



February News

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Elizabeth Kluesner

Minnesota Brownfields kicked off its 20th Anniversary Year in style! See below for some great photos from the recent 20th Anniversary Happy Hour at Surly Brewing.

Thank you to Minnesota Brownfields founders Ken Haberman (Landmark Environmental) and Kristina Smitten (Hillcrest Development) for talking to our members about the origins of Minnesota Brownfields, a truly great Minnesota idea! And, many thanks to Richard Manser (milepost 12 LLC) and Omar Ansari (Owner, Surly Brewing) for providing background on the early brownfield redevelopment success story to create the current home of Surly Brewing.



I am pleased that we have a number of interesting and unique brownfield project submittals for ReScape 2026. Don't forget to [get your ReScape tickets](#) and [sponsorships!](#) We can't wait to celebrate our 15th Annual ReScape Gala with you all at Royalston Square in April.

Finally, don't forget to save the date and [register for our upcoming Vapor Workshop](#) on March 5th. We will be hearing from MPCA about their current thinking on Vapor issues in Brownfield Redevelopment. This workshop will be held at the Wilder Center in Saint Paul. Happy February, and stay warm!

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth

Celebrating 20 Years of Minnesota Brownfields!



In Memory: Mike Beck

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Michael Beck, a respected leader in environmental engineering and a long time contributor to brownfield redevelopment efforts in Minnesota and around the country. Mike served as Vice President and Principal Engineer at Braun Intertec, bringing decades of expertise in environmental consulting, hydrogeology, and project management to communities across our state. His career, which included senior engineering roles at EKI in San Francisco and Geomatrix in

Minneapolis, prior to joining Braun Intertec, reflected a lifelong commitment to improving contaminated lands and strengthening the built environment.

Mike's work aligns with the mission of Minnesota Brownfields and the spirit of the ReScape Awards, which honor exemplary brownfield redevelopment across Minnesota. In recent years, projects recognized through ReScape—including statewide winners across categories such as Community Impact, Economic Impact, Environmental Impact, and Innovation—have demonstrated the type of transformation Mike dedicated his career to advancing.

Throughout his career, Mike was also widely admired for his passion for mentorship. Colleagues consistently described him as generous with his time, someone who elevated those around him by sharing both his technical expertise and his thoughtful approach to problem solving. Whether coaching early career engineers or collaborating with seasoned professionals, he fostered an environment where learning, integrity, and curiosity were encouraged. His legacy lives on not only through the projects he helped shepherd to life, but through the many professionals whose careers and confidence were strengthened by his support.

Minnesota Brownfields extends our deepest condolences to Mike's colleagues, friends, and family. His professional legacy continues to shape safer, more vibrant communities throughout Minnesota, and we honor his lasting impact on the redevelopment field.



Register for our Feb. 9 Webinar: Protecting Public Utilities from Contamination During Development



Minnesota Brownfields Webinar

**FEBRUARY 9
12:00 PM**

Protecting Public Utilities from Contamination During Development

MB
MINNESOTA BROWNFIELDS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIP

Speaker:
Jill Mickelson,
Braun Intertec

Speaker:
Joshua Kadrmas,
Braun Intertec

Join us Monday, February 9th at 12 pm CT for a virtual Minnesota Brownfields Lunch and Learn on Protecting Public Utilities from Contamination during Redevelopment.

Public utility work in areas with contamination has become increasingly common in both dense urban areas and rural communities. Protecting the utility infrastructure as well as the contents requires an evaluation of risk that should be incorporated into the project design process. We discuss the risks posed to the utility system, utility customers and to the construction process. We will provide strategies to identify, minimize and manage the impacts from design through construction. Attendees will gain information on the factors to evaluate before design, strategies for design modifications to minimize risks, and best management practices for construction.

Speakers:

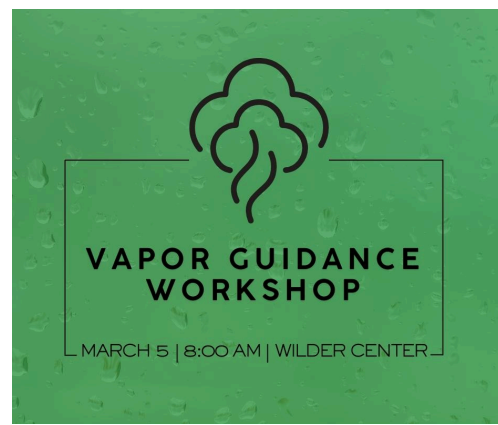
Jill Mickelson - Principal Engineer at Braun Intertec Corporation
Josh Kadrmas - Senior Engineer at Braun Intertec Corporation

[Register](#)

Register for the Upcoming Vapor Workshop

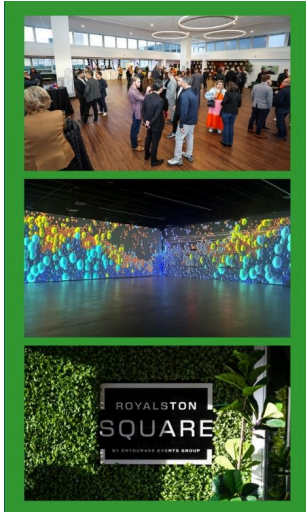
Registration is now open for the March 5th Vapor Workshop. The session will be held at the Wilder Center in Saint Paul.

Managing Vapor Issues continue to be an important component of environmental cleanup in Minnesota. Join Minnesota Brownfields, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Wisconsin DNR to learn about new Vapor Guidance and other issues associated with managing vapor intrusion in brownfield redevelopment projects.



[Register](#)

Sponsor the 15th Annual ReScape Awards Gala and Get Your Tickets Today!



Save the Date

2026 ReScape Awards

Thursday,
April 23, 2026
at Royalston Square

RESCAPE AWARDS 

We're looking for 2026 ReScape Award sponsors to help mitigate costs of the annual ReScape Awards Gala! Join us in celebrating redevelopment professionals and their work to forward Minnesota Brownfields' mission of promoting the efficient cleanup and reuse of contaminated land as a means of generating economic growth, strengthening communities and enabling sustainable land use and development. Lock in your ReScape Sponsorship today!

[Lock in Your Sponsorship!](#)

And, of course, be sure to register for the ReScape Awards! This event would not be what it is without all of you. Don't miss this opportunity to network with your peers in the redevelopment space and recognize your work and the work of your colleagues and partners.

[Register Today!](#)

NAIOP Brownfield Article

Minnesota Brownfields member John Kinny, The Opus Group, shared the article below from the current issue of NAIOP (Commercial Real Estate Development Association) highlighting brownfield redevelopment.

[Read the Article Here](#)

MPCA - PFAS Currently Unavoidable Use Webinar Scheduled for Feb 26

In 2032, intentionally added PFAS in new products sold in Minnesota will be prohibited unless the use of PFAS in the product is determined by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to be a “currently unavoidable use,” which is defined in statute as “essential for health, safety, or the functioning of society and for which alternatives are not reasonably available.” Added details and the determination process will be established through a rulemaking process with public input. An earlier public comment period and webinar were held in 2024.

Additional engagement opportunities are planned for 2026, beginning with a webinar on Feb. 26, 2026 at 1 p.m. CST.

This webinar will include an overview of the proposed rule, present on some proposed rule concepts, and introduce topics for which the agency is seeking additional feedback. A 30-day feedback period will follow the webinar to allow the public to provide input on the information presented. The webinar will be recorded for those that are unable to attend. [Please register for the webinar on the MPCA's event page.](#)

Register for the Upcoming Contamination and Cleanup Webinar Hosted by DEED

Register for the Upcoming Contamination and Cleanup Webinar, featuring Minnesota Brownfields members Kristin Lukes (DEED and Minnesota Brownfields Board President) and Marcus Martin (Metropolitan Council). The Webinar also includes information from Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

[Learn More](#)

February Fact of the Month:



FACT OF THE MONTH:

Did you know that Minnesota Brownfields was founded in 2006 and the founding members were: Ken Haberman; Kristina Smitten; and Deb Deluca?

Thank you, Members!

Platinum Executives

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
The Javelin Group
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

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 Hاديaris
Jayme Hammond

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

Retired Members

Gary Krueger

Student Members

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

Victor Henao
Steve Heurung
Yumi Hong
Holly Johnson
Kevin Johnson
Paul Kammueler
David Knight
Karen Kromar
Chuck 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

Thank you, Platinum Member - Stantec!



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!