

Winter 2015



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA

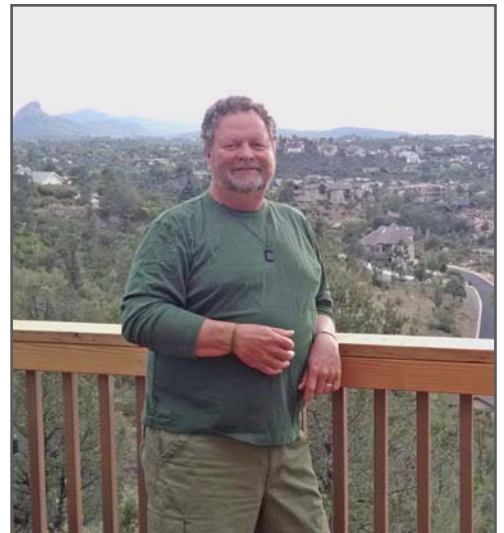
WALTONIAN

President's Letter - *by President Barry Drazkowski*

Welcome to winter fellow Ikes. For some of us it's been heavy rain for some wet snow, but for all we know it is that time of year. As I write this letter, the Paris Climate Summit, COP21 is ongoing, and when you read this we'll have the outcomes of those talks. We all hope for a thoughtful and aggressive agreement, especially by the United States. As one of the wealthiest and greatest carbon contributing countries, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to lead the world in aggressive carbon reduction actions. So, as I near the end of my tenure as Division President, I thought it important to finally make some comment on this very important subject, especially since it is the single most important driver for the future of Minnesota's remaining resources.

As I've considered climate change in both my professional and personal life, I've wondered at the meaning of a 2-4 degree change in temperature and a shift in our precipitation patterns. There are a great deal of papers, websites, climatologists, and others that have extensive resources on these topics. They are not subject to debate, they are our new reality. As I try to bring meaning to all this I find that thinking about temperature and precipitation change is most meaningful, at least when trying to understand their impact on habitat, water, wetlands, fisheries, and wildlife, when I put them in the context of aridity. Aridity is the drying of the land due to increased solar energy (temperature) and a change in the pattern of precipitation, but not a compensating increase in the amount of precipitation and soil infiltration. There is a very useful and credible web tool that anyone can access to understand your local or regional effects of climate change. You can look at temp, precipitation, or a variety of aridity metrics. The site is **Climatewizard.org** and was created and is maintained by scientists within the Nature Conservancy. So, when we look at aridity we realize that the effects in our region are significant, with soil drying as much as a 15%. This results in increased habitat vulnerability as species life requirements are threatened, or conditions become much more suitable for invasive species, whether those are insects or plants. We realize that our surface and ground water are even more at risk than at present with land use changes and liberalizing wetland policies. However, as easy as it is to sink into the despair of climate change, I think it more important to look to what we can do. The days of reversing it have long past, and as we enter a new day of increasing carbon atmospheric concentrations exceeding 400 parts per million, we must look to aggressive actions and policies that mitigate the changes we are already seeing.

Minnesota Ikes have prioritized our actions to focus on energy, water, ground water, wetlands, invasive species, and the Mississippi river. We are looking at actions and engagement that we as individuals, chapters, and the Division can take. We passed a resolution at all chapter houses will be 100% renewable within the next couple years. We have taken on the National Energy program and focusing its resources to help our chapters achieve that goal. We are working with members to help inform them on renewable energy options. You can, through your energy provider, elect to have a portion or all of your home energy come from renewable sources, typically wind. We have members working on community-based solar gardens, as well as those installing solar on their homes. We are heavily engaged in policies that affect surface and ground water. We have members directly engaged in State processes looking at policies affecting both these important resources. So, as easy as it is to slip into the doom and gloom of a changing climate and the increased risks to our natural resources, we should all take heart in the fact that there are significant actions we all can take and we are taking. I am so proud of what we are doing in Minnesota. I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to change, to action, and your belief in the Minnesota Izaak Walton League as one way for us to mitigate the effects of climate change.



Minnesota Division President Barry Drazkowski.

Ikes Jump In to Stop PolyMet!

by *Conservation Issues Chair Don Arnosti*

Governor Dayton says that the decision to permit - OR NOT - the PolyMet sulfide ore mine in northern Minnesota will be the most significant decision of his two terms in office. The Governor understands the long-lasting consequences of allowing the mine to destroy up to 12 square miles of outstandingly pristine wetlands at the headwaters of the St. Louis River, and to store the acid draining mine waste in a manner that could pollute both the Boundary Waters Wilderness and Lake Superior, for centuries to come.

The Question is, "Can the Governor bring himself to do the right thing?"

For this reason, hundreds of Ikes have been contacting him, asking him to reject the PolyMet EIS and mine plan. Volunteers are reaching out to members across the state. The National Ikes have sent out an alert across the nation to rally all Ikes to contact the Minnesota DNR objecting to the poor EIS analysis, which ignores the opportunity to examine alternatives which would do far less environmental damage.

Twenty years' of jobs are not worth hundreds of years of pollution. Call 1(800)-657-3717, toll-free, 24 hours a day and leave a message for **Governor Dayton**.

Visit our Division website, www.minnesotaikes.org, on the "Stop PolyMet" page, for more information and links to comment to the Army Corps of Engineers on the wetlands destruction, and the US Forest Service, on a land exchange that PolyMet needs to move forward.

Ikes together with our many Friends can make a difference. **Please act today!**



Don Arnosti enjoying a hike at Nortwoods Audubon over the Fall Gathering and BOD weekend. Photo by Terry Houle.

NOTES FROM THE FALL GATHERING & BOARD OF DIRECTORS' 2015

by *Conservation Issues Chair Don Arnosti*

It was All Hallow's Eve, and a small, but committed group of Ikes gathered at the Audubon Center of the North Woods on the shores of Grindstone Lake for the Fall Board meeting. As we discussed the recent decision of the national Ikes to wind down the energy program, the unusually warm weather (which we were admittedly enjoying) only served to underscore the need for action when it comes to moderating our rapidly changing climate.

The Board voted to accept the challenge of continuing our commitment to addressing Global Warming by implementing energy conservation and renewable energy at a chapter and individual level. Eric Jensen, whose job in the Midwest office ended on November 30th, will be working with Don Arnosti to assist chapters in moving forward in this manner using a small grant, which was transferred from national. Owatonna and Wes Libbey chapters are first on their work list, with other chapters to follow. We hope to present a workshop at next summer's annual convention (Stevens Point, WI) sharing our successes and lessons.

An in-depth presentation and discussion of Green Step Cities was provided by Phillip Muessig, and how this program, which we Ikes have supported since the beginning, has enrolled 88 cities across the state in a process of "continual greening". **Continued on page 3.**

Fossil Fuels in Minnesota

By Terry Houle

President Obama finally said NO to the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline on November 6, 2015. Obama indicated the State Department had determined it would not serve the national interests. It was to run from the Canadian Border to the Gulf of Mexico. The President indicated we would still rely on oil and gas for a long time. But we needed to transition to clean energy economy.

The President went on to say; "Because ultimately, if we're going to prevent large parts of this Earth from becoming not only inhospitable but uninhabitable in our lifetimes, we're going to have to keep some fossil fuels in the ground rather than burn them and release more dangerous pollution into the sky."

That is not to say the fight is over for Minnesota. There is still a lawsuit pending in federal court on an Alberta Clipper (aka Line 67) that was filed by the Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation and others. That decision is still pending

There is also a proposed Sandpiper line that would bring Bakken shale oil from North Dakota to Duluth/Superior area. The Enbridge preferred route is through northern Minnesota. It would run near Grand Forks, Clearbrook, and Park Rapids and across many sensitive areas in Northern Minnesota. This issue is still pending in the Minnesota Supreme Court.

One other is called a Line 3 Replacement project with a rerouting of an old line and to roughly follow the Sandpiper proposed corridor. The original line dates back to the 1960's and carries tar sands from Alberta, Canada to Superior.

So the fight is not over with Canadian company Enbridge Energy to transport dirty fuels across Minnesota.

Also some say there are too many oil trains going through our town carrying this dangerous product. They feel it is better to go through pipelines but the fact is that both will be needed in the future.

The real solution is we have to use less and keep it in the ground.

For more information about this topic to Honor the Earth at www.honorearth.org/pipelines.

~

Correction for Fall 2015 Waltonian:

There were two more members from MN at Pierre. Alexis Weinzetl and Gavin Schwartz are Owatonna members and took part in the youth convention.



New Communications Committee Chair Terry Houle, hugging a deserving tree at Northwoods Audubon. Photo by Dpm Arnosti.

Fall Meeting Notes continued from page 2.

The program challenges cities to improve their environmental performance, provides assistance and "best practices" to achieve their goals, and provides them recognition. Mark Owens and Jill Crafton will be our representatives to the program, moving forward.

We discussed mining and wetlands, the Great Lakes, fracking and groundwater and many other issues. The Mississippi River watershed initiative has been circulating in draft form. A meeting is planned with other states for late winter. Terry Houle told us how to more effectively use social media to get our message out into society. He asks all who use Facebook to "Like" each chapters' and the Division's home pages, so that we build a bigger network.

Finally, our tiny budget was discussed, and the need for us to each dig a little deeper so that we can support our growing programs and activities.

If you've not yet replied to President Drazkowski's Appeal this Fall, please give generously!

WINTER GATHERING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 29 - 30, 2016 - Bloomington, MN

All are Welcome to Attend!

January 29 - Evening

7:00 - 9:30 PM

Reception at the Minnesota Valley Chapter, 6601 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington, MN 55438, 952-944-1423.

Evening Program: **Will Dilg and the Founding of the Izaak Walton League** presented by Mike Kennedy of the Will Dilg Chapter. *Suggested donation is \$10 per person at the door. See below for Saturday registration.

January 30 - Saturday

REI Bloomington, 750 W American Blvd, 952-884-4315.

Rei.com/stores/bloomington.htm

Morning

9:00 Doors open/set up.

9:30 Minnesota Division Board of Directors' meeting

12-1 Working Lunch (pizza)

Afternoon

1:00 **Upper Mississippi River Initiative:** Barry Drazkowski and Don Arnosti will preview and we IKEs brainstorm the **Upper Mississippi River Basin** Initiative that also involves the Izaak Walton League Divisions of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. The aim of the UMR Initiative is to greatly reduce the nitrogen and sedimentation pollution in the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

2:30 **EIC Update** The Environmental Issues Committee reports on its activities in 2015 and goals for the 2016 legislative session.

4:00 Adjourn

Saturday Evening

5:30 **Potluck Dinner** (provided by Bush Lake Chapter)

6:30 **Grassroots Organizing for Climate and Clean Energy** Presenters from Izaak Walton chapters and other organizations talk about grassroots projects to build community solar gardens and wind projects, oppose pipelines and oppose dangerous fossil fuel projects. The focus is on how to lead successful, local grassroots campaigns to reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources and to create economic opportunities.

Possible Accommodations:

Four Points by Sheraton Minneapolis

Airport, 7745 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423, (612) 861-1000,

www.fourpointsminneapolisairport.com - rates \$109 to \$159

Super 8 Bloomington/Airport, 7800 2nd Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420, (952) 888-8800, super8.com - rates from \$74

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 1601 East American Blvd, Bloomington, 55425 1 (800) 315 2621, 952-854-1687, mspb@ihg.com - rates from \$124



Registration Form - Winter 2015

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Fee: \$25 per person X _____ = _____ enclosed.

Make Checks payable: Minnesota Division IWLA, 2233 University Ave.W, Ste. 339, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Online registration available at minnesotaiques.org/izaak/meetings.html.

Questions? Call (651)221-0215 or email ikes@minnesotaiques.org.



The Izaak Walton League of America

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Winter Gathering & Board of Directors', January 29-30, 2016, Bloomington REI

Annual Meeting & State Convention, April 22-24, 2016, Owatonna Chapter

National Convention, July 19-22, 2016, Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI

MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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2015 Division & National Dues

(Including national dues -Chapter dues are in addition)

Individual \$52.50, Family \$75.00, Student \$30.00, Youth \$15.80

MIDWEST OFFICE

651-649-1446, midwest@iwla.org

IWLA AWARDS

The Minnesota Division and our National organization offer many opportunities for you to recognize the outstanding work done by individuals in your chapter and community by nominating them for an award.

For information regarding Minnesota Division IWLA Awards go to:

www.minnesotaiikes.org

or call 651.221.0215.

For information regarding National IWLA Awards go to:

www.iwla.org/chapter-resources/awards

or call 1-800-IKE-LINE.