



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group
FEBRUARY 2016

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." - John Muir

At our January meeting, we discussed the future of our club. Meeting attendance and responses to requests for input and new leaders have been low. But the club is an important resource as we work to confront major environmental issues, from changing state policies that threaten clean air and water to catastrophic climate change.

This year we will hold fewer meetings but provide opportunities for committees to be more active in supporting state and national Sierra Club initiatives and to network and coordinate with other environmental groups in our communities on important local issues.

We can only continue if members are willing to join together on committees, at programs and outings, and as board members.

COMMUNICATION CHANGES To reduce expenses and use of resources, we will publish fewer paper newsletters this year. We encourage those with email addresses to sign up for online only access.

Monthly updates will be sent to everyone with an email address on file. You may also check the club website for updates. Paper newsletters will be mailed the month following a meeting.

More timely and detailed information, including a regularly updated calendar of environmental programs and actions in our area, will be available online. If you would like to receive emailed updates when new information is added, you may subscribe at this site starting in March.

**DO WE HAVE YOUR
CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?**

COMMITTEES will work on issues that impact our local and state environment. Please help make a difference! Planning begins on February 23!

JOIN a COMMITTEE!
COMMITTEES will meet
Tuesday, Feb. 23
at 7 pm at the Ho-Chunk
Three Rivers House
(8th & Main, La Crosse)

ENERGY/CLIMATE: We will promote the Sierra Club's *Ready for 100%* initiative, highlighting those who are leading the way on clean energy. We will provide education about how to make changes in our own households, businesses, organizations, and communities. www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100

TRANSPORTATION: We'll promote more and better transportation options guided by the Sierra Club's goals of minimizing dangerous emissions and protecting communities and environmental systems while efficiently moving people and freight. www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/moving-beyond-oil-clean-transportation

POLITICAL OUTREACH: We'll promote Sierra Club goals through contact with elected officials and educate our community about candidates' environmental positions and federal and state legislation that affects our environment and climate. www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections/political

PROGRAMS: We'll work with other committees to plan and present programs that highlight their work. We'll also present speakers, films, activities, and/or outings that highlight the Sierra Club's mission, "To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth."

www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/outings-events



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DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Tues., Feb. 23** - Club committees meet/set goals, 7 pm, Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 8th & Main, La Crosse
- Sat., Mar. 5** - Climate Action Fair, 2-6, pm, First Congregational Church, Losey Blvd & Main St., La Crosse
- Tues., Mar. 29** - Club meeting (BOARD ELECTIONS), 7 pm, Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 8th & Main, La Crosse

The United States has struck an expansive trade agreement, the **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**, with Canada, Mexico, and nine other Pacific Rim countries.

The Sierra Club is deeply concerned about the lack of transparency during negotiations and the deal's environmental implications including threats to forests, wildlife, food crops, and fish. Environmental regulations in the bill are "toothless ... with no enforcement mechanism." And the TPP may allow for increased fossil fuel exports meaning more sand mining, fracking, and dangerous substances being transported by rail and pipelines.

The TPP gives corporations the right to sue governments for unlimited cash compensation over nearly any law or policy that a corporation alleges will reduce its profits.

A ceremonial signing took place on February 4. Because it received "fast track authority" in Congress, our representatives are not allowed to amend the bill when it comes for a vote this spring. The Sierra Club joins many other environmental, labor, privacy, health, and democracy advocates urging its defeat.

Please learn more about the TPP (www.sierraclub.org/Trade/activist-toolkit) and join the Sierra Club's fight against it by urging our representatives, especially US Rep. Ron Kind who is currently a strong supporter of the TPP, to oppose this dangerous legislation.



On **Saturday, March 5 from 2 to 6 p.m.** you are invited to learn what you can do to combat climate change. The Coulee Region Climate Alliance will host **ACTING LOCALLY FOR CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY - A Climate Action Festival** at the **First Congregational Church** (Losey Blvd and Main Street) in La Crosse. Groups, agencies, and organizations working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability (including our club) will share information and ideas. There will be food, music, networking, voter registration, and more. couleeregionclimatealliance.blogspot.com

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