



JOURNAL

PIPELINES UPDATE: BEYOND OIL AND TAR SANDS

Isabel Watson

It was a busy summer and fall for the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee as we continued to fight the proposed expansion of oil pipelines across Minnesota. Because of the great work of Minnesotans and partner organizations across the state this summer we defeated the Sandpiper Pipeline! Enbridge Energy, the owner of Sandpiper and Line 3 pulled their investment from Sandpiper and moved that money to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Our victory placed pressure on our neighbors in Iowa and North Dakota fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline; we support the water protectors making a stand at the Sacred Stone Camp and throughout the proposed Dakota Access Line.

The Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee is committed to continuing to fight and resist pipelines. Currently we are working to support the fight against Dakota Access, a 1,168 mile long pipeline from the Bakken Oil field through North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. The main resistance to this pipeline is coming from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Because the pipeline would cross the Missouri River, a spill would contaminate the tribe's main water source and they would be the first of many communities along the Missouri River impacted by a spill. We have been working to elevate the indigenous voices and going forward we are going to continue supporting the Standing Rock camp's resistance of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Along with fighting the Dakota Access pipeline, we are also continuing our local efforts here in Minnesota, resisting Line 3. Line 3 is an existing Enbridge pipeline that carries tar sands oil from Alberta through Northern Minnesota to Superior WI and on to refineries. It is an old, corroded pipeline that is operating under capacity because even Enbridge knows it would be unsafe to operate with any more tar sands moving through. Enbridge's proposal is that the current pipeline would be abandoned and left in the ground while the "replacement" would follow the proposed Sandpiper route and have more capacity than the old one. The Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee will continue to fight the abandonment of the old Line 3 and resist the creation

"Tar Sands" continues on page 5

VICTORY: CLEAN ENERGY PLAN FOR SHERCO APPROVED



SJ Spitzer, Sierra Club Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee Co-Chair, speaks at a press conference outside the PUC.

On October 13, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a 15-year energy plan for Xcel Energy that answered Minnesotans' call to retire the Sherco Coal Plant Units 1 & 2—the largest source of carbon pollution in the state, together producing 1500 megawatts (MW)—and maximize wind, solar and energy efficiency.

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter is celebrating five years of work on Sherco and two years of effort around Xcel Energy's

resource plan, alongside our allies including Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Fresh Energy, Wind on the Wires, and many others.

This decision "answers the appeals from over 10,000 Minnesotans who submitted comments in support of this responsible transition beyond coal to wind, solar, and more energy savings," said Rose Thelen, a Sierra Club community leader from Clearwater.

"Plan for Sherco" continues on page 7

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Katie Eukel



Margaret Levin

Dear supporters,

It's difficult to accept. The next U.S. President is a climate denier who ran a hate-filled campaign and now surrounds himself with advisors promoting white nationalism, bigotry and dangerous ignorance.

We have seen shocking violence against peaceful water protectors at Standing Rock, and an increase in hate crimes and racist attacks across the nation.

Anti-environment majorities now lead the state House and Senate.

Values we hold dear – sustainability, equality, and community – are threatened. Our democracy is at risk. And Minnesota's clean air, clean water and wild places are in danger.

When the new state Legislature begins meeting in early January, there will be attempts to roll back our most basic protections. But we must not lose sight of our vision for the future and our path toward:

- Clean Energy – Ensuring a racially and economically just transition beyond fossil fuels, accelerating state goals for wind and solar energy, and halting the expansion of dirty tar sands pipelines
- Transportation Options – Expanding public transit, bicycling and pedestrian options across the state, and securing full funding for an equitable, efficient and sustainable transportation system
- Clean Water – Upholding clean water standards and stopping proposed sulfide ore mines from polluting Lake Superior, the Boundary Waters, and communities that depend on these waters

We now find ourselves in a uniquely frightening political climate that will test our personal and collective strength. But this is our work -- facing powerful opponents, defying expectations and the status quo to create a better future that did not seem possible.

While we are accustomed to being outspent, we are not outnumbered.

In the months and years ahead, we will focus our efforts to:

- Block and resist any rollbacks to fundamental environmental protections
- Build a stronger movement for justice; standing with all communities against hate, discrimination, and anti-immigrant attacks
- Celebrate and continue to organize around local victories for clean energy, transportation options, green spaces and wild places
- Expand our network of pro-environment leaders, volunteers and supporters
- Continue making progress on climate action, which may be slowed, but cannot - and must not - be stopped.

As we prepare for the most difficult fights of our history, we are heartened by your support, and by the knowledge that we will find strength in working together.

Thanks for all you have done – and for the courageous work you are about to do.

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

Margaret Levin,
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter



The North Star Journal

USPS 099-070

ISSN No. 0746-1692

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 an intercultural, anti-racist organization and partnering with communities and organizations to eradicate all forms of oppression.

The North Star Journal is published bi-annually by the North Star Chapter (Minnesota) of the Sierra Club, 2327 E. Franklin Ave, Suite 1, Minneapolis MN 55406. The North Star Journal has a circulation of 11,873 for the Winter 2016 issue.

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

POSTMASTER

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

THE NORTH STAR JOURNAL STAFF

Editor: Jeremy Stahl

Art Director/Production: Brian Bradshaw

Postage Coordinator: Vicki Munson,
Brian Bradshaw

Contributing writers: Isabel Watson, David Cremons, Galen Ryan, Bruce Snyder, Laura Huepenbecker, Amy Freeman, Lori Andresen, Elanne Palcich, Ilana Solomon, Ben Beachy, Scott Russell, Danette Knickmeier.

Copy Editors: Danette Knickmeier, Jenny Kedward

ADVERTISING RATES (W x D)

Full	9.5w x 12h	\$1000
Half	9.5w x 7.5h	\$600
Third	3.75w x 12	\$400
Sixth	7w x 3h or 3.5w x 7h	\$200
Ninth	3.5w x 3h	\$135
Twelfth	3.5w x 2h	\$100

• All sizes measured in inches, width x height

• All ads must be camera ready

Ads and checks (made out to Sierra Club North Star Chapter) should be sent to the editor at the Chapter office. (See address above under postmaster information).

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.

The North Star Journal is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

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

This publication is available on the web
www.sierraclub.org/minnesota

SIERRA CLUB OFFICE ADDS SOLAR, INCREASES ENERGY SAVINGS

DAVID CREMONS



Solar panel installation on the roof of 2327 E. Franklin Avenue. Photo Credit: Joshua Houdek

Thanks to a forward-thinking landlord, the North Star Chapter's office on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis is now powered by solar energy. Sierra Club has long been at the forefront of the movement for clean, renewable energy, but limits on its ownership of facilities have made it difficult for local offices to participate directly. In Minneapolis, that changed in the past year when Abdur Omer, the long-time owner of the Franklin Avenue building, decided to pursue a solar energy solution. The building houses the Sierra Club, Shabelle Grocery and other offices.

According to Joshua Houdek, the North Star Chapter's Land Use and Transportation Program Manager, Omer wished to take greater control of his electric costs and to make a statement in support of renewable energy. Working with Novel Energy Solutions based in St. Charles, Minnesota, he obtained planning expertise and financing for a rooftop solar cell array. The system provides electric service for the entire building and excess power generated is sold to the electric utility. It was installed without cost to our Chapter and it is expected to generate long-term utility costs savings.

"We were pleased that our landlord would choose to do something so directly supportive of the Sierra Club's goals," said Mr. Houdek. "Our local office is pursuing a number of energy focused initiatives covering everything from mass transit to

coal-fired power plant emissions. To have our offices become an example of the progress that can be made is gratifying."

Also this fall, the Chapter was approached by the Seward Neighborhood business association about an opportunity to take advantage of a lighting efficiency program. Through the City of Minneapolis' Green Business Cost Share Program, funding is offered to encourage energy efficiency improvements for Minneapolis businesses through grants from the City and rebates from Xcel Energy.

Representatives from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Energy Smart program worked closely with the Sierra Club to recommend upgrades, explain the process and prepare application for a rebate from Xcel Energy, which covered about 25% of the total cost of replacing all overhead florescent bulbs with LEDs, and removing the old ballasts from the fixtures.

"It was a great partnership between the business community, the power company and the City to help encourage local small businesses to take advantage of energy efficient technology that is now available," said Chapter Coordinator Vicki Munson, who shepherded the Sierra Club through the process from beginning to end.

David Cremons is a volunteer leader with the Communications Team.

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 northstar.sierraclub.org/donate to give online, or contact us: 612-659-9124 or margaret.levin@sierraclub.org. Thank you for your generous support!



JUSTIN FAY RECEIVES WILLARD MUNGER AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Each year a leader in the environmental community is selected by the Minnesota DFL to receive the Willard Munger Award for Distinguished Environmental Stewardship. This auspicious award was presented to our very own Justin Fay at the 2016 Founders Day Dinner on October 21.



Justin's career has included a variety of roles in Minnesota's environmental community. He began work with the Sierra Club North Star Chapter in 2009 and now directs the Sierra Club's Minnesota legislative activities and provides support for the Club's electoral programs.

The award is named for Representative Willard Munger, who represented portions of Duluth and St. Louis County in the Minnesota House for over 42 years. A pioneer of environmental legislation, Munger was known as "Mr. Environment," helping to shape every major conservation law in Minnesota during his decades in office.

Please join us in congratulating Justin Fay on this outstanding recognition of his work and leadership.

POLICY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES SHOULD HAPPEN NOW

GALEN RYAN



The North Star Chapter's Land Use and Transportation Committee recently hosted a presentation about Drive Together MPLS, which is initiating a public-private-community collaborative effort to provide planning and create public policy around the use of autonomous vehicles (AVs – also commonly referred to as “driverless cars”). It is widely predicted that this technology will be commercially available within the next five years.

So often, technology shows us what it is capable of, then

communities and governing bodies are left to write policy or design within those limitations. Drive Together MPLS promotes having policy discussions earlier on so as to influence the technology to adapt to our needs.

I was thankful to hear this presentation as, all too often, I consider discussions around AV technology to be an alluring distraction from the real work that can be done now to increase the efficiency of our transit systems and city layouts. But Drive Together MPLS illuminates the discussion that will be needed in order for AV technology to be useful and for our communities to thrive in the future. So why not have the conversation now, unencumbered by demands, consequences, and limitations of today's AV technology?

This effort fits very well with the concerns of the Land Use and Transportation Committee. One of our main objectives is to reduce the number of personal gas-guzzling vehicles on our roads daily. There is a potential to induce demand for shared ownership of AVs such that, as people outgrow their clunkers, they are disincentivized to merely replace it with a private AV. Thus, the number of vehicles on the road could decrease as the use of AVs increases. We could also induce demand for AVs to be electric vehicles only.

There are several land use implications in how the technology could be used as well. How should this technology be integrated with electrification of Minneapolis and other cities? How will this technology influence our street design and parking considerations? How can we design AV systems to bolster public transit systems and not replace them? These and many more questions should be considered now before the technology runs loose.

Drive Together MPLS hopes to bring together a coalition of public, private, and community-based organizations to begin the planning process now, and the North Star Chapter hopes to stay connected. The project focuses on Minneapolis for now but this work could very easily extend to other cities. If you are interested in the project, please visit the website (drivetogethermpls.org) to sign up for email updates and follow the project on Twitter @drive_mpls. For other information please contact the Land Use and Transportation Committee Chair, Erin Daly (erin.daly@northstar.sierraclub.org).

Galen Ryan is a volunteer leader with the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

WHY THE FUSS OVER METHANE POLLUTION? NATURAL GAS, “CLEAN”? REALLY?

BRUCE D. SNYDER, MD

The Environmental Protection Agency's new standards to reduce methane pollution from natural gas operations are extremely important but the significance is unclear to many Americans. We've been told that Natural Gas is 'clean burning'; even a safer 'transition fuel' to lower carbon dioxide – and that's good right? What do we mean by 'clean gas' anyway? And what is the connection to methane?

Natural gas is 94% methane. It is a cleaner fuel in the sense that burning methane yields half as much carbon dioxide as coal for about the same amount of heat produced. Unlike coal natural gas contains few additional polluting substances. Methane is cleared from the atmosphere in decades as opposed to carbon dioxide that lasts for thousands of years. All of which is good. But there are catches. When methane escapes into the atmosphere without being burned it becomes a dangerous addition to the chemical stew trapping heat and warming our planet. Unburned methane is nearly 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat energy.

Recently 100,000 metric tons of natural gas leaked from a storage facility near Los Angeles. Detected in October 2015, the leak was finally sealed in February. Such episodic major releases are superimposed on sustained leakages of 3-5% of produced gas. Gas is leaking from fracking operations,

gas pipelines, pumping stations, and storage facilities around the country. US methane emissions have mushroomed in the 20 years since fracking technology has been widely deployed.

Reliance on natural gas might somewhat reduce overall carbon dioxide emissions but because of the potent warming effects of methane this is not a successful strategy for slowing Global Warming. In fact the near term effects of large methane releases may accelerate warming. Climate change is not a smooth linear process. There can be 'tipping points' – rapid cascading events that for example can abruptly accelerate ice sheet melt and sea level rise while intensifying storm systems. If methane causes the Earth to warm more quickly Greenland and polar ice sheets could melt more rapidly. And these continent sized ice deposits themselves contain massive stores of methane. A dangerous positive feedback loop.

There are other problems with the widespread deployment of natural gas. Fracking or fracturing underground rock and shale requires vast amounts of water (millions of gallons daily) to thrust gas to the surface where leaks occur. Waste water is heavily contaminated with concentrated brine and numerous toxic chemicals including arsenicals, and radioactive materials. Waste water may be injected into deep 'disposal wells' but surface water contamination is well documented. Toxic sludge cleaned from pipes and equipment may be

dumped in landfills. Some is spread on roads and farms for purposes like dust control.

Compressor pumping stations are placed every 50-100 miles along pipelines to speed the flow of natural gas. As of 2008 there were 305,000 miles of gas pipeline with over 1400 compressor stations operating in 48 states. Compressor stations annually emit hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gases and pollutants that include known carcinogens and compounds toxic to fetuses, children and adults. Releases are often in the form of bursts or spikes that may be undetected by air quality monitors. Last year the American Medical Association adopted a resolution, "Protecting Public Health from Natural Gas Infrastructure," that supports comprehensive Health Impact Assessments of all such installations.

Natural gas – from exploration to extraction to transport to storage to waste disposal – is not a clean or safe substitute for coal. Fossil fuel in any form is dangerous to us and our Earthly home. Reduced energy demand and expansion of clean energy sources like wind and solar remain our best options for a sustainable future.

Bruce Snyder, MD is a volunteer leader with the Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee and Executive Committee member.

"Tar Sands" continuation from page 1...

of a new pipeline through our state.

The use of tar sands oil is dangerous from beginning to end. From the extraction where tailings disrupt ecosystems and poison drinking water, to where it is refined and communities face increased health hazards because of air pollution and petcoke. Here in Minnesota where we are in between extraction and refining processes pipelines are creating dangers and threats to our water, landowners, and violating tribal treaty rights, all for the profit of a Canadian Corporation. We must continue resisting pipelines to protect these

communities and our water, and lessen their contribution to climate change.

As the year continues there will be ongoing opportunities and actions to help us resist the expansion of tar sands! Together we are learning about tar sands, pipelines, and what we can do to stop them, everyone is welcome! Contact one of the co-chairs of the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee if you are interested in getting involved or join as at one of our monthly meetings!

Isabel Watson (co-chair)
(612) 300-8448
isabel.watson01@gmail.com

Elana Zien (co-chair)
(651) 788-3426
elanazien@gmail.com

Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee Monthly Meetings:
4th Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8:00 at the Sierra Club office.

Isabel Watson is Co-Chair of the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee.

TAR SANDS PIPELINE TOUR

Laura Huepenbecker



Pipeline Tour August 21, 2016

On August 21st, a group of 15 Minnesotans met in Bagley, Minnesota for a tour of nearby pipelines organized by the North Star Chapter's Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee. We wanted to show exactly what these tar sands pipelines are doing to our land and water, and use this perspective to motivate change. We were lead and taught by Marty Cobenais, a Chapter Executive Committee member who has had extensive experience fighting pipelines in the Midwest.

Amidst sprinkled jokes and funny stories, Marty kept the tour fun and light while also recognizing the serious effects of tar sands pipelines. Through exchanging stories with the other touring Sierra Club folks, we had the chance to hear from people who have

pipelines crossing through their own backyards.

We got to actually see contested lands in Red Lake, Minnesota, where we could understand how threatening Enbridge is to these communities. We saw a tank farm in Clearbrook and had the shocking image of all of the thousands of barrels held there currently. The Pipeline Tour was an invaluable experience, and I hope that an opportunity like this arises again.

Laura Huepenbecker is an intern with the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee.

BREAKING NEWS: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE ROUTE

As this issue goes to print, the Obama administration has announced that it will not grant the final easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline. Instead, the Army Corps of Engineers will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine the impacts of the planned pipeline and explore alternate routes for the project. The Corps will continue speaking with the Standing Rock Sioux and those who would be affected by its construction. The fight to reject

the Dakota Access Pipeline is not over, but the administration's announcement is an important step towards ensuring Energy Transfer Partners cannot continue its assault on the Standing Rock Sioux's home, history, and heritage. The Sierra Club stands in unity with the Standing Rock Sioux, and we are ready to continue the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

FROM THE FREEMANS: CROSSING AN IMAGINARY LINE

AMY FREEMAN



Amy Freeman paddles back on the South Kawishiwi River on September 23, 2016

On September 23, 2016, Amy and Dave Freeman completed A Year in the Wilderness. Their yearlong expedition exploring the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness helped share the beauty of this wild landscape and bring awareness to the risks it faces from sulfide-ore copper mining. Below, Amy Freeman shares a journal entry from the last day of A Year in the Wilderness.

After 366 continuous days in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, on September 23, 2016, Dave and I paddled our canoe down the winding South Kawishiwi River back to where we started. Somewhere in the middle of a nondescript portage we crossed an imaginary line. There was no sign. There was no change in the character of the forest. The moose, gray wolves and red squirrels haven't been told where the boundary of this federally designated Wilderness Area lies.

The water also knows no boundary. The border encircling the BWCAW is an imaginary line—a line drawn on a map, sometimes straight, sometimes following a particular waterway, sometimes skirting around private property or a road.

In this unfortunate instance, a bend in a river was left out when the BWCAW was formed. The water flows out of the Wilderness Area, through a chain of lakes and then back into the BWCAW at Fall Lake. I say it is unfortunate, because the water in this gap is vulnerable. Currently, the water flows past 29 wilderness-edge resorts, campgrounds and businesses, not to mention numerous cabins and homes. What if the proposed Twin Metals

copper nickel mine is built? How would this water change if it flowed out of the Wilderness and past an industrial mining zone, over a tunnel designed to transport a slurry of toxic waste rock? How would the character of our nation's most popular Wilderness Area be marred?

If this mine and others like it were to be built, I bet the imaginary line would become much more apparent than it is now—even abrupt—as one exits the Wilderness and enters “civilization”. But when it comes to the water that would re-enter the Wilderness, the line would blur again—man's influence and pollution would spill over into the Wilderness Area. Maybe it wouldn't be obvious to the untrained eye. Any acid mine drainage would be subtle at first. The wild rice would thin out. Aquatic insects and then certain fish species would diminish. The degradation could play out slowly over a long period of time.

If a spill were to happen, man's infiltration of the Wilderness would be obvious. Can your mind's eye even juxtapose a river turned orange tumbling into Fall Lake . . . orange water running past towering white pines, orange water no longer providing a shimmering reflection of those trees . . . orange water no longer safe to drink?

Would people still come here to paddle, unplug, camp and fish?

We entered the Wilderness a year ago with the intention of bearing witness to this place. It was an opportunity to simultaneously listen to the land and attempt to speak for the land through daily photos and posts.

I'll never forget when a visiting journalist asked, “What does the land say to you?” I'm not sure if she expected some concise, profound answer that applied to her, or if she thought we were delusional and she was just playing along.

The thing is Dave and I realized it's not important to share specifically what the land said to us through the call of a loon echoing across a still lake, the muffled fall of snowflakes, the metamorphosis of dozens of dragonflies, the smell of wild rice, or the beauty of 365 sunrises.

What is important is that the land speaks to anyone who takes the time to listen—and so it is imperative that we preserve the BWCAW and wild places like it so that future generations have the opportunity to hear it too.

I hope that you take the time to listen—and heed the call to speak up in its defense.

Dave and Amy Freeman, 2014 National Geographic Adventurers of the Year, are dedicated to protecting the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining proposed on its wilderness edge. A documentary about their journey, Bear Witness, premiered this fall. A book about their year will be published by Milkweed Editions in fall 2017.

Article originally posted by the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters at www.savetheboundarywaters.org. Reprinted with permission.

“Plan for Sherco” continuation from page 1...

Overall the plan will double the amount of renewables and is anticipated to achieve 60% carbon reductions. The details include:

- Retirement of Sherco 2 & 1 in 2023 and 2026, respectively, and a process to identify approximately 750 MW of intermediate capacity replacement resources for 2026 that considers existing location and grid reliability needs;
- Adding at least 1000 MW of cost-effective wind resources by 2019;
- Adding at least 650 MW of solar by 2021 through community solar gardens or other cost-effective solar;
- Saving no less than 400 MW through demand response—considering technical and economic achievability of 1000 MW of demand response in the next resource plan;
- Meeting Minnesota’s goal of 1.5% annual energy savings through 2030 and investigating the cost effectiveness of acquiring additional energy savings through a competitive bidding process;
- In next resource plan which will be filed with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in 2019, Xcel energy must describe possible scenarios for cost-effective and orderly retirement of its coal and nuclear fleet which is reaching the end of its life, including Sherco, King, Monticello and Prairie Island.

SJ Spitzer, co-chair of the chapter’s Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee, reflected on her long time involvement in the campaign. “When I walked into a letter-writing happy hour for the first time, I didn’t realize what I was getting myself into,” she remembered. “I realized pollution from Sherco was personally affecting [my asthma], and affecting a lot of people like me.” With the commitment to retire Sherco Units 1 & 2, she felt relief. “I think of the Clean Air Taskforce map, showing the amount of asthma attacks, hospitalizations and deaths estimated to be from [particle pollution from] Sherco. It’s really great to think that in the next few years, that number is going to keep shrinking,” she said.

Sierra Club leaders and volunteers have been the heart and engine of this work. Minnesota Beyond Coal Campaign organizers supported hundreds of volunteers and allies on this campaign throughout the state, including the impacted area around Sherco. They’ve also engaged strategic partners including local labor, youth and health voices, and have found a way to maintain and build momentum over the past five years.

Fifteen years ago, the Sierra Club began this work with the retirement of two metro coal plants, working with a coalition of environmental justice and clean energy allies, that paved the way for the state’s first renewable energy standard. The PUC’s recent decision nearly doubles the amount of coal retired in our state, and paves the way to continue making progress. “Our goal moving forward will be to make sure there is a racially and economically just transition for impacted workers, communities, and others impacted by these announcements; ensuring no one is left behind as we move toward a 100% renewable energy system,” said Thelen.

This is a great time to get involved! To help with the next phase of our campaign, contact Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee Co-Chairs: SJ Spitzer: sj.spitzer@northstar.sierraclub.org and Allan Campbell, allan.campbell@northstar.sierraclub.org

MONTHLY VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Please see sierraclub.org/minnesota or call the office at 612-659-9124 for more information. It is strongly recommended that you confirm meeting dates, times and location as changes may occur.

Most meetings are held at the Chapter Office at 2327 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, with greater Minnesota members invited to participate by phone. 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.

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

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

Communications Team: 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

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

Forests and Wildlands Committee: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

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

Mining Committee: 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. – Meets by phone, contact Chair.

Wetlands and Water Committee: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.



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
sierraclubplanning.org



POLYMET: THE PATH TO DESTRUCTION AND PERPETUAL POLLUTION

LORI ANDRESEN AND ELANNE PALCICH



The Gold King Mine disaster in 2015 caused a plume of toxic mine waste to empty into the Animas River in Colorado. Photo Credit: USGS

St. Louis River at Jay Cooke State Park. Photo Credit: Lori Andresen

The possible permitting of the first sulfide mine in Minnesota would pave the way for mass destruction and pollution of Superior National Forest and two international watersheds-- Lake Superior and the Rainy River. PolyMet's proposed open pits would be dug on what is now 6,500 acres of protected U.S. Forest Service land, including irreplaceable wetlands.

Mineral exploration has been taking place throughout Superior National Forest and the Arrowhead Region. Other sulfide mining projects are lining up behind PolyMet, the closest deposits being those of Teck Resources and Twin Metals. Once Minnesota declares that sulfide mining can be done "safely," there will be no stopping sulfide mine expansion. At this time, PolyMet is seeking a social license to degrade, destroy and pollute our public lands and waters, opening the doorway for continued advancement of destructive and polluting mining of sulfide ores.

PolyMet's Environmental Injustice

Despite warnings and detailed comments by environmental groups, concerned citizens, and Native American Tribes, the state's political system and politically controlled agencies proceed to push the PolyMet project forward. Even while affirming his opposition to sulfide mining operations in close proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, due to their "inherent risks" from mines that discharge "highly toxic sulfide waste," Governor Dayton's administration has given the green light to PolyMet, whose pollution would mainly enter the Lake Superior watershed upstream from northeastern Minnesota's largest population centers (Duluth, Fond du Lac, Cloquet).

PolyMet's flawed Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was deemed adequate by Commissioner Tom Landwehr of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on March 3, 2016, allowing the highly controversial project to enter the permitting process. This process allows the agencies to continue moving the project forward, with little recourse by the public to scrutinize and comment on thousands of pages of highly technical documents.

Indeed, the DNR Lands and Minerals Division continues to offer more mineral leasing throughout the Arrowhead Region, and expanding west, thus allowing more land to be fragmented with roads, drill holes, and forest and ecological disturbances.

The DNR is a conflicted agency, charged with protecting the environment while at the same time advancing mineral exploitation and permitting of mine operations. The DNR should not be in charge of both the environmental review of mining projects, and promotion of mining by the Lands and Minerals Division of the DNR.

Proposed sulfide mining will erode away Superior National Forest and the integrity of the water, forests, and wildlife within the last protected region of our state that has escaped mass industrial development.

In addition, sulfide mining will add another layer of sulfates and pollution to the St. Louis River watershed, already carrying the burden of taconite pollution.

Perpetual Pollution

PolyMet's copper-nickel sulfide mining operations will require at least 500 years of water treatment after closure. It is irresponsible on the part of the DNR to place this kind of burden upon the next 25 generations.

PolyMet's FEIS claims it will deal with any unforeseen problems AFTER they arise--at which time it will be too late.

First, Do No Harm

Nor will our state agencies acknowledge the degradation of fish as a food supply, when fish are highly contaminated with methylmercury as a result of mercury and sulfate pollution caused by hard rock taconite mining, and which will be greatly exacerbated by the mining of copper-nickel bearing sulfide ores, with their much higher potential to pollute. Those most highly impacted and harmed by mercury and heavy metal poisoning are pregnant women and young children.

Large-scale catastrophic mining disasters have been steadily increasing across the globe

The Animas River spill on August 5, 2015 carried a load of toxic heavy metals through Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico,

adversely impacting drinking water, fish, and recreation. The Samarco Mine disaster in Brazil on November 5, 2015 sent tailings 373 miles downstream, destroying villages along the way and ultimately the fishing industry, as it spilled into the Atlantic Ocean. Prior to that, the Mount Polley tailings dam failure in British Columbia on August 4, 2014 filled Polley and Quesnel Lakes with heavy metals-laden fine sand and debris, turning Hazelton Creek into a wasteland, and greatly impacting the native sockeye salmon population. And on September 6, 2016, the Daldykan River in Russia turned a bright blood red, attributed to "an unidentified chemical" from the nearby metallurgical plant owned by Norilsk Nickel, the world's largest nickel producer.

The DNR should reject PolyMet's plan for this reason alone--the danger of layering thousands of tons of sulfide-bearing mine waste on an already unstable, leaching tailings basin. Financial assurance would never be enough to cover a major mine disaster, potentially adding up to billions of dollars. Instead the DNR is willing to transfer long-term financial and environmental risk to the tax-payers of this state and the citizens of the future.

Our state is placing the value of metals above all else--clean water, wildlife, public health, food sources, Tribal rights, forest resources, and ecological integrity--the things we most highly value, the reason many people choose to live here.

It is simply wrong to knowingly poison the Arrowhead Region with highly toxic sulfide mining waste.

Take Action!

It's time to place a 'prove-it-first' type of moratorium on all sulfide mining within the state of Minnesota. Contact the Governor at (651) 201-3400 and your state and Federal legislators and urge them to reject PolyMet now. Time is of the essence. It's easiest to stop pollution before it starts.

Ask the Governor to protect all of Minnesota from "highly toxic sulfide waste" and please don't permit PolyMet's risky copper-nickel sulfide mine on the headwaters of Lake Superior.

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

ROCHESTER: WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE GROWTH POWERED BY CLEAN ENERGY



Sierra Club's Rick Morris rallies the crowd at the Rochester People's Climate March. Photo Credit: Barbara Haynes of Earth Fest 2016, 100% Renewable by 2031

As the city of Rochester is gearing up for a population and infrastructure boom over the next 20 years, local Sierra Club activists are hard at work to make sure that growth is sustainable and equitable. We have had some major victories in the city over the last year. Mayor Ardele Brede made an official proclamation that Rochester will strive to attain 100% renewable energy by 2031, Rochester's energy provider, SMMPA, is planning a major community solar initiative, and Rochester's Economic Development Agency is hiring a sustainability manager – the first position of its kind in the city!

We have much to celebrate in Rochester, and much yet left to do. Two primary goals drive our current work. First, we are working to expand Rochester's renewable energy infrastructure. We cannot grow on dirty fuels. Instead, we are advocating for Rochester Public Utilities to build utility scale solar farms that will provide clean, healthy energy for all of Rochester's expected growth.

Secondly, we are working to ensure that the new development associated with the Destination Medical Center (DMC) meets the highest standards of energy efficiency, sustainability, and equity. The University of Minnesota wrote design guidelines for the DMC that set these high standards. At the time of reporting, city government has just begun the process to review them. Local Sierra Club activists are fighting for Rochester to adopt the guidelines and to add the staff capacity necessary to enforce them.

Get involved in our work for clean, healthy energy in Rochester.

Contact Clean Energy Organizer Rick Morris: rick.morris@sierraclub.org

or 908-578-5748, and visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RochesterMNSierra.

TOM GOLDTOOTH RECEIVES TOP SIERRA CLUB AWARD



Sierra Club's Leslie Fields, Aaron Mair and Michael Brune with Tom Goldtooth.



Tom Goldtooth accepts 2016 John Muir Award.

On September 10, Native American environmental leader Tom Goldtooth was presented with the Sierra Club's 2016 John Muir Award. Goldtooth, from Bemidji, is known nationally for his tireless efforts to defend Indigenous rights to a healthy environment and his dedicated work against fossil fuel projects like the Keystone XL pipeline.

Tom Goldtooth has spent more than 40 years helping Native American and indigenous communities worldwide address issues such as environmental protection, climate change, energy, biodiversity, environmental health, water, and sustainable development. He and his son Dallas have both been leaders on domestic and international efforts to keep fossil fuels in ground and foster indigenous-based environmental protection initiatives. Goldtooth's tireless work to elevate tribal opposition to the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline was key to the project's ultimate rejection by the Obama Administration. Tom has served as the Executive Director of the Indigenous Environmental Network since 1996 and is now helping lead and coordinate the ongoing tribal opposition to the Dakota Access pipeline.



Stop FastTrack by Alex Garland Photography is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

AFTER THE TPP, HERE'S A PROGRESSIVE VISION FOR TRADE

ILANA SOLOMON AND BEN BEACHY

Opposition to status-quo trade deals has reached unprecedented heights. The entire 2016 election cycle featured a widespread, trans-partisan rebuke of trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership that prioritize corporations over the rest of us. And while Donald Trump eventually, and tragically, ascended to power, he did not stop the TPP. That was the work of an international movement, including millions of Americans and thousands of diverse organizations that fought for six years against the TPP's threats to workers, communities, and the environment.

The question now is: What should come next? Since Trump's approach to trade is rooted in the same xenophobia and hypocrisy that drove his campaign, we, as progressives, must offer our alternative -- one that's rooted in fighting inequality, respecting workers' rights, fostering healthy communities, and seeking climate justice.

Recently, the Sierra Club presented ideas for a broad new approach: how to move from polluter-friendly deals to ones that support tackling climate change.

The template for trade deals like the TPP was written decades ago under the advisement of fossil fuel and other corporations. These deals serve one function: to boost corporate profits. They seek to maximize trade and investment even if the goods traded or the investments protected spell more climate pollution. They even empower corporations to sue governments in private trade tribunals over climate and other protections that affect corporate bottom lines.

To build a new approach to trade that supports -- not undermines -- climate action, we must turn the status quo model on its head. We start from a simple premise that is fundamentally at odds with the status quo: Trade and

investment should be treated as tools for advancing human priorities -- not ends in and of themselves. Deals should encourage trade and investment that support a more stable climate, healthy communities, and good jobs, while discouraging trade and investment that do the opposite.

Now, the Sierra Club is offering 15 proposals for how to bring decades-old trade rules into alignment with today's climate imperatives. These proposals have been informed by input from over 50 academic and civil society trade and climate specialists. They range from the relatively simple to fundamental shifts that, while difficult, may be necessary to achieve trade policies that actually reflect today's stark climate realities.

Our proposals seek to fulfill three core goals:

1. **Changing trade rules to protect climate policies:** Trade rules that conflict with climate action should be eliminated to allow communities and governments to advance bold climate protections without fear of being challenged in trade tribunals. Our proposal would not allow corporations to sue governments in private tribunals over climate policies -- or any policies. Another proposal would require the U.S., India, and all countries to stop attacking each other's "buy local" renewable energy policies at the World Trade Organization. We also propose a straightforward provision stating that whenever trade rules clash with climate policies, the climate policies win.
2. **Using trade rules to increase climate protections:** Trade pacts should establish a floor of climate protection among trade partners to avoid a race to the bottom in climate standards. While status quo deals like the TPP don't even mention the words "climate change," tomorrow's trade agreements should require enforcement of international climate commitments, elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, and financing for renewable

energy investments. Under this new model, if a government or corporation failed to live up to its climate responsibilities, the communities most affected by climate change could seek justice before a panel of climate experts.

3. **Mitigating the climate impacts of trade:** A climate-friendly trade model should encourage trade in goods that support the public interest, but discourage trade in climate-polluting fossil fuels. Trade pacts also should tackle climate pollution from shipping -- we propose a new way to do so. And to ensure that a country's climate protections don't offshore jobs or climate emissions, trade agreements should include taxes on imported goods made under highly climate-polluting conditions.

We will continue to collect feedback on what climate-friendly trade policies could look like. Please help us build a new trade model by sending your input to climate-friendly-trade@sierraclub.org.

We look forward to working with our grassroots and our partners to stitch these climate-focused ideas into a broader proposal for a new approach to trade that promotes good jobs, healthy communities, and a livable planet. Using our grassroots power, and momentum from the diverse movement that defeated the TPP, we are eager to build support for this new approach that puts people and planet over profits.

Ilana Solomon is the director of the Sierra Club Responsible Trade Program.

Ben Beachy is a senior policy advisor for the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program.

A PROUD MEMBER OF



The Sierra Club Foundation benefits from workplace contributions to the Minnesota Environmental Fund, which provides a payroll giving option to support 21 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.



November 15 rally in front of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in downtown St. Paul Photo Credit: Scott Russell

Hundreds of people opposed to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) gathered in downtown St. Paul on November 15, calling on President Obama to do everything in his power to permanently reject the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The St. Paul rally was part of a National Day of Action against DAPL, joining more than 200 similar rallies around the country, from Los Angeles and Denver to Manhattan and the White House.

These events showed solidarity with Indigenous leaders and supported Native sovereignty. The pipeline is cutting through the Standing Rock Nation's sacred and historical land and threatening its drinking water. The rallies also denounced the heavily military response against the peaceful water protectors and strengthened the fossil fuel resistance movement to fight back under a Trump administration.

Locally, the rally started in Mears Park with a Native prayer and drum circle. Participants carried colorful homemade signs such as "We Stand with Standing Rock," "Water is Sacred" and "Climate Justice," and chanted in a call-and-response, "Mni Wiconi ... Water is Life!" People then marched to the nearby local headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — an agency that holds the key to stopping the project. Pipeline owner Energy Transfer Partners needs an easement from the Corps to bore under the Missouri River. A day before the rally, the Corps announced that the project needed more study.

Sponsors of the St. Paul rally ranged from the Indigenous

Environmental Network and Honor the Earth to the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth. Following the rally, approximately 50 people splintered off and marched and chanted at Wells Fargo Place. It was an effort to draw attention to the fact that Wells Fargo is one of the 38 financial institutions providing credit to the pipeline company. This is part of an effort to embarrass these companies — which often tout their green energy investments -- into pulling their funding from such a dirty energy proposal. (This effort has had recent success. DNB, the largest bank in Norway, is now selling its assets in the pipeline and is rethinking its loans.)

Here are three takeaways from the rally:

Takeaway #1: This was an indigenous-led event and people are following their lead. Kelly Sherman-Conroy (Oglala Lakota), a student at Luther Seminary, was one of the speakers. She told how she traveled to Standing Rock with hundreds of other religious leaders Nov. 3 to stand in solidarity with the water protectors trying to stop the pipeline. She told the Mears Park crowd: "We are here to stand in prayerful action ... We are here to lift up our Indian brothers and sisters today."

Takeaway #2: Don't let anger consume you. Mary Lyons, an Anishinaabekwe elder, gave a powerful speech about doing this work with a good heart. She asked people to pray for "all the people destroying this world. ... Pray for their spirit to awake." She cautioned people: "Don't walk in that space

of anger. ... Don't. That is feeding the beast. You are losing yourself."

Takeaway #3: DAPL would be a climate disaster. It would carry dirty fracked oil from North Dakota to Illinois. Tara Houska, National Campaign Director of Honor the Earth, said: "Climate change is happening now. ... The delays and noncommittal statements from the Obama administration are disappointing to say the least. We want answers. Conduct an Environmental Impact Statement and halt the construction of this destructive project."

The rally provided a temporary emotional uplift for those opposed to this project. Of great concern is that in the week since the rally, violence at Standing Rock is escalating, with law enforcement using water cannons against the water protectors in freezing conditions. There is much work to be done to stop the violence and stop the pipeline.

Scott Russell is a volunteer leader with the Beyond Oil and Tar Sands Committee.

OBAMA SIGNS NEW TOXIC SUBSTANCE CHEMICALS ACT

DANETTE KNICKMEIER

In the U.S., our history of attempting to regulate toxic substances used in the manufacture of our everyday household products dates back to 1976, when President Ford signed the first Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

While the 70s were certainly tumultuous in terms of politics, many good things came out of bipartisan concern for the environment – the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In the years that followed, many changes were made and protections were awarded through these bills, but the TSCA never gained much traction due to all of its loopholes.

In 2015, Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) introduced the “Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act” to honor the late New Jersey senator who spearheaded reform efforts for several years before his death in 2013.

On June 22 of this year, President Obama signed the act into law, amending the original 1976 TSCA act. Now, many organizations, including the Sierra Club and other non-profits like Environmental Work Group (EWG) are hoping for a renewed sense of urgency in the efforts to protect our health by eliminating toxic substances from the products on store shelves.

The original act in 1976 was meant to protect us from chemicals that might cause cancer, birth defects or reproductive problems. However, because of its complexity, out of the 62,000 chemicals that were already in use, a very small percentage have actually been reviewed, and only five have been banned to date. Even asbestos – a known

carcinogen – hasn’t been completely banned in the U.S. It’s still used in hundreds of consumer products that are produced every day.

The latest law gives the EPA new authority to review and regulate chemicals, along with a mandate that the agency update its now 80,000 existing chemicals and create a risk evaluation process. Once that process is in place, the EPA will have to assess at least 20 chemicals at a time, beginning another chemical review as soon as one is completed.

In addition to existing chemicals, the law will also affect new chemicals that are introduced. Manufacturers will be required to submit them through the review process before being approved.

With this mind, the question of “where do we start” begs to be answered. According to the consumer watchdog organization Environmental Working Group (EWG), a review of the TSCA Work Plan list was a good place. The list, which outlines 90 of the most toxic chemicals currently in use and up for assessment, was originally released in 2012, and updated in 2014. Its purpose is to help focus and direct the activities of its Existing Chemicals Program.

From this list, EWG scientists chose 10 of the worst offenders by considering “each chemical’s health risks, how widely Americans are exposed to it and the likelihood of EPA action under the new law.” That list of chemicals, along with the health issues they are linked to and the products they appear in can be found at ewg.org.

EWG also had a few things to say about what Congress got right, and wrong. What it got right, they say, is that the new law will: “Require the EPA to determine whether a chemical is

likely to meet the safety standard before it enters the market; Require the EPA to consider the most vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women and children; Give the EPA new tools to collect data on chemicals; Require EPA to quickly regulate (or ban if needed) the chemicals that build up in our bodies and persist in the environment; Require EPA to quickly review and regulate other “high priority” chemicals, including chemicals stored near drinking water sources, and sets deadlines for companies to comply with new EPA rules; Limit the ability of companies to keep data secret by requiring regular substantiation of confidentiality claims, including old “trade secret” claims; Not include a list of “low hazard” chemicals that could shield dangerous chemicals.”

Where the law falls short, says EWG, is that, any action the states might currently be taking will be halted by the EPA while they review a chemical. Additionally, chemical companies are only on the hook to cover \$25 million in costs – a far cry from what will take to review tens of thousands of chemicals. The bill also includes requirements that rules of regulation be “cost-effective”. The details are vague, which means the potential for many legal hours spent determining what that really means for each chemical. It essentially puts dollars before safety.

Even so, regulation has been a long time coming. And while it may be decades before consumers see the real benefit, it’s a step in the right direction of keeping dangerous chemicals out of our environment and our bodies.

Danette Knickmeier is a volunteer leader with the Communications Team.

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years ago, the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club formed the BlueGreen Alliance with the belief that we could no longer choose between good jobs and a clean environment; we believe that we can and must have both.

On September 23rd, national leaders, elected officials and partners gathered for a special celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the BlueGreen Alliance and BlueGreen Alliance Foundation in Minneapolis.

Speakers included Senator Amy Klobuchar, Governor Mark Dayton, Lt. Governor Tina Smith, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Gerry Hudson, Service Employees International Union, and Kim Glas, BlueGreen Alliance Executive Director.

Many North Star Chapter and Sierra Club volunteer leaders and staff attended, along with national Sierra Club staff.

The program honored BlueGreen Alliance Founding Executive Director David Foster, United Steelworkers International President and Co-Founder Leo W. Gerard, Former Sierra Club Executive Director and Co-Founder Carl Pope, Apollo Alliance Board Chair Phil Angelides and Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

The North Star Chapter is an active member of the Minnesota BlueGreen Alliance Steering Committee, where we work with labor and environmental partners to create good jobs, a clean environment, and a fair and thriving economy.



Senator Klobuchar addresses the crowd.
Photo Credit: Terry Gydesen, courtesy of the BlueGreen Alliance

CHECK OUT LOCAL NORTH STAR CHAPTER OUTINGS



National Forest Lodge
Superior Log Hideaway

Join us for Sierra Club's 9th Annual National Forest Lodge Ski Trip

Friday, February 17 – Monday, February 20, 2017

This is a weekend of skiing, 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, \$260 per person, includes lodging and 9 meals, from Friday dinner to Monday lunch. The lodge has 30km of remote, quiet cross-country ski trails winding through 2,000 acres in the Superior National Forest. 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 www.nationalforestlodge.com. For details and to register contact margaret.elkins@gmail.com.

Check out our schedule at www.meetup.com/MN-Sierra-Club-Outings or search for the MN Sierra Club Outings page. For more information on our schedule or to find out how you can become an Outings Leader, contact Chair Greg Allison at greg.allison@northstar.sierraclub.org.



NORTH STAR CHAPTER OFFICE
2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-659-9124
sierraclub.org/minnesota

CHAPTER LEADERS

CHAPTER CHAIR
Katie Eukel
612-208-1674
katie.eukel@northstar.sierraclub.org

VICE CHAIR
C. Scott Cooper
651-224-9848
c.scott.cooper@northstar.sierraclub.org

SECRETARY
Lois Norrgard
952-881-7282
lnorrgard@lnmn10.com

TREASURER
Position vacant

CONSERVATION CHAIR
Mat Hollinshead
651-698-0260
mathews.hollinshead@northstar.sierraclub.org

LEGAL CHAIR
Michelle Weinberg
612-766-7729
mweinberg@faegre.com

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
John Krenn
763-593-1758
John.Krenn@gpmlaw.com

POLITICAL CHAIR
Leili Fatehi
914-844-1974
lfatehi1983@gmail.com

OLDER, WISER & LIVELIER SIERRANS CHAIR
Judy Germann
952-432-2892
judygermann@yahoo.com

OUTINGS CHAIR
Greg Allison
greg_allison@ymail.com

COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIRS
Brock Berglund
320-766-3737
brock.berglund@gmail.com
Jenny Kedward
612-986-3454
jennykedward@gmail.com

EDITOR – NORTH STAR JOURNAL
Jeremy Stahl
651-249-9986
editor@northstar.sierraclub.org

ART DIRECTOR – NORTH STAR JOURNAL
Brian Bradshaw
brian@bradshawdesign.com

WEBMASTER
Kurt Indermaur
952-938-9061
kurt@indermaur.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS CHAIR
Kris Koch
mrkriskoch@gmail.com

ISSUE COMMITTEE LEADERS

BEYOND OIL AND TAR SANDS
Isabel Watson
isabel.watson01@gmail.com
Elana Zien
elanazien@gmail.com

CLEAN AIR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
SJ Spitzer
sunlightjams@gmail.com
Allan Campbell
allan.campbell@northstar.sierraclub.org

FORESTS AND WILDLANDS
Lois Norrgard
952-881-7282
lnorrgard@lnmn10.com

MINING
Lori Andresen
218-340-2451
andres01@charter.net

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION
Erin Daly
erin.dalyy@gmail.com

WETLANDS AND WATER
Steve Ring
ring.steve@gmail.com

MINNESOTA STAFF

Unless otherwise noted, staff can be reached at 612-659-9124

STATE DIRECTOR
Margaret Levin
margaret.levin@sierraclub.org

CHAPTER COORDINATOR
Vicki Munson
vicki.munson@sierraclub.org

SENIOR CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE
Justin Fay
Justin.fay@sierraclub.org

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION
PROGRAM MANAGER, CHAPTER
Joshua Houdek
joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org

ROCHESTER CLEAN ENERGY ORGANIZER, CHAPTER
Rick Morris
908-578-5748
rick.morris@sierraclub.org

SENIOR CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND COAL
Michelle Rosier
michelle.rosier@sierraclub.org

SENIOR ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
Karen Monahan
karen.monahan@sierraclub.org

SENIOR ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND COAL
Jessica Tritsch
Jessica.tritsch@sierraclub.org

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND COAL
Alexis Boxer
alexis.boxer@sierraclub.org

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, CHAPTER
Natalie Cook
natalie.cook@sierraclub.org

DIRECTOR OF GRASSROOTS EFFECTIVENESS, NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB
Scott Elkins
scott.elkins@sierraclub.org

CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL BEYOND COAL
Heather Cusick
heather.cusick@sierraclub.org

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES



Luther Dale
481 Sherwood Rd,
Shoreview, MN 55126
651-483-3862
lutherdale@hotmail.com

It has been a privilege to serve on the ExCom and to be part of the North Star Chapter's policy and activist work in shaping a sustainable environmental future for Minnesota. I wish to continue to strengthen our organizational effectiveness and to support our passionate volunteers who work so hard to preserve our lands, clean air and water resources. And I want to be part of our emerging efforts to be a more diverse and inclusive organization as we increase our volunteer capacity.

As an ExCom member I have served two years as Vice Chair and three years as Chair, been on the Nominations Committee, worked in strategic planning, participated in fund raising, given public presentations on Sierra Club work and climate change and served as liaison to the Save the Boundary Waters coalition working against sulfide mining. I have also served on several national Sierra Club task forces and committees. As part of the Leadership and Capacity Building Team I have done training, consulting and mentoring of chapter leaders.

As an avid biker, walker and hiker I am reminded of the great outdoor resources we have in Minnesota. I would be honored to continue to serve on the ExCom to support our collective work in preserving them for future generations.



Mathews Hollinshead
2114 Pinehurst Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116-1315
651-698-0260
mathews.hollinshead@mac.com

For 25 years I've worked for life free of paving the planet or cooking the climate, primarily in the form of vibrant, walkable cities, excellent mass transit and freedom from internal combustion.

Now Trump and a freak menagerie of BS artists, bigots, bullies and looters are taking power via a minority of the popular vote, for both Congress and the White House, and will likely launch purges against humanity itself, in the form of every environmental concern we hold sacred with heartbreaking passion.

I applaud and celebrate our success against coal power plants. Now, internal combustion (cars, trucks, jets and ships) is the #1 U.S. climate change emitter, putting pipelines and transportation at the center of stopping climate catastrophe. This, and protecting Minnesota's signature identity — clean, fresh waters — from the poison of sulfide mining are my top priorities. In the Trump era we must also expect more Clive Bundy-style attacks on environmental treasures. We must be ready.

With 20 years as a Sierra Club volunteer, committee chair, membership chair, treasurer and currently Conservation Chair, and as your longest-serving Executive Committee member, I ask your support in resisting the biggest threats we have ever faced.



Javier Morillo-Alicea
89 King Street E
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-581-1790
jmorillo@seiu26.org

As we pick up the pieces and rebuild after the recent election, I am more certain than ever that the movements to save our environment, for labor rights and for racial justice must work together in bold and innovative ways we have never done before. As president of Minnesota's union of janitors, security officers and (most recently) airport service workers, I have been proud to be a voice for labor on the Sierra Club Executive Committee. I am fiercely committed to moving beyond the old dichotomies of "jobs vs. environment." We simply cannot afford that narrow vision with our planet literally at risk. Because of my relationships with policy makers, I have been able to provide assistance in key legislative moments for the Club. I hope to continue to help guide the Club's political organizing and am committed to forging a path that ensures policy-makers respect us for our work and fear us for our ability to mobilize the grassroots against bad decisions.



Lois Norrgard
10368 Columbus Circle
Bloomington MN 55420
952-881-7282
Lnorrgard@lnmn10.com

I have been involved in the North Star Chapter for many years now, both as Executive Committee member and Chair of the Forests and Wildlands Committee. I became involved initially because of my love and interest in wildlands, wildlife and protecting biodiversity. I now understand that we must stand against exploitation of any kind — wildlife, wildlands, but also of

people, communities, and the Earth entire. Sierra Club understands the strength of empowered citizens and I am proud of, and amazed at, the dedication and passion our membership shows for improving Minnesota's environment and working for a world that is just and fair.

I love working with the grassroots and have been fortunate because in my work I've had the opportunity to work with, strengthen, and advocate for, the grassroots voice. I feel strongly that the best way to create the world we want is for all people to work together caring about those around us and our air, water, and wild lands. I am dedicated to this work. And yes, I continue

to be impressed by the vibrancy and optimism the North Star Chapter brings to the hard work of influencing environment policy!



Sammie Ardito Rivera
2412 25th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-875-3215
sarditorivera@gmail.com

I am a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe with paternal ties to White Earth but I was born and raised in Minneapolis. I spent most of my 20s learning from different communities and movements across the U.S. I've had the privilege of working on issues of environmental and climate justice with the Indigenous Environmental Network, International Indian Treaty Council and Black Mesa Water Coalition. Currently I'm Operations administrator and program manager with Marnita's Table; support my family business (Sin Fronteras Farm and Food); and serve as a birth doula and organize through the Minnesota Cultural Birthworkers Collective.

Why do I want to add yet another project by serving on the Executive Committee? While my work and life are rooted in the intersectionality of issues, my heart and spirit has always led me back to the protection of Mother Earth and our future generations. I started as a preteen environmentalist deeply concerned with the destruction of wilderness and have come to the full understanding that what we do to the earth we do to ourselves. Everyone needs to be an environmentalist and I hope to bring my diverse experiences and communities to the work.



Siri Simons
1724 6th St NE
Minneapolis MN 55413
651-497-5260
siriamons@gmail.com

I am excited to run for the Sierra Club's Executive Committee. I'm enthusiastic about the Sierra Club North Star Chapter's commitment to environmental advocacy, volunteer leadership, and diversity, as well as the ExCom's role in working toward the chapter's vision for Minnesota.

My aspiration to reduce carbon emissions in an equitable way drives my interest in serving. My desire to mitigate climate change has taken me from leading a successful campaign to transition the University of Minnesota off of coal as a Sierra Club volunteer in 2011 to my current role as an Intermediate Planner at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. I have worked for the Sierra Club as a staff member in Alaska and on the 2015 Tar Sands Resistance March, as well as in various volunteer positions in the last five years. I have several years of experience related to the ExCom role including community organizing, event planning, budgeting and administration, program evaluation, facilitation, and knowledge of climate, energy, and equity issues.

If elected, I would work to enhance systems that engage a diverse range of volunteers and support the North Star Chapter's mission to protect Minnesota's people and environment.



Tom Thompson
1370 White Lake Drive
Duluth, MN 55803
218-848-8031
thomasthompson@frontier.com

I believe that to explore, enjoy and live in a clean and healthy environment is everyone's right, and I will fight to ensure that right.

Before moving to Minnesota I worked for a better environment through the Kansas Sierra Club as lobbyist, Executive Committee member, Political Chair and Group Chair. I was also a state legislator.

In Minnesota I have fought for the environment as a member of Executive Committee, Mining Committee and the Duluth Clean Energy Team. Furthermore, I have served on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Political Committees. Recently I represented the Chapter at the Council of Club Leaders in Oakland, CA. To promote environmental issues within the DFL I was on the steering committee to start the DFL Environmental Caucus.

As a Minnesota Sierran I have tabled, attended meetings, demonstrated or testified on issues including Polymet and Twin Metals mines, clean energy, pipelines, wolf hunting, transportation and wild rice. The Sierra Club is a grassroots organization. I believe we need to work to empower people to work within their communities for a better environment. I seek reelection to better continue these efforts.

PLEASE VOTE FOR YOUR CHAPTER LEADERS DEADLINE FOR VOTING IS JANUARY 13, 2017

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 2016	TERM EXPIRES 2017	TERM EXPIRES 2018
LUTHER DALE	C. SCOTT COOPER	LOUIS ALEMAYEHU
MAT HOLLINSHEAD	JOHN DOBERSTEIN	MARTY COBENAIS
JAVIER MORILLO-ALICEA	KIRSTEN JOHNSON	KATIE EUKEL
LOIS NORRGARD	REGINA MUSTAFA	SARAH WOVCHA
TOM THOMPSON	BRUCE SNYDER	PREETI YONJON

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:

1. 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.
2. Please read the candidate statements provided.
3. 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.

4. Place your ballot in an envelope and mail it to arrive by January 13, 2017 to:

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

To vote by email:

1. 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.
2. Please read the candidate statements provided.
3. 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.
4. Send your email message to ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org before January 13, 2017 at 5 p.m.

ELECTION BALLOT FOR NORTH STAR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017

Please vote for up to five candidates:

MEMBERS VOTE HERE JOINT MEMBERS VOTE HERE

Luther Dale

Mathews Hollinshead

Javier Morillo-Alicea

Lois Norrgard

Sammie Ardito Rivera

Siri Simons

Tom Thompson

Write-ins:



JOURNAL



Dakota Access Update Page 5

NODAPL Action in Winona



Beyond Coal Victory Page 1

Clean energy supporters at Xcel Energy headquarters, 2015



SIERRA CLUB
NORTH STAR CHAPTER
2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1
Minneapolis, MN 55406

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 361

**FIND US ONLINE...
SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES:**

sierraclub.org/minnesota



facebook.com/SierraClubMN



twitter.com/SierraClubMN



northstar.sierraclub.org/blog

North Star Blog

Or current resident