

## November Newsletter

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

Welcome to fall at Minnesota Brownfields! I want to encourage you to register for our upcoming annual [State of Brownfields](#) event.

This year's program format has been changed to include a "Meet the Regulators" component. It will feature an open house where you can connect with almost all of the state and local agencies who work on brownfield projects. The open house is an excellent way to connect with old friends and also meet new staff. And, this is a fantastic way for your firm's new practitioners to meet the public sector staff who are so critical to brownfield redevelopment project success.

We are excited to have Kirk Koudelka and Kevin McKinnon as our lead off speakers for State of Brownfields. Both bring exceptional insight into the policy direction and leadership at two of our key agency partners: MPCA; and DEED.

Finally, save the date for Minnesota Brownfield's 20th Anniversary celebration on January 27th at Surly. This is sure to be a great way to celebrate with colleagues!

Finally, see below for some wonderful pictures from our Emerging & Diverse Developers event in October. It was great to see so many new faces in the room for this workshop. A huge thank you to the Opus Foundation for supporting this work and to all of the speakers who donated their time to make the workshop possible.

I hope to see all of you at State of Brownfields.

Warm Regards,  
Elizabeth



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## Emerging & Diverse Developer's Workshop



Keynote Speaker - Miluska Novota



Attendees listen to Hennepin and Ramsey County representatives at the Emerging Developers event.



Michael Zazzera - Hennepin County  
Ella Mitchell - Ramsey County



Andy Donahue - Minnesota Small Business Development Center



Attendees break for lunch and have an opportunity to network with colleagues.



Minnesota Brownfields Past President Betsy Schmiesing - Winthrop & Weinstine -

## Thank you, Opus Foundation



Many thanks to John Kinny and the Opus Foundation for their ongoing support of the Emerging & Diverse Developer Workshop. Minnesota Brownfields appreciates the Foundation's confidence in our organization to connect with new developers in the brownfield space.



John Kinny - The Opus Group

## Meet the Regulators at State of Brownfields

Join us on November 13th for our Annual State of Brownfields Event. We are changing this year's event format to include a "Meet the Regulators" section on the event agenda. This is a great opportunity for your new or younger practitioners to meet the key government players in the Brownfield Redevelopment world.

A promotional poster for the event. The top half shows a photograph of a speaker at a podium in a large, ornate room with high ceilings and stone walls. The text 'MEET THE REGULATORS AT STATE OF BROWNFIELDS' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters. The Minnesota Brownfields logo is in the top left corner. The bottom half of the poster has a green background with the text 'SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13' and a dark blue background with 'LOCATION: RIVERSIDE ROOM &amp; JOHN'S BAR AT HERBIES'.

[Register](#)

Thursday, November 13

## Rice Park Event Center, St. Paul (attached to Herbie's On The Park)

Minnesota Brownfield's Meet the Regulators at State of Brownfields is the premier public policy event for brownfield professionals. 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 and meet the regulators.

Member Pricing: \$85.00 (\$100 after November 1)

Non-Member Pricing: \$115 (\$130 after November 1)

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Policy Update

Speakers: Kirk Koudelka, Assistant Commissioner - Land Policy and Strategic Initiatives, MPCA, DEED – invited & Legislator – Rep. Peter Fischer, invited

3. Meet the Regulators – Organization Introductions

Open House Participants: MPCA, DEED, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MnDOT, MDH (invited), Met Council, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Capital Region Watershed District

4. Happy Hour

[Submit Your State of Brownfield Questions](#)

Have a question you'd like to ask one of our speakers? Submit it by clicking the button above and our speakers will do their best to tailor their presentations around your questions to ensure you get the most out of your experience with us!

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**Minnesota Brownfields Celebrates 20 Years!**



Save the date! We're returning to one of Minnesota Brownfields early ReScape Award Winners, Surly Brewing, to celebrate the kickoff to our 20th anniversary year.

Join us at Surly on Tuesday, January 27th to connect with new and old colleagues!

## Celebrate 15 Years of ReScape with us: Submit Your Projects!



The ReScape Awards is Minnesota Brownfields' yearly awards program. It was established to recognize and celebrate development projects that bring remediation, redevelopment and revitalization to communities across the state of Minnesota.

Each year, dozens of brownfields projects are submitted. These nominations are submitted to one of four categories – [Community Impact](#), [Economic Impact](#), [Environmental Impact](#) and [Innovation Awards](#). Eligible entries include projects completed between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025. The projects are evaluated by a panel of industry professionals resulting in one winner per category.

Awards are presented to the project partners that most demonstrate efficient clean up and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening the community and enabling sustainable land use and development. The deadline to submit is Friday, January 30, 2026.

In 2026, we will be celebrating our winners on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Royalston Square in Minneapolis.

[Learn More & Submit a Project](#)

# Hennepin County Brownfield Gap Financing Program - New Funding Round is Open!

Minnesota Brownfields and Hennepin County are happy to announce that the new Brownfield Gap Financing Program funding round is open! This grant program for government, non-profits and emerging developers continues to be a critical first step for many brownfield projects.

If you are not yet an approved contractor in the Gap Financing Program, please consider working with us to provide this service to grant applicants.

You can learn more about the BGFP here: [Hennepin County GAP Financing Program](#).

## MGWA Fall Conference: Groundwater Recharge in a Changing Climate & Emerging Contaminants Beyond PFAS



One of our partner organizations, the Minnesota Groundwater Association, is holding its Fall Conference on November 18th in Brooklyn Center. More information about the conference can be found below.

[Learn More](#)

## Minnesota Bar Groundwater Conference



[Future of Groundwater Governance](#)

[Visit MNBARS Website](#)

## November Fact of the Month:



## FACT OF THE MONTH:

Did you know the MPCA Brownfield Program works with large and small projects throughout the state of Minnesota? Check out the video below to see a brownfield success story, Bailey Builds, located in Duluth.

[Watch the Video](#)

## Thank you, Members!

### Gold Leaders

Stantec

### Silver Supporters

American Engineering Testing  
Bay West  
Braun Intertec  
Geosyntec  
SEH  
Terracon Consultants

### Bronze Partners

Barr Engineering  
Bolander  
Carlson McCain  
Fredrikson  
GZA GeoEnvironmental  
Inland Development Partners  
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KLJ Engineering  
Landmark Environmental, LLC  
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**Public Sector, Non-Profit  
Organizations and One Person  
Company**

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 Economic Development Authority  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority  
Hennepin County  
HTB Project Navigation LLC  
Metropolitan Council  
MN Dept of Transportation  
Parkway Law LLC  
Port Authority of St. Paul  
Ramsey County Community & Economic  
Development  
St. Louis County Economic & Community  
Development

**Student Members**

Sean Bartlett  
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