

November Newsletter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

We are so pleased to have USEPA Region V Administrator Debra Shore as our kick-off speaker for State of Brownfields 2024. I often hear from our members how important it is to interact with our regulatory agency partners. Hearing from the Regional Administrator is an excellent opportunity to learn about important policy issues that EPA is considering for the upcoming year. I urge you to register for State of Brownfields and consider bringing a colleague!



Believe it or not, ReScape 2025 is right around the corner and now is a great time to lock in your sponsorship and use any remaining 2024 funds. Check out this year's [sponsorship prospectus](#) available on our website.

And, please start submitting your ReScape Award Nominees. [Visit our website](#) to learn which category best suits your project and make your nominations:

- [Community Impact](#)
- [Environmental Impact](#)
- [Economic Impact](#)
- [Innovation](#)

The deadline to submit your projects is January 31, 2025.

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth

Join Us For Our State of Brownfields Event

State of Brownfields 2024

Thursday, November 14

Minnesota State Capitol - The Vault Room

1:00 - 4:00 PM

4:15 - 6:00 PM Happy Hour at Herbie's St. Paul

Minnesota Brownfield's Annual "State of Brownfields" event is the premier public policy event for brownfield professionals. The State of Brownfields event will be held at the State Capitol building in Saint Paul. Speakers from federal, state and local government will be on-hand to give you the most updated information about public policy initiatives related to brownfield redevelopment and environmental cleanup. Don't miss this opportunity to network with colleagues and learn from Minnesota's public policy leaders.

Join us afterwards for networking and happy hour at Herbie's in the Park, St. Paul.



AGENDA

Welcome: Elizabeth Kluesner – Executive Director, Minnesota Brownfields

Federal Update: Introduction – Representative Betty McCollum's Office Debra Shore – USEPA Region V Administrator

State Legislative Update: Senator Jen McEwen (invited) Chair of the Senate Labor Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Environment, Climate & Legacy Committee

Break

State Agency Updates: Rachel Ganani - Chief of Staff, MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler DEED (invited)

State Lobbyist Panel: Policy reflections from the election and analysis of the upcoming session with panelists: Ania McDonnell - Government Relations Specialist, Metro Cities and Haley Cobb - Government Relations Specialist, Winthrop & Weinstine, League of Minnesota Cities (invited)

Adjourn to Herbies for Minnesota Brownfields Happy Hour

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Rachel Ganani



Ania McDonnell



Haley Cobb

THANK YOU, EVENT SPONSOR - LANDMARK ENVIRONMENTAL

Renew Your Membership With Us!



We are officially in membership renewal season! All Minnesota Brownfield members should have received an email on November 1 with directions on how to renew. If you have any questions, [please email staff](#).

Membership is due for **renewal by December 31, 2024**.

Sponsor the 2025 ReScape Awards

An advertisement for the 2025 ReScape Awards. It features a photograph of a historic brick building at night, illuminated from within. The building has a sign that says "OFFICE". In the foreground, there are two cars parked on the street. The advertisement includes the ReScape Awards logo in the top left and the Minnesota Brownfields logo in the top right. The text on the right side of the image reads: "MINNESOTA BROWNFIELDS", "2025 ReScape Awards", "April 17, 2025", and "The 1893 at the Historic Grain Belt Office".

Save the date for our 2025 ReScape Awards to be held **Thursday, April 17**, at the Historic 1893 Grain Belt Office! We are looking for sponsors who wish to support us in this event. Take a look at the [2025 ReScape Prospectus](#). Ready to [lock in your sponsorship?](#)

Sponsor the 2025 ReScape Awards

Save the Date for Brownfields & Beyond!



The Department of Employment & Economic Development will hold the Brownfields and Beyond conference on April 24 and 25, 2025 in Saint Cloud.

[Learn More](#)

Brownfield Gap Financing Program - New Funding Round Available November 1

Minnesota Brownfields is pleased to continue as the contractor for Hennepin County's Brownfield Gap Financing Program. The new funding round will begin on November 1 and the grant program will have \$400,000 available for funding phase 1 and 2 environmental assessment work. Please share this information with your clients.

Click the link below to learn more about the program, including new eligibility for emerging developers.

[Hennepin County GAP Financing Program](#)

MPCA Continues Guidance Updates

The MPCA has released its Institutional Control Guidance and Environmental Covenant & Easement template. These topics were discussed at the MPCA Guidance Workshop on September 18.

[Access the Program Slide Deck](#)

New! Remediation Division Institutional Control Guidance and updated Environmental Covenant and Easement template

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Remediation Division has created a new guidance document – [Remediation Division Institutional Control Guidance](#) – as a resource for environmental professionals, developers, lenders, and land use planners involved in the investigation, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties in one of the MPCA's remediation programs. The text of the document provides information about tools that can be used to control land use or manage potential future risk at a site with residual contamination. The appendices provide instructions and tips for people drafting or reviewing an institutional control for a remediation site:

- Appendix A is a table that provides a framework for deciding if and what kind of institutional control is needed at a site.
- Appendix B provides instructions for the Hazardous Substance Affidavit.
- Appendix C provides instructions for the Environmental Covenant and Easement (ECE) and also contains information that addresses frequently asked questions about certain locked sections of the ECE template.
- Appendix D is frequently asked questions about subordination agreements.
- Appendix E provides instructions and tips for the required institutional control

exhibits.

This is one of several guidance documents that are being created or updated as part of the Remediation Division's larger effort to update our guidance. Thanks to the external stakeholders who reviewed a draft of the institutional control guidance and provided helpful comments. If you have questions about the new document, please reach out to [Amy Hadiaris](#).

The MPCA has also posted an updated [ECE template](#) on our website. The primary focus of the updated template was to make our internal process more efficient. A cover sheet was added that describes how to submit the draft ECE for staff review and how to submit the final ECE for MPCA signature. It's important to follow the cover sheet instructions, so all parties involved in the review and signing of the ECE will have the information they need to carry out their role. The updated template also fixes a few glitches that were present in the old template, adds cover sheets for the exhibits, and replaces the MPCA signature page with a placeholder page.

- Starting today, any new draft ECEs received for *first-time staff review* are required to use the new ECE template.
- For the next 60 days, if there is an ECE in process that *staff has already received for review*, continued use of the former template is fine, but when the ECE is submitted for MPCA signature, it must include the cover sheet from the new template. The hard copy submitted for MPCA signature will not be acted upon unless the cover sheet is present.

Thank you, Members!

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Thomas Braun

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Christopher Cerny

Sara Collova

Alana Crawford

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Jim Crowl

Robert Devolve

Nicholas Dufficy

Jessie Ebertz

Martha Faust

Dain Fisher

Amanda Guertin

Amy Hadiaris

Jayme Hammond

Ross Hedlund

Victor Henao

Steve Heurung

Holly Johnson

Kevin Johnson

Public Sector, Non-Profit

Organizations and One Person

Company

City of Duluth
City of Minneapolis - CPED
City of Rochester
City of St. Cloud Economic Development
Condition Services LLC
Dakota County CDA
Dakota County Water Resources
DEED-Brownfields and Redevelopment
Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Hennepin County
HTB Project Navigation LLC
Metropolitan Council
Midwest Select Contracting LLC
MN Dept of Transportation
Parkway Law LLC
Port Authority of St. Paul
Ramsey County Community & Economic
Development
Washington County Community
Development Agency

Paul Kammueller
David Knight
Mark Koplitz
Karen Kromar
Chuck Krueger
Gary Krueger
Rick Kubler
Anne Lazo
David Liverseed
Richard Manser
Jeri Massengill
Ania McDonnell
Crystal Mogensen
Andrew Nichols
Chris Niemand
Joe Otte
Peiyu Phua
Kristin Prosocki
Binod Rai
Joseph Reinders
Kyle Romens
Rebecca Ryser
Betsy Schmiesing
Shanna Schmitt
David Schultz
Jacob Smokovitz
Scott Spisak
Jerry (Gerald) Strub
Emma Tschann
Mark Umholtz
Sherry Van Duyn
Stacey Van Patten
Charlie Vander Aarde
Michael Wardwell

Student Members

Erik Breitenbach
Ashley Crowl
Wendy Erickson
Rachel Geist
Seth Golden
Brian Jastram
Logan Mahoney
Catherine McCarthy
John Quigley
Raj Sam



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