts experiencing winter cabin fever. And getting outside and exercising bring mental and physical health benefits that can help stave off the blues.

Here are five activities to consider trying this winter:



Photo credit: Alec Olson

1. SNOWSHOEING

If you're looking for a low-cost, low-commitment activity to enjoy the trail during the winter, look no further. You can rent snowshoes at state parks, recreation centers, outfitters and some retailers around the state for a nominal daily fee.

While they can feel awkward at first, a lightweight pair of snowshoes will become second nature before long. When you've hit your stride, the boundless winter expanses become your playground — but please follow Leave No Trace practices.

3 tips for beginners:

1. Try shorter, narrower, and lighter snowshoes while starting out.
2. Wear comfortable, waterproof hiking boots, and consider a pair of gaiters, which keep snow from getting in your boots..
3. Bring a set of trekking poles with snow baskets; they'll help stabilize you and pick up the pace in deep snow.



Photo credit: Chuck Dayton

2. COLD-WEATHER PHOTOGRAPHY

The winter presents new opportunities to discover and rediscover the natural world, and capture that beauty in a new light.

Be prepared, though.

Technology doesn't quite mesh with the cold. Batteries deplete rapidly and so can the warmth in your hands. Wear warm gloves that make it easy to handle your camera or phone (touchscreen compatible are a plus).

A Helpful Tip: Leave your camera in your camera bag or a backpack once you go inside. This will help your camera or phone warm up gradually and help prevent too much condensation from building up and potentially damaging your equipment.



Photo credit: Jenna Randerson

3. CROSS COUNTRY SKIING (OR EVEN SKIJORING)

The quintessential winter activity is cross country skiing. People have been skiing for thousands of years. It's an excellent way to take to the trails, burn some energy, and enjoy the winter wonderland that is Minnesota.

Naturally, you'll need the gear.

Before you run off to buy the latest and greatest, consider renting a pair of skis. Many recreation centers, local businesses, and state parks have skis and equipment available for rent at a nominal price.

And if you're feeling really ambitious, you may want to consider skijoring. Skijoring is like cross country skiing, but you're pulled by your best four-legged, canine friend (trying this with a cat likely wouldn't go over well).

A note of personal experience on skijoring: I picked up skijoring last year with no real cross country skiing experience (outside of one middle-school gym class). My dog loves to pull and loves the winter, so it's working out — but I've fallen down, gotten tangled, and had a few close calls on the trail. Newbies beware.

OLD MAN WINTER CAN OFFER A WARM WELCOME

Winter offers plenty of ways to stay busy, try new activities, and discover how beautiful the season can be.

Living in Minnesota, we have a host of seasoned winter enthusiasts who would gladly lend their expertise and advice for staying warm and enjoying wintry trails — and many are members or volunteers with the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Watch for winter activities, events and volunteer opportunities this season to get involved and embrace the cold.



Photo credit: Alec Olson

4. DOWNHILL SKIING OR SNOWBOARDING

While cross country skiing can be a cathartic, steady way to enjoy the wintry trails, it doesn't offer the same thrill you get with downhill skiing or snowboarding.

In Minnesota, there are no alpine routes or steep mountain slopes to send you barreling across snow at blistering speeds. Even so, Minnesota offers great skiing and snowboarding at several places around the state, from the North Shore to the Twin Cities. At these ski hills and resorts, you can rent gear, take lessons, and get burgers when you've had your fill of the slopes.

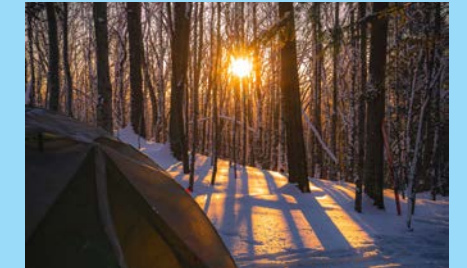


Photo credit: Alec Olson

5. WINTER CAMPING

Hardcore campers and backpackers looking for a challenge should consider winter camping. Winter camping is an excellent way to embrace the winter and all it offers. You immerse yourself in it, remain exposed around the clock, and learn to live outside when most others cozy up indoors.

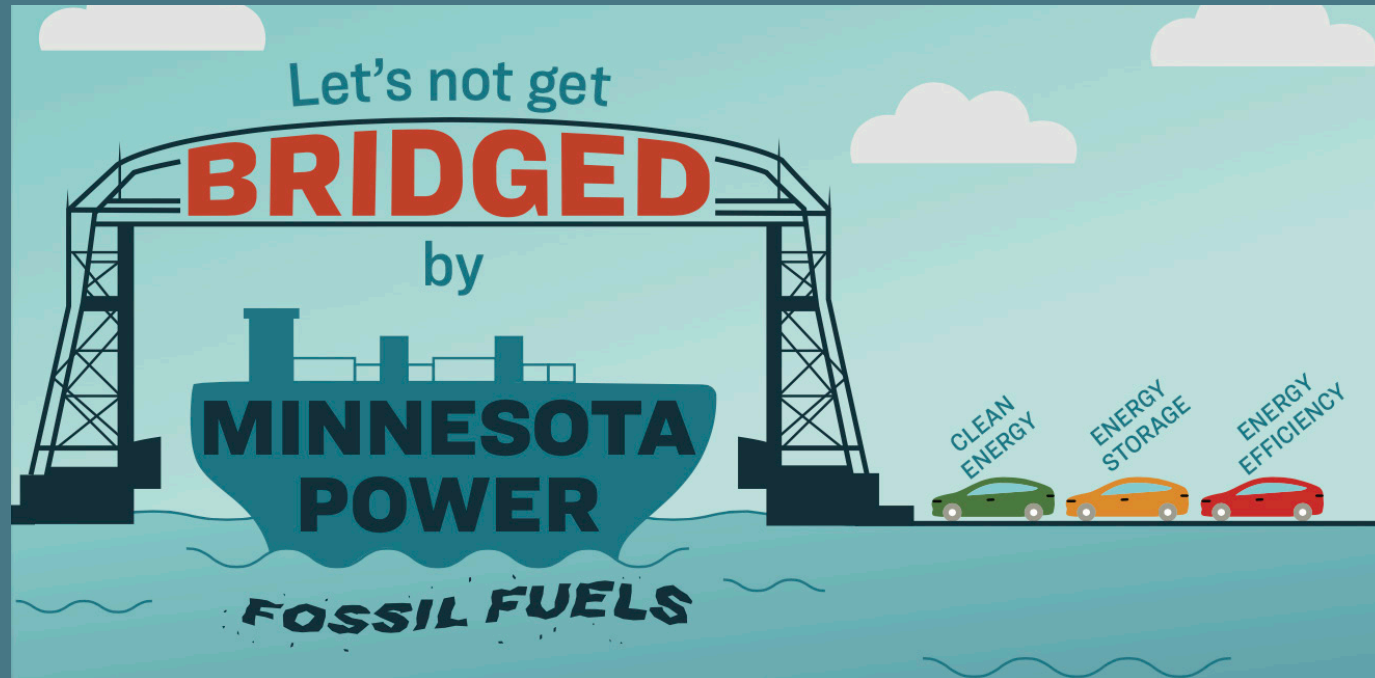
It's best to tag along with someone who's experienced and can show you the ropes, but several outfitters can supply you with gear, advice and even guides.

For first-timers, start by familiarizing yourself with these concepts:

- Hot Tents — Rent a canvas-walled tent that's compatible with a wood-fire stove. It's so, so cozy.
- Pulk Sleds — Instead of packing your gear on your back, you throw it on a sled or toboggan and haul it. Far more effective.
- Cold-weather Gear — Lithium batteries, high R-value camp pads, mittens with liners, extra wool socks. Some gear is better than others in the cold. Do your research.

Alec Olson is an editor of the North Star Journal, communications professional, and outdoor lover.

WE NEED 100% CLEAN ENERGY, NOT FOSSIL GAS



The Sierra Club in Duluth is asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to ensure that Minnesota Power commits to 100% clean energy in its next energy resource plan. You can join the call for 100% Clean Energy in the Northland by submitting a public comment to the PUC with the Sierra Club here: sc.org/MNPower.

Allan Campbell, John Krenn

WE MUST STOP BURNING COAL

Coal is our dirtiest fuel and has contributed most to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

But coal's replacement is not natural gas (or more accurately fossil gas, as we shall soon explain), for fossil gas also brings with it high GHG emissions, as well as health problems, safety issues, and high costs.

WHAT IS FOSSIL GAS? IT'S NOT A CLEAN SOURCE OF POWER

The term "natural gas" was created by the gas industry to connote purity, and industry spokespeople have long promoted it as a bridge to a clean energy future.

But the truth is that so-called natural gas is a fossil fuel mixture consisting primarily of methane. When released without burning (an industry practice encouraged by the Trump Administration), methane heats our planet 86 times faster over 20 years than the carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted

by coal-fired power plants, as reported in "How Bad Of A Greenhouse Gas is Methane" in *Scientific American*. When burned by power plants, it produces half the CO2 of burning coal, on top of the methane emissions that leak during extraction and transportation through pipelines to the plant.

"Methane" and "fossil gas" are more accurate terms for what the industry calls natural gas and we shall use the words "fossil gas" in place of "natural gas" in this article.

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF FOSSIL GAS?

Fossil gas has multiple health and safety risks, which are not mentioned by the gas industry as they brag about their "clean burning" fuel. As independent climate policy researcher Dr. Melissa Partin has noted in the report *Energy We Can't Afford*, fossil gas exposes consumers and gas industry workers to serious health risks from a variety of hazardous pollutants.

Fossil gas harms hearts and lungs, and causes asthma and cancer. Dr. Partin also notes that the process of extracting, transporting, and burning fossil gas contaminates drinking water and depletes water reserves, triggers earthquakes, and leads to life-threatening carbon monoxide leaks and gas explosions.

A significant amount of the harm to the climate caused by fossil gas results from unburned gas escaping during fracking, extraction, and transport. In addition, oil and gas drillers waste huge amounts of fossil gas in oil fields by flaring off gas at the field.

Although Minnesota does not have deposits of fossil gas, it does support the fossil gas fracking industry by supplying silica sand for fracking. Silica sand mining requires huge volumes of water which can be contaminated by chemicals.

WHO'S MOST AT RISK?

According to Dr. Partin, "fossil gas production and use disproportionately harm people of color and residents living in poverty." She notes that these groups are more exposed to outdoor pollution because they are often located in areas of fossil gas production and use.

BIPOC and low-income populations are also more exposed to indoor gas pollution due to lower quality heating appliances and use of gas ovens as a supplemental heat source. They are also more likely to live in areas affected by climate change, exposing them to flooding, extreme weather events, and air pollution.

NEW FOSSIL GAS PLANTS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR A RELIABLE GRID

Electric utility companies claim that new fossil gas plants are needed because renewable sources of power, such as solar and wind, are not yet dependable enough to provide a steady stream of power.

However, in reviewing Xcel Energy's plans for new fossil fuel plants in its territory, the Sierra Club hired scientific experts who developed an alternative plan known as the "Clean Energy for All Plan". The "Clean Energy For All Plan" shows we could provide reliable power with no new fossil fuel plants by investing more in community solar and storage while also saving customers \$2.2 billion over the next 15 years.

Utility companies have been lulled into thinking fossil gas is a cheap fuel source following the last few years when its wholesale price hovered in the \$2 to \$3 per BTU range.

But recently the price has jumped to \$5 per BTU as supply has fallen after a cutback in drilling during the pandemic and as demand for gas for industrial uses has recovered. The current price, however, is nothing compared with prices that were regularly above \$10 during the 2010s, as reported by the *Star Tribune*. And we should not forget the one-time surge in fossil gas prices last winter when the polar vortex hit Texas, causing gas field equipment to freeze up and sending wholesale prices up by 4,500% on a short-term basis.

There is no ongoing cost for the fuel that generates wind and solar power. In addition, technological innovation and economies of scale are lowering the costs of installing these clean and renewable energy sources.

In the United States, clean energy power sources like wind and solar are already cheaper to build than new gas-powered electricity plants and are expected to be cheaper to operate than 90% of existing gas plants by 2035, again according to Partin's research.

This means that it will be uneconomical

to operate fossil gas plants for their full intended life spans, which can be up to 50 years. When these plants are retired early, the utility, and ultimately its customers, will still be saddled with the debt from building them, which remains on the utility's books throughout the plant's anticipated useful life (these are known as "stranded costs").

In light of all these problems with relying on fossil gas, our future investments in energy research and production should focus on wind, solar, energy storage, and other carbon-free sources.

Fossil gas, with its attendant GHG emissions, health and safety risks, unpredictable expenses, and stranded costs, is not worth the risk.

We don't need it in our homes, our businesses, or our communities. We need cleaner, alternative sources of energy, and we need them now. That's why the Sierra Club and partners are working towards 100% clean & equitable energy and opposing efforts by Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Rochester Public Utilities Commission to build new fossil gas plants and pipelines.

Allan Campbell is a member of the Clean Energy Team and a retired Chartered Financial Analyst who moved from New Jersey to Minnesota in 2013, taking no chances against the risk of rising sea level.

John Krenn is chair of the Clean Energy Team and the chair of the Legislative Team. He is a retired lawyer and is pleased to work with the North Star Chapter to take action on the climate crisis.

RIGHTS OF MANOOMIN

Frank Bibeau, attorney for the manoomin, and his dad harvesting manoomin in 1996.

“ALL WE ARE DEMANDING IS THAT THOSE TREATIES BE HONORED, AND MANOOMIN RECOGNIZED AS HAVING THE SACRED STATUS AS RECOGNIZED BY TRIBAL LAW”.

Frank Bibeau

SJ Spitzer

The Sierra Club has been active in various legal battles seeking to protect our shared natural resources, including several attempts to stop the Line 3 pipeline, most of which have been rejected in the courts. One court case that is still ongoing is brought by the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. The White Earth Band is using an innovative approach known as “Rights of Nature” to protect the land: suing the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on behalf of manoomin (wild rice).

The DNR issued a water appropriation permit to Enbridge Energy which grants Enbridge the right to use 5 billion gallons of water for its Line 3 pipeline project. The tribe is arguing Enbridge’s use of this water endangers manoomin, and is seeking to invalidate the permit.

The White Earth Band is one of eleven federally recognized tribes in Minnesota. Each tribe has its own government, recognized by Minnesota and the United States, and each passes and enforces its own laws. Typically, these laws apply only to citizens of the tribes and to activities that take place on reservations. The DNR and its commissioners generally are not subject to the laws of the individual tribes.

But this case might be different. The 1837 and 1855 treaties between the Ojibwe tribes and Minnesota ceded land, but reserved hunting, fishing, gathering, and resource management rights and responsibilities to the Ojibwe Tribes. And treaty rights supersede state laws and regulations.

In 2018, the White Earth Band and the 1855 Treaty Authority,

the inter-tribal group which manages and defends Native resources, each passed a resolution establishing the rights of manoomin. According to these resolutions, manoomin “possesses inherent rights to exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve, as well as inherent rights to restoration, recovery, and preservation.” Manoomin’s rights include pure water, a healthy climate system, the right to be free from patenting, and from drift from genetically modified organisms. Both the Treaty Authority and the Band assert power to enforce these rights.

In the United States, every lawsuit must have a person or entity that was injured before you have a case. Most court systems in the United States do not recognize the rights of insentient beings such as manoomin. That’s why it’s important that the White Earth Band is suing the DNR in their tribal court: they have a law guaranteeing the rights of manoomin.

In response, the DNR argued that the White Earth Band cannot sue it in tribal court because the White Earth court doesn’t have jurisdiction over a Minnesota governmental department, and Minnesota has sovereign immunity in White Earth court. The DNR tried to get an injunction against the case in United States federal court, possibly to move the case to federal court, where the rights of manoomin would not apply. The federal court did not grant the injunction, and the DNR now has to go through the White Earth Tribal Court process to defend its decision to approve Enbridge’s permit.

“All we are demanding is that those Treaties be honored, and manoomin recognized as having the sacred status as recognized by tribal law,” said Frank Bibeau, attorney for the manoomin, in an August 4, 2021 press release from Honor the Earth.

If the water protectors succeed in this lawsuit, they will strengthen tribal sovereignty and pave the way for more lawsuits that recognize the rights of nature. Rights of nature is a growing legal movement that asserts that nature in all its life forms has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles. The ecosystem can be named as an injured party, with its own legal standing, according to the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. This is the second rights of nature case brought in 2021; it is an exciting, powerful case that we are eagerly tracking.

SJ Spitzer, Esq., was inspired by their years of volunteering for the Sierra Club to go to law school. Now that they’re done, they’re eager to explain what they’ve learned for everyone else! In their free time, they like exploring the disability-friendly natural wonders of Minnesota and knitting.

LOOKING BACK ON THIS SUMMER'S MOVEMENT TO STOP LINE 3



Photo credit: Keri Pickett

TREATY PEOPLE GATHERING, JUNE



During the Treaty People Gathering in June, water protectors entered Enbridge sites and locked down to equipment, delaying construction. Photo credit: Keri Pickett

WOMEN FOR THE WATER, JULY



Winona LaDuke and other water protectors were arrested shortly after the Women for the Water rally in July, which was attended by Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. Photo credit: Sarah LitteRedFeather, Honor the Earth.

TREATIES NOT TAR SANDS - WALK FOR WATER, AUGUST



The Walk for Water and Treaties not Tar Sands action in August brought water protectors to the MN State Capitol, where they were met with blockades and law enforcement. Photo credit: Red Lake Treaty Camp

THE SQUAD VISITS MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER



Members of "The Squad" visit northern Minnesota on September 4 to hear Indigenous leaders speak about Line 3 and the experiences of the summer. Photo credit: Indigenous Environmental Network

Sophia Pechaty

The fight to Stop Line 3 came to a head in the summer of 2021, with thousands of people involved in a variety of tactics to protect our clean water and honor our treaties with Indigenous people. The Sierra Club and our partner organizations, led by Indigenous groups, organized mass mobilizations of people at the frontlines, our State Capitol, and Washington, D. C. Since construction began in the winter, more than 1,500 people have been arrested while peacefully demanding an end to this environmental disaster.

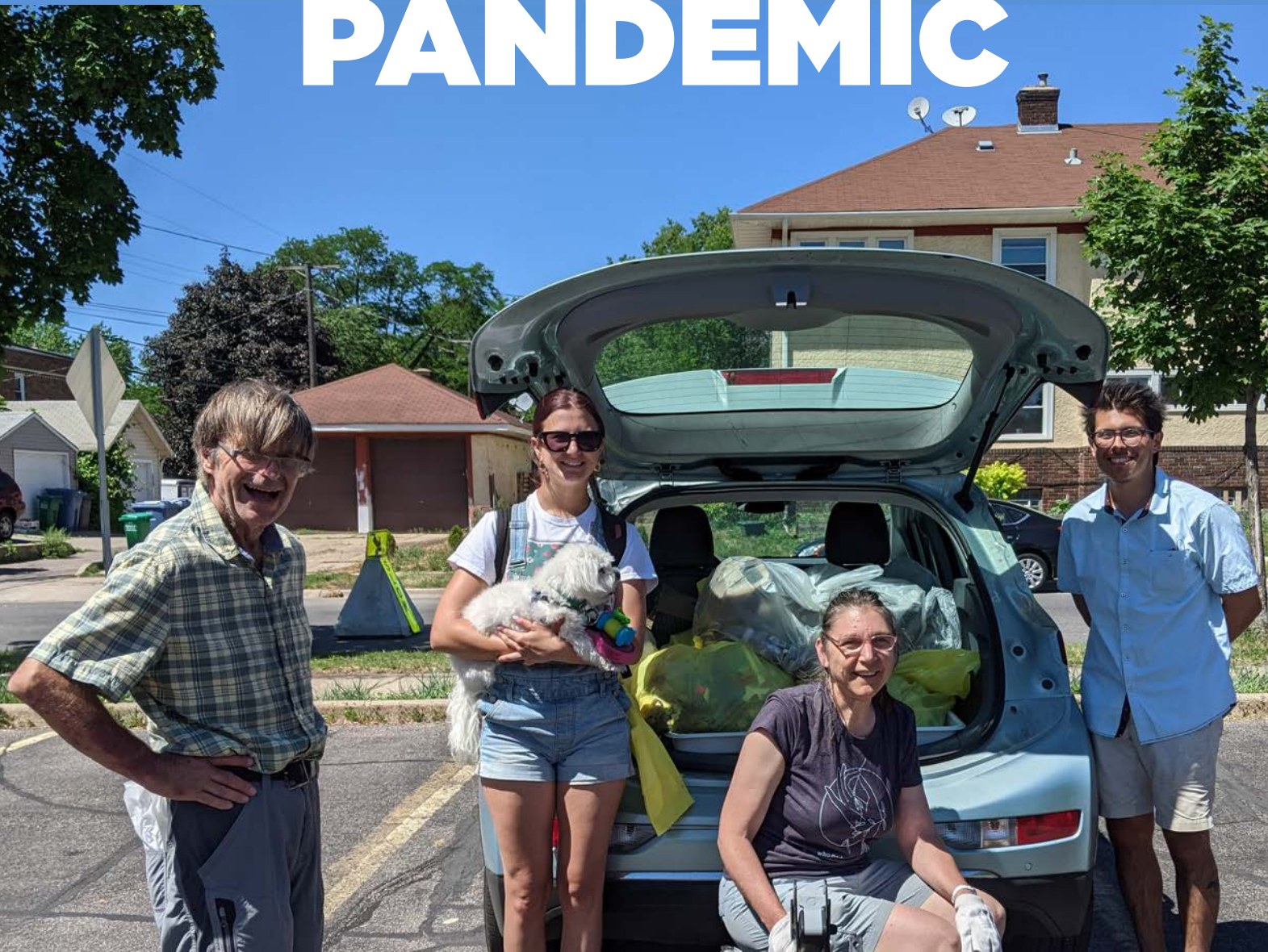
Although Line 3 became operational at the beginning of October, our fight is not over. As we grieve this loss together, we look back on our past successes and are reminded of the courageous, beautiful community that we've built. We are taking the lessons learned

over the past several years and continuing to fight for climate, water, and Indigenous rights.

We continue to pursue legal changes which, if successful, will set a better precedent for water protectors to use in future fights. We continue to stand with water protectors, supporting those who remain in frontline camps over the winter and aiding those who now face lengthy legal battles. We also remember that the Biden administration can still shut down Line 3, and other fossil fuel projects. We must demand that our elected officials stop investing in dirty infrastructure, and start building back sustainably.

Sophia Pechaty is a former Sierra Club intern and current communications lead with the Stop Line 3 Team. In her free time she loves crocheting, hanging out with her family, and breaking in her hiking boots.

VOLUNTEERING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Members of the Zero Waste Team following a trash pick-up event.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE SIERRA CLUB RIGHT NOW?

Life in 2021 has continued to bring us challenges and changes that seem to be daily. Despite this the Sierra Club has continued to protect our communities and planet — largely powered by our volunteers. We've asked volunteers from different parts of the Sierra Club to share what their experiences have been like in 2021.

FEELING INSPIRED? PLEASE JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER AND FIND DETAILS ON VOLUNTEER TEAMS ON THE BACK COVER.



Satish - 4th from the left

SATISH DESAI, CLEAN ENERGY TEAM AND SIERRAVOTES

"I got vaccinated last April, and while we still haven't started meeting in person, it has meant one big change: door-knocking is back! This year brings an important election in Minneapolis, for our mayor, for city council and possible amendments to our city charter. A lot is on the line from how we approach public safety and the potential for a mayor who is a true climate champion. Getting back into meeting face-to-face with voters has been a refreshing change of pace from pandemic lockdowns. As an added bonus, the weather has been perfect most of the times that I have been out!"

DELANEY RUSSELL, CHANGE & EQUITY TEAM

"For me, the isolation of social distancing has made me realize even more how much our well-being depends on caring relationships with each other. At the Sierra Club, I can be part of work to embrace deep interrelationship with the broader environmental, social, and racial justice movements as a whole."



Delaney - Top row, 2nd from left

SHANNA WOODS, POLITICAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

"Being on the Sierra Club's political committee is just so darn cool. I love that the Sierra Club is formally taking a stand and using our political power and capital to fight for our values. I think this is really cool and courageous. The Sierra Club Political Committee is the most sincere, honest thing I am doing that actually has tangible results for the people and communities I care about."

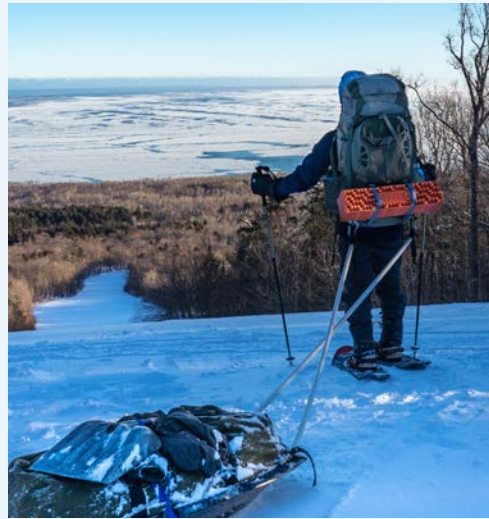


LORI OLINGER, ZERO WASTE TEAM CHAIR

"I've missed being able to get together with our Zero Waste Team in person but we did have a chance to have our July meeting at Lake Harriet. It was a beautiful evening and very fun to see everyone. We've gotten together to do a few trash pickups and also an outreach event in White Bear Lake. We've also realized that Zoom meetings work well. We appreciate not driving and we've been able to include people from Greater Minnesota. We're planning to keep the Zoom option even if/when we start meeting in person again."



Lori - 2nd from the left



LOCAL OUTINGS

LET'S GET TOGETHER OUTSIDE

Join us to enjoy our parks this winter, build relationships, learn about environmental issues and how to help. We are building a multicultural group of people of all ages. No experience necessary, all fitness levels welcome. We will be meeting at various locations across the metro and possibly greater Minnesota.

Details at
sierraclub.org/minnesota/outings



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CHAPTER CHAIR

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kamau.wilkins@northstar.sierraclub.org

VICE CHAIR

Kate Brauman
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SECRETARY

Lois Norrgard
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TREASURER

Drew Davis
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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

John Krenn
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CONSERVATION CHAIR

Mat Hollinshead
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LEGAL CHAIR

Michelle Weinberg
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LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Peter Wagenius
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Please Vote for your Chapter Leaders

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

There are 15 members of the ExCom, elected by members of the Sierra Club in Minnesota for rotating three-year terms.

Members reflect a diversity of backgrounds and talents, brought together by their common interest in environmental protection, and a commitment to help the chapter thrive and grow.



Constance Carlson
Buffalo

I grew up on an organic farm in western Minnesota and have a deep connection to soil, water, and community action. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact humans can have on natural resources when they intentionally commit themselves to the lifelong work of environmental stewardship. My family farm is a place of refuge, for both me and the birds, pollinators, plants, and animals that call it home. (It's one of the few places in the state where I regularly see red-headed woodpeckers!) I work for UMN Extension-Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships supporting communities across Minnesota to lead place-based sustainability projects. We are currently working with UMN climate expert, Heidi Roop, on a program that will help Minnesotans learn how to talk to their neighbors about climate change. A key part of my work is connecting growers and businesses with the UMN Forever Green Initiative, a research platform developing new crops that protect the soil and improve water quality while also providing economic opportunity so that farmers and communities can thrive. I'm interested in joining the Sierra Club Executive Committee to deepen my commitment to environmental stewardship and action, while also sharing my lived experience of caring for the land and community through my life and work.



Marty Cobenais
Bemidji

Boozhoo, My name is Marty Cobenais, I am a current ExCom member and have been for 13 years. I am an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band and reside in Bemidji, MN. I am also a hereditary chief of the Pembina Treaty Council.

Most of you have known me as a opponent for pipeline through my work with the Indigenous Environmental Network. Since leaving that employment I have been elected 2 times to the Clearwater Co. Soil and Water District. I was a leader with Sierra Club and came up with the arrest-able event in Bemidji a couple of years ago. I am a strong advocate for social justice issues and respecting all people. I believe in the indigenous way of thinking in that we must plan and make decisions for seven generations. I would like to thank you for your support for the past several years and for your support for the next 3 years to help lead the charge to protect the precious environment we hold sacred in Minnesota.



Drew Davis
Minneapolis

I have served as part of the Executive Committee for the last three years, first starting as Assistant Treasurer and then stepping up as Treasurer last year to fill a vacant seat. I am grateful to have the opportunity to utilize my background in accounting and finance to help the chapter manage its finances. I have strong faith in the mission of the Sierra Club and I am constantly amazed by the work put in by staff and volunteers of the North Star chapter. I am a transplant to Minnesota, but now call this great state home. I want current and future generations to experience the beauty of this state, as well as live in strong and equitable communities. I have witnessed how the chapter fights for these causes and I would be honored to continue offering my skillset and perspectives on the Executive Committee in service of the chapter.



Katie Eukel
Minneapolis

I've been an active volunteer with the Sierra Club for more than a decade, and I proudly served as chair of the Executive Committee for several years. This work is a deeply meaningful part of my life. In many ways, I've grown up with the Sierra Club, and it would be an honor to continue serving as a member of the Executive Committee. In my professional life, I'm a principal at Seiche, which is a strategy and communications consultancy focused on social impact. Every day, I work with clients committed to addressing climate change, advancing clean energy and protecting our wild places, among other issues. I work in Minnesota, and I work across the country. It's work that I carry with me when I serve on the Executive Committee; the Sierra Club is part of a network working to advance climate justice and build a healthy, multiracial democracy. We need a Sierra Club, now more than ever. I'm especially excited about the Chapter's work to build our political power through the lenses of equity and environmental justice, which is necessary to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. I'm committed to ensuring that the Chapter grows and diversifies our membership to achieve our ambitious goals, and I would appreciate your support in continuing to serve on the Executive Committee.

Candidate statements continued on next page



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

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

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

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

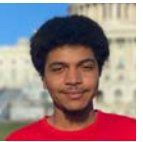
(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
myplan.sierraclub.org





Marilea Griggs
Minneapolis

I am a proud Minneapolis southsider and was born and raised in Minnesota. My educational background is in Environmental Science and I'm a member of the solar energy industry. My top issue is making an impact on climate change. Right out of college I spent 4 years in environmental organizing and fundraising but ultimately shifted my focus to clean energy to maximize my impact on climate. For the past 5 years, I've been project managing solar installations on the residential, large commercial, and Community Solar Garden scale. In my current role, I co-lead Target's solar program and oversee the operations and maintenance of the solar arrays on Target stores and distribution centers nationwide in support of our commitment to being a net zero enterprise by 2040. Independent of my environmental work, I am passionate about local politics and my southside community. I spent this fall deep canvass phone banking with the Yes on 2 campaign to create the Department of Public Safety. I'm energized by issues the Sierra Club is working on. Line 3 runs through the Nemadji River Watershed where my in-laws live so I look forward to making an impact on this and many other important issues.



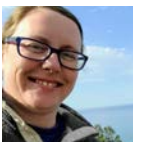
Sasha Lewis-Norelle
Minneapolis

I've been an environmental activist and organizer for over three years now, fighting for environmental justice wherever I can. I started with divestment organizing at Macalester College, and have grown substantially as an organizer and activist as I fought Line 3, engaged other youth in activism, and work in my current job with Clean Water Action. At this point, fighting for our environment and justice has become my daily life, for which I am incredibly grateful. I've had the pleasure of working with Sierra Club before, especially on Line 3, and know how dedicated the organizers and volunteers are. The fight for justice, equity, and a livable, flourishing future is long and grueling. There is so much change to fight for, but I am forever grateful for the people and communities I get to work with. This is a key moment in history as we work to address the systemic issues that have caused environmental racism, the climate crisis, racial injustice and inequity, and so much more. I am dedicated to keep up the fight, to ensure that my own and future generations have clean air and water, a just and livable future, and the beautiful world they deserve.



Peter Teigland
Minneapolis

It's been my pleasure to serve on the Chapter's Political Committee for the last 9 years, where we've worked to identify and organize for political candidates that will push for racial and social equity and environmental justice. As an energy lawyer and advocate for solar in Minnesota, my professional work focuses on accelerating the clean energy transition. I believe passionately that tackling the climate crisis will also strengthen energy democracy, create good-paying jobs, and combat environmental injustices. It always demands good work, and sometimes requires good trouble. I try to spend as much time in Minnesota's wild spaces as I can—especially with my spouse, our toddler, and our dog—and especially in the Fall. It's my hope to be of service to the ExCom, and put to new work my experience in political organizing and clean energy advocacy.



Shannon Walz
Finland

"Imagination shared creates collaboration, and collaboration creates community, and community inspires social change." - Terry Tempest Williams
I love this Terry Tempest Williams quote because I believe that it captures the possibility for where we stand in our history right now. We are facing enormous social and environmental problems that are calling for us to examine the systems that we have created and their impact on people and the planet. I am excited about the work that the Sierra Club is doing to be part of building more just systems that support people and the planet. I would love the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of the North Star Chapter to share my skills and help the Chapter achieve its vision for the future. My career has been in Environmental Education and Community Engagement - most recently with Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center; and also on the West Coast in WA, OR, CA. I have been working to connect people with the natural world and wild places to foster love and care for our special places. In the last few years, I have expanded my focus to working with communities and organizations to build capacity and inspire change.



Sarah Wovcha
St. Paul

My first experience in environmental activism was in 1971 as a 4 year old in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where my siblings and I tabled to raise awareness about Gray Wolves. My family, originally from the Iron Range of Minnesota, has spent part of every summer of my life at an old log cabin along the Canadian border. When Voyageurs National Park was established in the region we recognized it as a critical factor in saving the wild character of the land. As I visit there with my own children now we face new threats begging renewed activism, including proposed copper/nickel mining that would impact the region's watershed. As a lawyer with a masters degree in public health, I will bring to the Executive Committee a life long passion for Minnesota's wild places as well as expertise in evidence-based advocacy. As the director of a non-profit serving low-income children for the past 21 years and a past long-time director of the Wedge Community Coop, I will bring twenty-six years of experience in successfully serving mission-driven organizations. I am most excited to support the North Star Chapter in improving sustained access to outdoor opportunities for disadvantaged children and families.

ELECTION BALLOT FOR NORTH STAR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022

Please vote for up to seven candidates:

	MEMBERS VOTE HERE	JOINT MEMBERS VOTE HERE	
Constance Carlson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marty Cobenais	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drew Davis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Katie Eukel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marilea Griggs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sasha Lewis-Norelle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peter Teigland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shannon Walz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sarah Wovcha	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-ins:			
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**PLEASE VOTE FOR 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
DEADLINE FOR VOTING IS JANUARY 4, 2022.**

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

To vote by mail:

- Your member number is printed above your mailing address on the back of the ballot. This will be used to verify membership; however, your vote will be kept confidential.
- Please read the candidate statements provided.
- Vote for up to seven candidates of your choice by clearly marking "X" in the box next to their names on the ballot, or by writing in a non-listed candidate's name on the line provided. Joint memberships are allowed two votes. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate).
- Place your ballot in an envelope and mail it to be received by January 4, 2022 to:

Elections Committee
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Avenue, Suite 260
St. Paul, MN 55114

To vote by email:

- Locate your membership number which is printed above your mailing address on the back of the ballot. Your vote will be kept confidential, but this number is required to verify membership.
- Please read the candidate statements provided.
- Vote for up to seven candidates of your choice by listing them on an email message to ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org. You may write in one non-listed candidate's name. Joint memberships are allowed two votes. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate).
- Send your email message to ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org before January 4, 2022 at 5 p.m.
- The chapter plans to send an electronic ballot to current member addresses within our system. If duplicate votes are received, the most recent vote will be considered valid.

Current members of the North Star Chapter ExCom:

TERM EXPIRES 2021	TERM EXPIRES 2022	TERM EXPIRES 2023
MARTY COBENAIS	LUTHER DALE	DAWN GOODWIN
DREW DAVIS	LOIS NORRGARD	MICHELLE HESTERBERG
KATIE EUKEL	TOM THOMPSON	KRISTEL PORTER
HANNAH SMITH	ALICIA UZAREK	KAMAU WILKINS
SARAH WOVCHA		



or current resident

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
nancy.vezner@northstar.sierraclub.org
marcy.leussler@northstar.sierraclub.org

Land Use & Transportation, 1st Monday at 6:00 PM
alex.burns@northstar.sierraclub.org

Zero Waste, 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM
lori.olinger@northstar.sierraclub.org

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

GEOGRAPHIC TEAMS: Organize in your city for 100% Clean Energy, the environment and your community.

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

Duluth, Times vary
jenna.yeakle@sierraclub.org

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

STEWARDS TEAMS: Research, monitor and advocate for environmental issues.

Forests and Wildlife Stewards, 2nd Monday at 7:00 PM
bob.graves@northstar.sierraclub.org

Waters and Wetlands Stewards, 2nd Monday at 7:00 PM
steve.ring@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;
erik.hillesheim@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.
Events restarting, mary.blitzer@sierraclub.org

Inspiring Connections Outdoors: 2nd Sunday at 4:00 PM
Help plan activities and events that provide access to and inspire new connections to the outdoors, among individuals, and between communities. mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org