

December Newsletter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

2025 is coming to a close and it has been an exciting year for Minnesota Brownfields. Watch your inboxes for the Minnesota Brownfields Annual Report featuring 2025 pictures, event and project highlights.

We ended our 2025 curriculum with our annual State of Brownfields event, which also included a Meet the Regulators component this year. Thank you to all of our wonderful state and local government brownfield colleagues for sharing your programs with our members. A special thank you to Representative Peter Fischer, Deputy DEED Commissioner Kevin McKinnon and MPCA Assistant Commissioner Kirk Koudelka for sharing public policy updates. Finally, thank you to Winthrop & Weinstine for being this year's State of Brownfields sponsor.



Mark your calendars for the [20th Anniversary Year Kick Off Happy Hour](#) at Surly Brewing on January 27th. This will be a great moment to celebrate this unique organization.

I hope you all have a peaceful and merry holiday season.

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth

Meet the Regulators at State of Brownfields



Rep. Peter Fischer (District 44A) gives Minnesota Brownfields an update on recent developments with the state's Environment & Natural Resources Finance & Policy Committee.



Public and private sector professionals discuss current brownfield projects and policies.

State of Brownfield attendees have the opportunity to meet and learn from the regulators that influence Minnesota's brownfield policies.



Kirk Koudelka, MPCA Assistant Commissioner, speaks to State of Brownfield attendees on recent land policy and strategic initiatives happening at the state level.



Kevin McKinnon, Deputy Commissioner at DEED, addresses recent developments regarding state economic development and research.

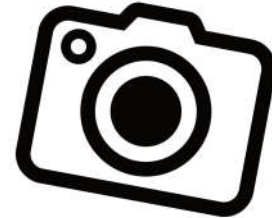


Our annual Meet the Regulators at State of Brownfields event was held at the beautiful 317 on Rice Park building. Attendees enjoyed an educational session, an interactive open house and a happy hour/networking hour afterwards.

Thank you, Winthrop & Weinstine

We Need Your Help! Looking for Photos of the Early Minnesota Brownfields Days

As a part of our 20th anniversary year celebration, we would like to compile candid photos from the early days of Minnesota Brownfields. If you have any event candids or other photos, please send them to Megan Dobberstein.



[Email Megan](#)

ReScape Judges Committee Nominations Now Open!



Every two years Minnesota Brownfields asks for our members to consider serving on the ReScape Judges Committee. This committee plays a critical role in the annual ReScape Awards, judging the projects that have been nominated in each category. The time commitment for being a ReScape judge includes a short training zoom call, reviewing and scoring all nominations and attending the final judging committee to compile project scores. We ask that each judge be prepared to serve a 2-year term. If you are interested in being a ReScape Judge, please fill out the form linked below before **Wednesday, January 7, 2026.**

[Apply to be a ReScape Judge](#)

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](#)

Upcoming Session on the Met Council Livable Communities Program

Livable Communities Act
Programs



Join the Met Council for the upcoming in-person session to learn about how Livable Communities grants can help you, new eligible uses, the new scoring structure and criteria, and key tips for applying.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025
2:00 to 3:00 pm
North Regional Library, Room 208
1315 Lowry Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Additional information sessions will be held in Blaine and Eagan in January 2026. The complete notice of funding availability will be issued in February 2026. Interested applicants and project teams may reach out to a Livable Communities Program Coordinator to discuss ideas.

[Learn More](#)

EPA Officially Opens the FY26 Brownfield Grant Competition, KSU TAB to Support Applicants

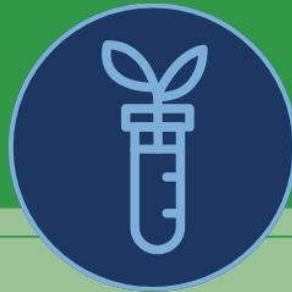


KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

The KSU TAB team offers in-depth proposal reviews to help strengthen your submission. If you'd like your draft reviewed, contact [Scott Nightingale](#). Please note that KSU TAB requests at least three business days to complete the review. Applications are due to EPA by January 28, 2026.

[Full guidelines](#) are available on the EPA's website. The deadline to submit your proposal to KSU for review is January 23, 2026.

December Fact of the Month:



FACT OF THE MONTH:

Did you know? Minnesota was first! Minnesota was the first state to pass brownfield cleanup legislation, specifically the Land Recycling Act in 1992, which established statutory authority for voluntary parties to obtain legal protections from state Superfund cleanup liability.

[Learn More](#)

Thank you, Members!

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Youmi Hong
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Kevin Johnson
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Richard Manser
Shannon Martin
Jeri Massengill
Ania McDonnell
Crystal Mogensen
Andrew Nichols
Chris Niemand
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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

**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

Retired Members

Gary Krueger

Student Members

Sean Bartlett
Ashley Crowl
Wendy Erickson
Lucille Hugunin
Peter D. Michel

Thank you, Platinum Member - Stantec!





Minnesota Brownfields | 4248 Park Glen Road | Minneapolis , MN 55416 US

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