

## October Newsletter

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

You may have heard that 2026 is a Landmark year for the Minnesota Brownfields organization. We will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary in the upcoming year! I had the pleasure of talking to Ken Haberman recently about the organization's humble start and I continue to hear from my colleagues across the region and country that we have created a unique and special model with Minnesota Brownfields.



2026 also marks the 15th Anniversary of the ReScape Awards. [Applications are now open](#) and I encourage you to submit your projects for the 15th Anniversary Celebration.

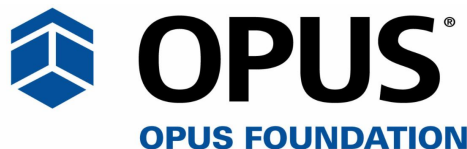
Part of our mission is to expand the envelope of people who are involved in brownfield redevelopment projects across the state of Minnesota. The upcoming [Emerging and Diverse Developers Workshop](#) is a prime example of the fulfillment of this mission. We have an incredible line up of speakers for this year's workshop and I encourage you to share the registration information with anyone in your network who may be interested in learning more about brownfield project financing.

Finally, a huge personal thank you to the Opus Foundation for continuing to believe in Minnesota Brownfield's capacity to connect with emerging developers. The Opus Foundation's gift allows us to offer this programming free to participants.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of our upcoming programs. Information about the Emerging Developer Workshop and the annual State of Brownfields/Meet the Regulators Events can be found below.

Warm Regards,  
Elizabeth

**Last Day to Register for the Emerging & Diverse Developer's Workshop is Oct. 3!**



**Emerging Developers Workshop!**  
**Westwood Hills Nature Center**  
**Thursday, October 9**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

Through the generosity of the Opus Foundation, Minnesota Brownfields is excited to continue our emerging and diverse developer curriculum. This year's program will be held on October 9 at a new location, the Westwood Hills Nature Center. The session will focus on financing options for Brownfield Projects.

There is no cost to attend this event, but registration is required. **Registration closes on Friday, October 3.**

## Agenda

1. Registration/Coffee
2. Welcome: Charlie Vander Aarde – The Tunheim Group and President of Minnesota Brownfields Board of Directors AND John Kinny – The Opus Group
3. Introduction – What is a Brownfield?: Elizabeth Schmiesing – Partner, Winthrop & Weinstine
4. Working with City Government: Kevin Carroll – Principal Project Coordinator, City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department AND Daniela Lorenz - Principal Project Manager, City of Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development
5. Working with County Government: Michael Zazzera – Hennepin County AND Ella Mitchell – Ramsey County

### 6. Lunch Break

Keynote Speaker: Miluska Novota

7. Working with State Government: Kristin Lukes – Department of Employment & Economic Development AND Shannon Martin – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
8. Lending Panel: Mike Bisanz - Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer – HUD/FHA AND Colliers Mortgage AND Mary Stoick - Senior Vice President, Director of Tax Credit Lending Sunshine Bank
9. Community Resources

Andy Donahue, State Director | Minnesota Small Business Development Center  
CDC Representative (invited)  
Scott Anderson, Director of Community Lending, Minneapolis Land Bank

Register

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## 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](#)

## Register for Meet the Regulators at State of Brownfields Event on Nov. 13



**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 Regulator – Organization Introductions

Open House Participants: MPCA, DEED, Met Council, USEPA Region V, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Capital Region Watershed District

4. Happy Hour

[Register](#)

**Have a Spectacular Summer Intern? Nominate Them for a 2026 Mac Hyde Scholarship!**



Many Minnesota Brownfields members have had summer interns who may be great Mac Hyde Scholarship Candidates. Please share the link below with your summer interns, and encourage them to apply for this scholarship.

[Apply Today!](#)

**Thank you, Members!**

## **Gold Leaders**

Stantec

## **Silver Supporters**

American Engineering Testing  
Bay West  
Braun Intertec  
Geosyntec  
SEH  
Terracon Consultants

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KLJ Engineering  
Landmark Environmental, LLC  
Lathrop GPM  
Loucks  
Merjent, Inc.  
The Opus Group  
Pace Analytical Services, LLC  
Ramboll Engineering  
Rock Leaf Water Environmental LLC  
Stinson LLP  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Tankenoff Families Foundation  
Vonco  
Winthrop & Weinstine  
WSB

## **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  
Ashley Crowl  
Wendy Erickson  
Lucille Hugunin  
Peter D. Michel

## **Individual Members**

Chris Anderson  
Steven Banovetz  
Tom Binsfeld  
Jonathon Blaha  
Eric Blodgett  
Sarah Jo Boser  
Thomas Braun  
Christopher Cerny  
Sara Collova  
Alana Crawford  
Jim Crowl  
Wilmar Delgado  
Robert Devolve  
Jessie Ebertz  
Martha Faust  
Dain Fisher  
Amanda Guertin  
Amy Hadiaris  
Jayme Hammond  
Victor Henao  
Steve Heurung  
Youmi Hong  
Holly Johnson  
Kevin Johnson  
Paul Kammueler  
David Knight  
Karen Kromar  
Chuck Krueger  
Gary Krueger  
Rick Kubler  
Anne Lazo  
David Liverseed  
Richard Manser  
Shannon Martin  
Jeri Massengill  
Ania McDonnell  
Crystal Mogensen  
Andrew Nichols  
Chris Niemand  
Miluska Linares Novota  
Joe Otte  
Ian Peters  
Kristin Prosocki  
Kyle Romens  
Rebecca Ryser  
Madison Scheer  
Betsy Schmiesing  
Shanna Schmitt  
David Schultz  
Jeffery Sepesi  
Jacob Smokovitz  
Jerry (Gerald) Strub  
Tigh Surdez

Mark Umholtz  
Sherry Van Duyn  
Stacey Van Patten  
Charlie Vander Aarde  
Michael Wardwell



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