



WISCONSIN Sierran

NEWS OF THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

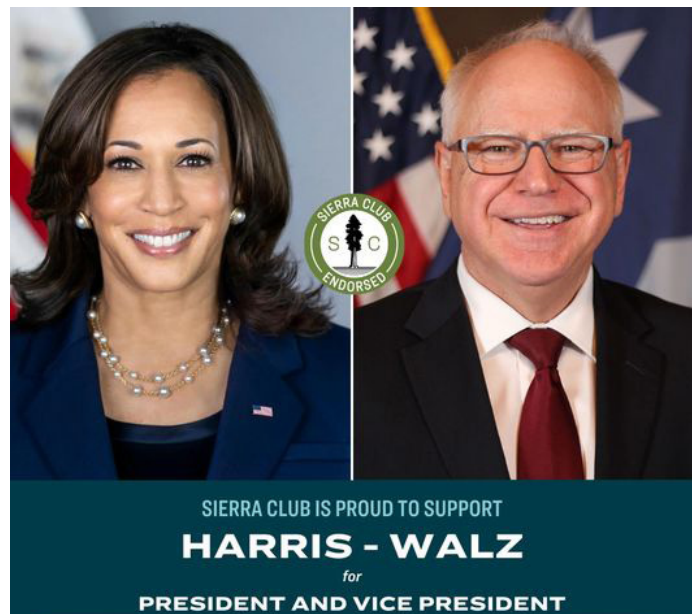
THE SIERRA CLUB IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE 2024 ELECTIONS

The Sierra Club has endorsed **Kamala Harris** and **Tim Walz** for President and Vice President, **Tammy Baldwin** for Senate, **Peter Barca**, **Mark Pocan**, **Rebecca Cooke**, **Gwen Moore**, **Kyle Kilbourn**, and **Kristen Lyerly** for Congress.

The staff and volunteers of the Wisconsin Chapter are very proud to announce these endorsements. These candidates are committed to maintaining clean air, clean water and all the lands that make Wisconsin unique. **We urge you, as Sierra Club members, to vote for and help elect new environmental leaders and re-elect proven elected leaders.**

At the state level, our goal of creating pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in our endorsements of 79 candidates so far. State lawmakers who scored a perfect 100% pro-environment voting record have been named **Sierra Club 2024 Environmental Champion** for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. The names of the **Environmental Champions** are listed in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.

Incumbent officials were judged based on their overall environmental voting record, public statements and activities



while in office. Challengers were measured by their responses to questionnaires and interviews, environmental platforms, public service, and public statements.

If you're unsure who your state Senator or Representative is, go to www.legis.state.wi.us/ and click on "Who represents me?" Use your favorite search engine to find their campaigns.

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LET'S WIN TOGETHER

What do you most value about the Sierra Club and our work? How about our fierce opposition to fossil fuels to mitigate climate change, and pushing back on inequities tied to fossil fuels' impacts? Maybe it's standing up for wildlife and preventing the slaughter of wolves. Perhaps it's our fight to protect drinking water, work to get the lead out, fight CAFOs, and campaign to stop use of dangerous PFAS chemicals. Equitable clean transportation. Or maybe you just love the outdoors and our outings – whether land and water based.

Whatever your concerns, so much of what we have accomplished (or haven't been able to) is tied to who we have elected to office – especially our state legislature. Wisconsin's once great environmental leadership has been sullied for the last decade and a half by legislators who care little for the environment and the impacts on our people and great state.

But this November offers a very different opportunity. Thanks to redistricting, your voice and the choices you make at the voting booth will matter once again. Many state races will now be much more competitive with the opportunity to elect many more pro-environment legislators, especially in the state Assembly, but also the Senate. (Only ½ the Senate seats have elections.)

On page 3 you'll find a list of candidates we've endorsed, both federal and state – incumbents based their voting record, and candidates from their responses to questionnaires. We've endorsed Tammy Baldwin for the U.S. Senate who is a far better choice than her opponent, and also a number of House of Representatives candidates. We think there are particularly good opportunities to pick up House seats with excellent candidates Rebecca Cooke in Congressional District 3 and Kristin Lyerly in District 8, and District 1 could be in play with Peter Barca.

Your vote for President couldn't be more critical. The Sierra Club has endorsed Kamala Harris and Tim Walz where the contrast with their opponents couldn't be starker – not only for the environment, but for our democracy. Harris and Walz will continue to build on the policies and successes of the Biden/Harris administration on climate, equitable clean energy, and holding polluters accountable.

There are many ways to make a difference and help us win. First, learn the facts (see our web site) and share your views and passions with others. Another great option is volunteering either with the chapter or a group to get out the vote and stump for candidates we've endorsed. It will also help provide you with more information about the candidates and issues. Donating to support our work and helping us contact more people is also extremely helpful.

In addition to voting yourself, make sure your family and friends vote too. Absentee ballots are an option, and if someone needs help, make sure they get it. Consider helping others get to the polls, either on your own or through organizations that work to provide that support. You can find lots more information about voting at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

Join us to achieve what you value about our work by electing many more legislators who will protect people and the environment and look to a future where we are all safe and all belong. Together, we can make history. And when we fight together, we can win together.

**Don Ferber
Gail Syverud
Co-chairs**

THE WISCONSIN SIERRAN

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Please submit articles by mail or email to:
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Please include the author's first and last names, and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the January 2025 issue is midnight on November 10, 2024.

Change of Address:

You can update your contact information online at myaccount.sierraclub.org.

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Additional endorsements will have been made since the *Wisconsin Sierran* was published – please go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections/political> to view the most up to date list of endorsements.

NAMES THAT ARE IN BOLD ARE INCUMBENTS WHO RECEIVED A 100 PERCENT ON OUR LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD.

US SENATE

Tammy Baldwin

US CONGRESS

Peter Barca, WI-1

Rep. Mark Pocan, WI-2

Rebecca Cooke, WI-3

Rep. Gwen Moore, WI-4

Kyle Kilbourn, WI-7

Kristin Lyerly, WI-8

STATE SENATE

Kelly Peterson, D-De Pere (District 2)

Rep. Dora Drake, D-Milwaukee* (4)

Sen. LaTonya Johnson, D-Milwaukee (6)

Jodi Habush Sinykin, D-Whitefish Bay (8)

Andi Rich, D-Marinette (12)

Sarah Keyeski, D-Lodi (14)

Melissa Ratcliff, D-Cottage Grove (16)

Kristin Alfheim, D-Appleton (18)

Michael Rapp, D-Van Dyne (20)

Sen. Bob Wirsch, D-Pleasant Prairie (22)

Collin McNamara, D-Stevens Point (24)

Sen. Kelda Roys, D-Madison (26)

Jamie Wall, D-Green Bay (30)

Sen. Brad Pfaff, D-Onalaska (32)

STATE ASSEMBLY

Jason Schmitz, D-Menasha (3)

Jane Benson, D-Suamico (4)

Shirley Hinze, D-Shawano (6)

Rep. Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, D-Milwaukee (8)

Rep. Darrin Madison, D-Milwaukee (10)

Sequana Taylor, D-Milwaukee (11)

Russell Goodwin, D-Milwaukee, D-Milwaukee (12)

Rep. Robyn Vining, D-Wauwatosa (13)

Angelito Tenorio, D-West Allis (14)

Sarah Harrison, D-Brookfield (15)

Rep. Kalan Haywood, D-Milwaukee (16)

Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde, D-Milwaukee (17)

Margaret Arney, D-Wauwatosa, (18)

Rep. Ryan Clancy, D-Milwaukee (19)

Rep. Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (20)

David Marsteller, D-Milwaukee (21)

Dana Glasstein, D-Mequon (22)

Rep. Deb Adraca, D-Whitefish Bay (23)

William Walter, D-Germantown (24)

Joe Sheehan, D-Sheboygan (26)

Alison Page, D-River Falls (30)

John Henderson, D-Elkhorn (31)

Ben Murray, D-Porterfield (36)

LaToya Bates, D-Mayville (37)

Chris Gordon, D-Neshkoro (39)

Maureen McCarville, D-Deforest (42)

Brienne Brown, D-Whitewater (43)

Ann Roe, D-Janesville (44)

Rep. Clinton Anderson, D-Beloit (45)

Joan Fitzgerald, D-Fort Atkinson (46)

Scott Walker, D-Prairie du Chien (49)

Rep. Jenna Jacobson, D-Oregon (50)

Elizabeth Grabe, D-Mount Horeb (51)

Rep. Lee Snodgrass, D-Appleton (52)

Duane Shukoski, D-Neenah (53)

Rep. Lori Palmeri, D-Oshkosh (54)

Kyle Kehoe, D-Oshkosh (55)

Emily Tseffos, D-Appleton (56)

Ruth Caves, D-Wild Rose (57)

Jack Holzman, D-Belgium (59)

Joe Lavrenz, D-Fond du Lac (60)

LuAnn Bird, D-Hales Corners (61)

Angelina Cruz, D-Racine (62)

Rep. Tip McGuire, D-Kenosha (64)

Ben DeSmidt, D-Kenosha (65)

Rep. Greta Neubauer, D-Racine (66)

Jeff Foster, D-Colfax (67)

Remy Gomez, D-Tomah (70)

Vinnie Miresse, D-Stevens Point (71)

Jane Kleiss, D-St. Croix Falls (75)

Rep. Francesca Hong, D-Madison (76)

Rep. Shelia Stubbs, D-Madison (78)

Rep. Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (79)

Rep. Mike Bare, D-Verona (80)

Rep. Alex Joers, D-Middleton (81)

Yee Leng Xiong, D-Weston (85)

John Small, D-Marathon (86)

Christy Welch, D-De Pere (88)

Amaad Rivera-Wagner, D-Green Bay (90)

Rep. Jodi Emerson, D-Eau Claire (91)

Christian Phelps, D-Eau Claire (93)

Rep. Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (94)

Rep. Jill Billings, D-La Crosse (95)

Tara Johnson, D-La Crosse (96)

Del Schmechel, D-Hubertus (98)

2023-24 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

The 2023-24 Legislative session sadly followed the same old script as the last one: a lack of progress on key issues and troubling attacks on our democracy. Luckily, Governor Evers stepped up to the plate, using his veto power to protect the environment and push through a budget focused on environmental justice. It's important to recognize that the ongoing inaction from the legislature is unacceptable, especially when people are struggling with contaminated water and climate change is causing real damage. We need to act now—there's no time to waste on politics.

We must ensure that Wisconsin's drinking water is safe, protect wildlife from the looming extinction crisis, and take bold steps to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Unfortunately, the bills introduced last session did the opposite. The bills threatened our water sources, wildlife, and climate stability. Thankfully Governor Evers stood up for our climate, water, and wildlife and vetoed these harmful bills.

Sierra Club's 2023-24 Legislative Scorecard looked at specific votes that the legislator's took and 'scored' the number of pro-conservation votes. We scored 15 votes the Senate took and 8 votes that the Assembly took (the Assembly did not vote on as many bills and the Assembly did not vote on appointments).

The bills we looked at fall into five categories: energy, water, land, wildlife, and democracy. **Check out the full Scorecard with descriptions of the bills we prioritized and how candidates voted on our website: sierraclub.org/wisconsin**

PRIORITY ISSUES AND BILLS

Climate Action / Energy

Our dependence on fossil fuels has alarming consequences, so moving beyond coal, oil, and gas to clean energy and transportation is a top priority. Instead of encouraging more clean energy and efforts to curb carbon emissions, the legislature prioritized bills that would restrict the use of clean energy and clean vehicles and appliances.

Democracy

Fundamental rights and constitutional protections, like the separation of state, voting rights, fair electoral maps, and more were under attack this session. The biggest attacks we saw on democracy this last session was the way the legislature undermined Governor Evers and the executive powers. This includes rejecting Public Service Commissioner Tyler Huebner and Natural Resources Board members Sharon Adams, Dylan Jennings, Jim VandenBrook, Todd Ambs, and Sandra Dee Nass even though they were all extremely qualified for their positions. We also scored redistricting and bills that made protesting a penalty.

Water

Water sustains life. Fortunately for us, Wisconsin has plenty of it. One of our top priorities is to ensure clean, drinkable water. Every Wisconsinite should be able to turn on their tap and know the water coming out is safe to drink and use. Despite the legislature claiming they were concerned about PFAS pollution, the only bill that moved forward that would address

PFAS limited the Department of Natural Resources ability to test for and enforce against PFAS contamination, weakening longstanding pollution protections.

Wildlife

Wildlife plays an essential role in the function of ecosystems, and like land, we have a responsibility to help preserve and protect other species. We believe in science-backed wildlife management informed by Tribes and other public input. Two bills, the Wolf Population Bill, which would require an arbitrary wolf population goal, and the Hounding Expansion bill, which would have expanded hounding in northern Wisconsin, would have jeopardized Wisconsin's wildlife by putting politics over science.

How did your Legislators score?

Review the legislative scorecard on pages 5-6.

How to read the scorecard:

Legislator name and district

Party (D = Democrat; R = Republican)

Score (% of pro-environmental votes out of all votes taken)

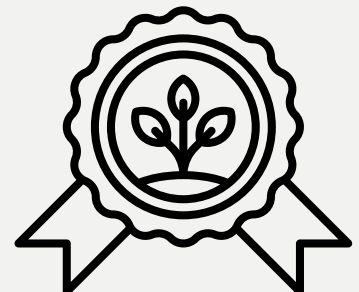
Governor Evers vetoed all but one of the bills that we scored, earning him a 90% conservation score.

Elizabeth Ward Chapter Director

SENATE					
DISTRICT	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LOCATION	PARTY	SCORE
16	AGARD	MELISSA	MADISON	DEMOCRAT	100%
14	BALLWEG	JOAN	MARKESAN	REPUBLICAN	10.0%
28	BRADLEY	JULIAN	NEW BERLIN	REPUBLICAN	10.0%
19	CABRAL-GUEVARA	RACHAEL	APPLETON	REPUBLICAN	0%
3	CARPENTER	TIM	MILWAUKEE	DEMOCRAT	100%
2	COWLES	ROBERT "ROB"	GREEN BAY	REPUBLICAN	0%
12	FELZKOWSKI	MARY	TOMAHAWK	REPUBLICAN	0%
18	FEYEN	DAN	FOND DU LAC	REPUBLICAN	0%
27	HESELBEIN	DIANNE	MIDDLETON	DEMOCRAT	100%
5	HUTTON	ROBERT "ROB"	BROOKFIELD	REPUBLICAN	0%
1	JACQUE	ANDRE	DEPERE	REPUBLICAN	0%
13	JAGLER	JOHN	WATERTOWN	REPUBLICAN	0%
23	JAMES	JESSE	ALTOONA	REPUBLICAN	0%
6	JOHNSON	LATONYA	MILWAUKEE	DEMOCRAT	100%
33	KAPENGA	CHRIS	DELAFIELD	REPUBLICAN	10.0%
8	KNODL	DANIEL "DAN"	GERMANTOWN	REPUBLICAN	0%
7	LARSON	CHRIS	MILWAUKEE	DEMOCRAT	100%
9	LEMAHIEU	DEVIN	OOSTBURG	REPUBLICAN	0%
17	MARKLEIN	HOWARD	SPRING GREEN	REPUBLICAN	0%
11	NASS	STEVE	WHITEWATER	REPUBLICAN	0%
32	PFAFF	BRADLEY "BRAD"	ONALASKA	DEMOCRAT	100%
25	QUINN	ROMAINE	CAMERON	REPUBLICAN	0%
26	ROYS	KELDA	MADISON	DEMOCRAT	100%
31	SMITH	JEFF	BRUNSWICK	DEMOCRAT	100%
15	SPREITZER	MARK	BELOIT	DEMOCRAT	100%
10	STAFSHOLT	ROB	NEW RICHMOND	REPUBLICAN	0%
20	STROEBEL	DUEY	SAUKVILLE	REPUBLICAN	0%
4	TAYLOR	LENA	MILWAUKEE	DEMOCRAT	100%
24	TESTIN	PATRICK	STEVENS POINT	REPUBLICAN	0%
29	TOMCZYK	CORY	MOSINEE	REPUBLICAN	0%
21	WANGGAARD	VAN	RACINE	REPUBLICAN	0%
30	WIMBERGER	ERIC	GREEN BAY	REPUBLICAN	10.0%
22	WIRCH	ROBERT "BOB"	PLEASANT PRAIRIE	DEMOCRAT	90.0%

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE OUR AWARD WINNERS!

Save the date for the 2024 Awards Celebration! We hope to see you on November 13th for this event. Every year, the Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter recognizes some of our many wonderful volunteers and community leaders for their dedication, passion and leadership. We could not do our work alone, and celebrating our award winners is one of the best parts of our year. This virtual ceremony will allow us all to be together and celebrate these environmental leaders from across the state. You can RSVP for the event on our calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar>.



ASSEMBLY				
DISTRICT	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PARTY	SCORE
97	SCOTT	ALLEN	R	0%
45	CLINTON	ANDERSON	D	100%
47	JIMMY	ANDERSON	D	100%
23	DEB	ANDRACA	D	100%
75	DAVID "DAVE"	ARMSTRONG	R	0%
32	TYLER	AUGUST	R	0%
48	SAMBA	BATCH BALDEH	D	100%
80	MIKE	BARE	D	100%
89	ELIJAH	BEHNKE	R	0%
95	JILL	BILLINGS	D	100%
27	AMY	BINSFELD	R	0%
59	TY	BODDEN	R	0%
39	MARK	BORN	R	0%
22	JANEL	BRANDTJEN	R	0%
60	ROBERT "ROB"	BROOKS	R	0%
35	CALVIN	CALLAHAN	R	0%
19	RYAN	CLANCY	D	100%
44	SUE	CONLEY	D	100%
81	DAVE	CONSIDINE	D	100%
41	ALEX	DALLMAN	R	0%
38	BARBARA	DITTRICH	R	0%
84	BOB	DONOVAN	R	0%
94	STEVE	DOYLE	D	100%
11	DORA	DRAKE	D	100%
99	CINDI	DUCHOW	R	0%
87	JAMES "JIMMY BOY"	EDMING	R	0%
91	JODI	EMERSON	D	100%
5	JOY	GOEBEN	R	0%
18	EVAN	GOYKE	D	100%
74	CHANZ	GREEN	R	0%
58	RICK	GUNDRUM	R	0%
55	NATE	GUSTAFSON	R	0%
16	KALAN	HAYWOOD	D	100%
76	FRANCESCA	HONG	D	100%
68	KAREN	HURD	R	0%
43	JENNA	JACOBSON	D	100%
79	ALEX	JOERS	D	100%
33	SCOTT	JOHNSON	R	0%
26	TERRY	KATSMA	R	0%
1	JOEL	KITCHENS	R	0%
72	SCOTT	KRUG	R	0%
50	TONY	KURTZ	R	0%
88	JOHN	MACCO	R	0%
10	DARRIN	MADISON	D	100%
28	GAE	MAGNAFICI	R	0%
15	DAVE	MAXEY	R	0%
64	TIP	MCGUIRE	D	100%
24	PAUL	MELOTIK	R	0%
13	THOMAS "TOM"	MICHALSKI	R	0%
17	SUPREME	MOORE OMOKUNDE	D	100%

ASSEMBLY				
DISTRICT	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PARTY	SCORE
29	CLINT	MOSES	R	0%
56	DAVID "DAVE"	MURPHY	R	0%
36	JEFFREY "JEFF"	MURSAU	R	0%
12	LAKESHIA	MYERS	D	88%
61	AMANDA	NEDWESKI	R	0%
66	GRETA	NEUBAUER	D	100%
98	ADAM	NEYLON	R	0%
51	TODD	NOVAK	R	0%
52	JERRY	O'CONNOR	R	0%
65	TOD	OHNSTAD	D	100%
96	LOREN	OLDENBURG	R	0%
8	SYLVIA	ORTIZ-VELEZ	D	75%
54	LORI	PALMERI	D	88%
37	WILLIAM	PENTERMAN	R	0%
40	KEVIN	PETERSEN	R	0%
93	WARREN	PETRYK	R	0%
42	JON	PLUMER	R	0%
92	TREIG	PRONSHINSKE	R	0%
46	MELISSA	RATCLIFF	D	88%
83	NIK	RETTINGER	R	0%
7	DANIEL	RIEMER	D	100%
21	JESSIE	RODRIGUEZ	R	0%
69	DONNA	ROZAR	R	0%
73	ANGIE	SAPIK	R	0%
6	PETER	SCHMIDT	R	0%
53	MICHAEL	SCHRAA	R	0%
31	ELLEN	SCHUTT	R	0%
71	KATRINA	SHANKLAND	D	88%
90	KRISTINA	SHELTON	D	100%
20	CHRISTINE	SINICKI	D	100%
57	LEE	SNODGRASS	D	100%
85	PATRICK "PAT"	SNYDER	R	0%
2	SHAE	SORTWELL	R	0%
86	JOHN	SPIROS	R	0%
4	DAVID	STEFFEN	R	0%
77	SHELIA	STUBBS	D	100%
78	LISA	SUBECK	D	100%
67	ROB	SUMMERFIELD	R	0%
34	ROB	SWEARINGEN	R	0%
25	PAUL	TITTL	R	0%
49	TRAVIS	TRANEL	R	0%
3	RON	TUSLER	R	0%
70	NANCY	VANDERMEER	R	0%
14	ROBYN	VINING	D	100%
63	ROBIN	VOS	R	0%
82	CHUCK	WICHGERS	R	0%
62	ROBERT "BOB"	WITTKKE	R	0%
30	SHANNON	ZIMMERMAN	R	0%
9	MARISABEL	CABRERA	D	100%
24	DANIEL	KNODL	R	0%

BIG WINS IN WESTERN WISCONSIN WITH NEW CLEAN ENERGY ANNOUNCEMENT



Earlier this year, President Biden was in Westby, Wisconsin at the Vernon County Electric Coop to announce some big news for all Dairyland Power Coop customers and Wisconsin residents.

President Biden's climate bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, provided a historic \$7.3 billion in funding for carbon reductions through the USDA's Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program. This is the largest investment in rural electricity since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law in 1936.

In September, the White House and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the winners of the grants and loans. 16 rural electric cooperatives, including Wisconsin's Dairyland Power Coop, will receive funding. The New ERA program will fund investments in renewable energy, storage, transmission, and large-scale emissions reductions. This funding will allow these leading electric cooperatives—serving one-fifth

of rural Americans—to accelerate the adoption of affordable and reliable clean energy, improving resilience and lowering costs for their members.

Dairyland Power Coop will receive almost \$573 million to procure 1,080 megawatts (MWs) of clean energy, including power purchase agreements for four solar installations and four wind power installations across rural Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa.

What this massive investment means:

- Dairyland customers' electric rates are estimated to lower by 42 percent over 10 years than they would have been without the New ERA funding.
- The award will drive an estimated \$2.1 billion in clean energy investments throughout the region
- Pollution will be reduced by an estimated 3 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually— the equivalent of taking 729,000 gasoline-powered cars off the road every year— or 90 million tons over the lifespan of the projects.

SHUT DOWN LINE 5

This summer our Tar Sands Team has been busy working with groups across the region, and even across the country, to encourage participation in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' comment period on Enbridge's proposed Line 5 reroute. The agency will determine whether or not to permit the project at the federal level.

From comment parties, to tabling, to flyering, to talking to neighbors and friends, we've done a lot! While the totals won't be known for a while, our internal count tells us that more than 150,000 people across the country have weighed in in opposition to Line 5. Here you can see activists and partners in Ashland, outside the public hearing the Corps held at the beginning of June. We helped send a bus of people up from across the state to join local organizers and community members and bring the message home: Deny permits for Line 5 and Shut it Down.



Credit: Devon Young Cupery

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

PROTECTING OUR OLDEST FORESTS

In 2022, President Biden issued an executive order to protect mature and old-growth trees. Over this past summer, the U.S. Forest Service considered an amendment to forestry management that would help fulfill that executive order. Sierra Club joined thousands across the country in helping to generate public comments to protect old growth forests and mature trees, including advocating for old growth trees from being cut and sent to the lumber mill and to lay the groundwork for long-term protections for mature forests to ensure they can become old-growth forests in future generations. Old growth forests offer biodiversity and carbon sequestration benefits, among other things. We collected hundreds of comments and hosted a film screening and comment writing party before the September 20th comment deadline. We are waiting for a decision from the U.S. Forest Service about the amendment and how it will be implemented in states across the country.



PEOPLE AND WOLVES

On November 18, our Sierra Club WI Chapter will host a special screening of *People & Wolves*, a documentary detailing the impacts of Wisconsin's 2021 wolf hunt from a variety of perspectives, with emphasis on the special relationship between Ojibwe Tribes and Ma'iingan (wolves). The documentary also features wise words of Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & Messenger of Peace. Please check our website calendar for all the details to join us for this special night at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar>.

A SNAPSHOT OF PFAS IN THE STATE

Is there PFAS in your drinking water? This family of toxic chemicals is found in ground and surface waters in many parts of Wisconsin. Read on to learn more.

Researchers at the UW-Madison say that some foams on Wisconsin waterways have PFAS levels as much as 7,000x higher than the waters that lie below them! Lake Monona in Dane County had the highest levels of PFAS statewide, likely because it is downstream from the Dane County Regional Airport, where PFAS-containing firefighting foam has been sprayed for years. Warnings issued by Wisconsin and Michigan advise avoiding contact with any foam observed on waterways.

On April 19, 2024 the EPA and the Biden-Harris Administration finalized a rule designating two more widely used PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) as hazardous substances under the Superfund law. This step will compel polluters, not taxpayers, to pay for or conduct investigations and cleanup of these harmful chemicals.

EPA doesn't intend to pursue individual farmers, municipal landfills, water utilities, municipal airports or local fire departments. The companies that pollute need to be held accountable for the harm they have caused.

For info on PFAS testing and current rulemaking and standard setting processes, visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website.

LEAD PIPE REPLACEMENT

Lead in drinking water is a widespread public health issue across the country, with millions impacted. Several Wisconsin communities have been selected as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead Service Line Replacement Accelerators initiative, which will help address barriers to lead service line replacement and speed up the process of creating a healthy living environment. The program will include community engagement plans, inventories of lead pipe locations, and help accessing funding to support replacement.





NO NEW GAS: STOPPING WE ENERGIES' BUILDOUT

We Energies, the utility provider in southeast Wisconsin, is proposing a gas buildout that will cost a whopping \$2 billion. This cost will be borne by ratepayers, including many who face significant energy burden already. Dangerous heat, extreme storms, severe drought and historic floods will continue to rapidly worsen, due to climate change, and with additional fossil fuel use comes serious health impacts. Despite all of this, We Energies is moving forward with their plan to replace coal infrastructure with another fossil fuel, locking us into decades of harm. Over the next few months we have the opportunity to weigh in, organize, and demand these projects not be permitted. Join us in protecting ourselves and our communities by getting engaged! Interested? Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Heather, at heather.wittrock@sierraclub.org.

NO MORE ANONYMOUS OBJECTIONS TO KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

Land conservation is back on track in Wisconsin following a 6-1 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling eliminating unconstitutional interference with the program by the state legislature. Prior to the ruling, any member of the legislature's Joint Finance Committee could lodge an anonymous objection to a DNR-approved conservation project and defeat the stewardship funding for the project. This was true especially since the required hearing on the objection would never be scheduled. This tactic created a roadblock for major conservation projects like the 70,000-acre Pelican River Forest near Rhinelander and the 131-acre Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs preserve in Ozaukee County. This won't happen anymore, and land trusts have taken notice. In the first five weeks of the new fiscal year, all Knowles-Nelson funding has been fully subscribed.

However, some members of the Joint Finance Committee have criticized the court decision and may threaten the future of this stewardship funding program that has always enjoyed bipartisan support. Now is the time to show your support for the program. To find out what Knowles-Nelson funding has done for your area, visit the KnowlesNelson.org homepage and scroll down to "See Where Knowles Nelson Works in Your Community". Check out the "Take Action" menu for ways you can help.

Linda Frank, Lands Team Member



Sierra Club - Coulee Region Group held a recent outing to Hass Trails, a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship project!

AWARD-WINNING BOOKS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

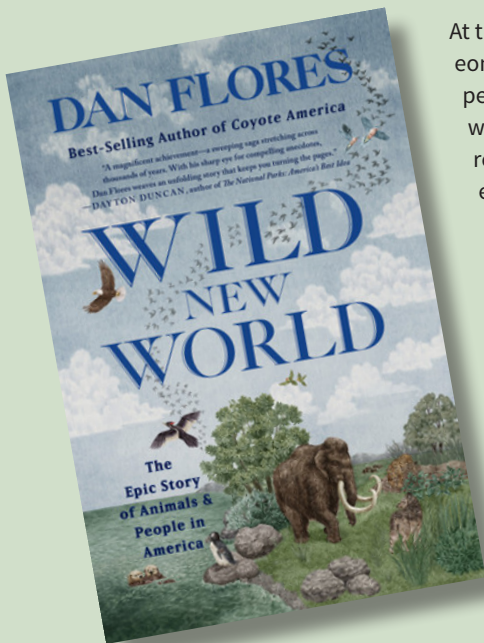
Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher

by Marina Richie, 2022, Oregon State University Press, 246 pages.

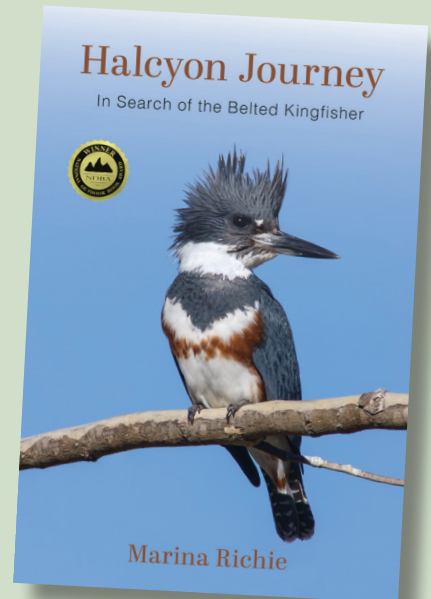
Wild New World: The Epic Story of Animals and People in America

by Dan Flores, 2022, WW Norton and Company, 398 pages.

These two books about people and fauna exist at far ends of a continuum. At one end we find Richie's passion for Kingfishers and her dogged focus on the species she loves, winner of the National Outdoor Book Awards and the John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing.



At the other end, stands Flores' epic coverage of eons of history and a story that begins before the period of the fifth great extinction and casts a wide net through time and history to bring the reader to an understanding of the fifth great extinction. *Wild New World* won the Rachel Carson Environment Book Award and the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History-Literature.



The Kingfisher, in Greek mythology, is the halcyon—a bird with magical powers said to calm the seas when nesting. Richie embarks on her personal *Halcyon Journey*, driven by her passion to find and observe a nesting pair of kingfishers. Her quest begins with the challenge of locating the nest. We join Richie, morning after chilly morning, as she explores a creek near her Montana home. Her narrative weaves scientific studies and personal stories that often volley between her son and the influences of her naturalist father. The cold mornings eventually pay off when she discovers the birds' nesting hole in the side of a cutbank, where she sets up a blind and hunkers down. Richie's pursuit soon expands beyond her local creek, leading her on adventures to distant continents to learn more about these legendary birds. Riche's personal quest winds through culture, family bonds and her understanding of her place in the matrix of life. Her Kingfishers are the thing she tugs on to find she is connected to everything else in the world.

Flores calls his approach in *Wild New World* "Big History" which, he writes, "has advantages over conventional history. It can acknowledge that the destiny of a continent like North America lies not just with us but also with our fellow creatures and the longer evolutionary stream in which we all live."

Humans emerge as a new species entering North America. These carnivorous hunters, foragers, and cultivators' success came at a steep cost to other species. Flores examines the decline and some recoveries of wildlife. The same species who mucks up so much, also works wonders to undo a bit of the damage by respecting and acting for natural systems. With a captivating narrative bolstered by genomic science, evolutionary biology, and environmental history, Flores offers a sweeping yet personal history of the complex relationship between humans and animals in America.

Both authors offer you an engaging journey that wanders directly and personally into the matrix of systems and species that sustain us.

Amy Lou Jenkins' books include *Every Natural Fact and Friends*. If you have a book for possible review, contact her through JackWalkerPress.com.

MOVING FROM DEFENSE TO OFFENSE

For more than a decade, transportation advocates in Wisconsin have been forced to play defense: trying to stop transit funding cuts and route cuts, pushing back on anti-pedestrian and anti-cyclist misinformation, working to convince Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) to update its policies and processes, and more. While there is so much that still needs defending, Sierra Club's transportation team has been able to pair that with more proactive advocacy for clean and equitable transportation.

Transit to Trails: In partnership with the National Sierra Club and local transit advocates, Sierra Club transportation team members have hosted Sierra Club outings that can be accessed by public transportation systems. These outings have identified gaps in transit networks and have uplifted where transit systems are working well to connect people to outdoor recreation.

Electric vehicles: This spring, Governor Evers announced that 53 locations across Wisconsin will receive federal funding through the Biden/Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to build out fast charging stations for electric vehicles. The first of these fast charging stations should be opening this fall. Sierra Club will continue to share these updates to electric vehicle infrastructure with our members so more people can take advantage of the progress in this area.

Rethinking WISDOT policies: Through many public comment periods, Sierra Club members have been pushing WISDOT to reconsider how it makes decisions, especially about which projects move forward and in what way. Like many Departments of Transportation across the country, WISDOT is still using outdated traffic projection models and antiquated rationale for new projects like highway expansions. These out-of-date policies have led to continued investment in highway expansion projects and other high-greenhouse-gas-emitting projects over less polluting forms of transportation like transit, walking and biking.

Local transportation projects: It has been a busy year for transportation advocates across the state, from the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Madison to reimagining highways in Milwaukee like 794 and 175 to

supporting bike infrastructure to connect the Fox Valley area to High Cliff State Park.

Shifting perspectives: A Week Without Driving (September 30 - October 6) has given both everyday people and elected officials the opportunity to experience everyday life without the ability to drive. Whether walking, biking, taking transit or asking for a ride, this week challenges participants to learn what it is like when driving is not an option.

Pedestrian safety: October is Pedestrian Safety Month, and Sierra Club members will be encouraged to conduct a walk



Credit: Elizabeth Ward

audit near their homes, jobs, healthcare facilities, or places of recreation. Walk audits help identify strengths and weaknesses of the pedestrian infrastructure in a given area. AARP has a wonderful toolkit to help advocates get started. Check it out at aarp.org/livable-communities/getting-around/aarp-walk-audit-tool-kit.html and then share your results with your local elected officials and transportation planners!

Regional transportation authorities: With new electoral maps, it is likely that the makeup of Wisconsin's state legislature will shift. This may open up more opportunities for improved transportation legislation, including allowing Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs). RTAs allow for better regional planning, coordination and funding of transportation. In many states, RTAs are a big key to well coordinated and well funded transit systems. Later this fall, Sierra Club - Wisconsin's transportation team will host a webinar about RTAs. Check the website calendar for more information as it comes together.

Transit, pedestrian and bicycle funding: With another state budget approaching, advocates have begun to advocate for Governor Evers and WISDOT to request funding increases for the modes of transportation that have been historically

underfunded, including transit and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Of course, our work to defend the positive parts of our transportation system still continues.

I-94 in Milwaukee: Sierra Club has joined 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAHA) in a lawsuit on the approval of the I-94 highway expansion in Milwaukee. This project was approved, despite clear negative impacts to surrounding communities (many of which are Communities of Color, violating civil rights law) and to the state's environment. Sierra Club, 1000 Friends and Riverkeeper are represented by attorney Dennis Grzezinski and Midwest Environmental Advocates, and MICAHA is represented by Legal Action Wisconsin. Legal action is a key strategy that, when combined with community organizing, has led to many of Sierra Club's successes over the years. If you would like to donate to support this lawsuit, you can send a check, made payable to: Sierra Club Foundation - Wisconsin Chapter with "I-94" in the memo line, mailed to Sierra Club Wisconsin, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703.

Other highway expansion projects: Our team continues to submit comments and help members of the public engage in other proposed highway expansion projects that will cause significant negative environmental and justice impacts - including I-39/90 in Dane, Columbia, Sauk and Juneau counties and the Beltline highway in the Madison metro area.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT PREFERENCES

Want to adjust what emails, mailings, phone calls and texts you're getting from the Sierra Club? You can update your contact preferences at any time at myaccount.sierraclub.org. Just log in or sign up for access to the site (it's free!). Look for the "Communication Preferences" option under the "Manage My Account" section. You can tailor your email preferences and more here.



Our transportation team volunteers have been busy, and we can always use more help! Please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator Heather Wittrock at heather.wittrock@sierraclub.org to find a volunteer role that is a good fit for you!

Cassie Steiner
Campaign Coordinator



Support the Wisconsin Chapter

When you make a donation to the Wisconsin Chapter you allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email _____

Credit Card _____ Exp. _____

Mail to: Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

VOTE FOR OUR ORGANIZATION'S LEADERSHIP!

Leadership of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club is entrusted to a 15 member volunteer Executive Committee. Nine at-large seats are elected by Sierra Club members to serve staggered three-year terms and each of our six local groups appoint one delegate to represent them. The Executive Committee provides direction to the Chapter on fiscal matters, policy, fundraising, and prioritizing issue work, and ensures that the Chapter evolves with the times and remains an effective organization.

This year Chapter members are asked to choose three volunteer leaders from the slate of candidates below. These three leaders will serve a three-year term starting in January 2025 and finishing in December 2027. Winning candidates will be announced in the January 2025 Wisconsin Sierran.

After reading the candidates' statements, use the ballot on page 15 to cast your vote. Each member can VOTE FOR UP TO THREE CANDIDATES. Ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2024.

TRACY STAEDTER OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY



I want to be more involved in movements that are pushing back against factory farming and the loss of biodiversity in Wisconsin. The Sierra Club, with its storied history and commitment to environmental issues, is leading the charge against such degradation, and I'd like to join the ranks.

In my current part-time job as Executive Director of Milwaukee Business Improvement District #16 Uptown Crossing, my responsibilities include roles like those of a Sierra Executive Committee Member. For instance, I uphold the mission of BID #16 by organizing monthly meetings, leading strategic planning and decision-making activities, fundraising, creating annual budgets, ensuring fiscal responsibility, planning events, preserving accurate records of decisions approved or amended, and identifying new board member candidates.

My volunteer work includes advising leadership at Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center on climate mitigation and carbon emissions reduction. I was a volunteer member of the Washington Park Friends, the Community Advisory Committee for the Reimagining WIS 175, and served on the Nature in the City working group for Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan.

I spent most of my career as a science journalist, so writing and editing is a core strength of mine. I wrote the grant for the City of Milwaukee ECO's response to a USDA-US Forestry opportunity and won \$12 million for the city. My current

work in community and economic development has helped me develop the skills to organize, write strategic plans and grants, and build diverse communities of people working toward similar goals.

As a member of the Wisconsin Chapter, I would join the Water Team's efforts and look for opportunities to deepen partnerships with and support local and regional organizations that oppose factory farming.

My priority issues are protecting our water resources and protecting native forests and wildlife.

ANGIE HOUGAS OF DANE COUNTY



I believe we must have, increase, and protect green spaces. They not only add to our joy and happiness but are good for our mental health. I admire Sierra Club's dedication to getting people outdoors with outings and its protection of wildlife, lands, water and the climate. It would be personally rewarding to be part of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee to continue this vital work.

I have served on the Amnesty International USA Board of Directors on and off for over nine years. This includes serving as its Treasurer on the Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Membership Committee, and its Governance. I have been involved in policy formation and review both at the federal level and international level for human rights. This also

Wisconsin Chapter Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2024

Instructions: Read the candidate statements on the preceding page(s). Select up to three candidates. Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box. Ballots clipped from *The Sierran* must have a legible membership number on the back to be valid. One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

Voter #1:

- Scott Coulthurst
- Angie Hougas
- Tracy Staedter
- Write In:



Voter #2:

- Scott Coulthurst
- Angie Hougas
- Tracy Staedter
- Write In:

Online: <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2024-wi-chapter-executive-committee-elections>

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2024

Mail to: Linda Frank, 1845 N Farwell Ave. #202, Milwaukee WI 53202

includes the organization's bylaws. There is an intersection for human rights and climate justice. I bring all this background with me. I am also a long-time volunteer at my local Humane Society. It is interesting to compare and contrast Amnesty International, the Humane Society and Sierra Club as working organizations and how they utilize volunteers.

I think there needs to be an expansion of membership at all age and donation levels. One way to do this is to communicate how they, as members, can become involved in the Chapter depending upon their availability. Another way is to partner with some of the numerous local community organizations across the state where missions and goals overlap.

A priority for me is protecting our water resources because water is fundamental to all life. Protection must be equal for all communities. The Sierra Club works hard to bring protection to marginalized communities, natural landscapes, and wildlife.

SCOTT COULTHURST OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Volunteerism is an important aspect of my life. As a balance to my professional and personal life, I look for volunteer opportunities which are consistent with my interests of conservation and the outdoors. Previously, I was the chair

of the Village of Germantown, WI Parks & Recreation Commission for eight years. A Sierra Club member since 2019, I am an Executive Committee member for the Great Waters Group in southeastern Wisconsin and an Executive Committee member for the State Chapter as well. I enjoy working with the Wisconsin Chapter's Wildlife Team and believe coordinating with groups with overlapping goals, like hunters and mountain bikers, can help support our causes. In my free time, I like to ski, hike, and mountain bike Wisconsin and the U.P.





**SIERRA
CLUB**

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Volume 62 / Number 3 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 6

Week Without Driving

weekwithoutdriving.org/join

OCTOBER 1 & 3

We Energies Rate Case Hearings

2:00 pm and 6:00 pm,

hybrid: in person in Racine and Milwaukee or online

OCTOBER 14

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Sierra Club offices closed

OCTOBER 15

Regenerating Life film screening

7:00 p.m., virtual

NOVEMBER 2

Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter Executive Committee election deadline

NOVEMBER 5

Election Day

myvote.wi.gov

NOVEMBER 13

Chapter Awards Ceremony

6:00 pm, virtual

NOVEMBER (DATE TO BE DETERMINED)

Regional Transportation Authorities webinar

7:00 pm, virtual

NOVEMBER 18

People & Wolves documentary screening

7:00 pm, virtual

DECEMBER 4 - JANUARY 1

Winter break

Sierra Club offices closed

JANUARY 7

Book club discussion on *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet* by Ben Goldfarb

7:00 pm, virtual

For the most up-to-date event information, visit our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar. Any events that do not have a website listed can be found on our website calendar.

OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION - Big win at the Superior City Council

This spring we had great news out of Superior - incredible neighbor organizing efforts led the City Council to effectively deny permits utilities had requested for the proposed Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) project. Despite proponents' efforts to sow a false narrative that this gas plant is needed, it became clear that the community would not benefit from additional fossil fuels. From climate concerns to respecting the neighboring Indigenous burial grounds to health and economic factors, Superior's residents and leaders spoke out against NTEC in hours of testimony over and over again. While the utilities are still pursuing the project, this win demonstrates just how strong local opposition is, and that activists won't stop until NTEC is canceled.

NO NTEC!

We deserve a
healthy
breathable future

Visit www.linktr.ee/stopntec or scan the QR code