

GREEN STIMULUS FUNDING STRENGTHENS MINNESOTA WATER PROJECTS

Even in these tough economic times clean water is a clear priority. On February 16, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The \$787 billion bill included \$6 billion for water infrastructure projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

These existing programs provide states with low-interest loans so communities can build projects needed to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The stimulus money will provide the opportunity for long overdue improvements to Minnesota water infrastructure. The most sizeable portion, over \$82 million, will be available for the backlog of water pollution control projects required to clean up the water in our lakes, rivers and streams. The money will be distributed based upon a combination of the environmental quality improvements the projects offer and their readiness to proceed. The most recent list ranks 261 projects in Minnesota with a total cost of over \$1.8 billion.

The ARRA includes new requirements on how the money is spent. First, it

targets “shovel-ready” projects or those under construction within 120 days and requires that all funds must be awarded by February 17, 2010. Second, up to half of the money can be awarded as grants rather than only as low interest loans. Clean Water Action joined with other groups to urge Congress to include requirements that a portion of the water money be used for green infrastructure projects. These include energy and water efficiency improvements along with swales, rain gardens, green roofs and other environmentally innovative approaches. Congress responded by stipulating that at least 20 percent of the money should be used for green infrastructure.



Water pollution control projects wishing to receive state and federal support must file with the state. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reviews all projects and ranks them using a scoring system of the environmental benefits the project provides. For example, projects receive points if they will reduce pollution into a lake, river or stream that doesn't meet Clean Water Act standards. They can also lose points like if they expand the capacity of wastewater treatment plants which increases environmental impacts due to development pressure.

Minnesota voters also provided another stream of new money to clean up Minnesota's waters with the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Amendment, supported by 55 percent of voters in 2008, increases the sales tax by three-eighths of one percent and dedicates the funds to restoring and protecting Minnesota's water, habitat, parks and trails along with the arts.

Predictions about the proceeds continue to fluctuate but the portion to be placed in the Amendment's fund dedicated to water, one-third of the total, is expected to be about \$150 million over the next two years. The Clean Water Council, established in 2006 as part of the Clean Water Legacy Act, has released their recommendations on how the money can best be used to ensure Minnesota's waters complies with the Clean Water Act and to protect drinking water sources.

The final decision rests with the Minnesota legislature who is still in the process of putting together the 2010–2011 budget. Clean Water Action has joined a coalition of business, agriculture, local government and environment and conservation groups to craft bills (HF2128 Eken and SF1913 Frederickson) matching the recommendations of the Clean Water Council. The bills divide the

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Minnesota CURRENTS

SUMMER 2009

Minnesota Currents is published by Clean Water Action.

Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

This update was prepared for our Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota members who contribute at the sustaining level of \$60 or more.

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Union printed: Worker safety and a clean environment go hand in hand.

MINNESOTA ISSUE UPDATES

Coming Soon: Minnesota Pesticide Tool Kit

Minnesota pesticide laws make it difficult for people who have been exposed to a pesticide to find out which one it is. Minnesota law prohibits anyone but veterinarians and doctors from receiving pesticide applicator records. Even they must fill out forms, taking up valuable time in when these records are needed—often a medical emergency. These roadblocks to access leave doctors treating patients based on a best guess, treating only symptoms.

Minnesota does not make the system easy to navigate. In an attempt to guide people through the red tape, we are putting all the documents and resources all in one spot called our Pesticide Tool Kit. We hope to offer a quick guide for anyone dealing with pesticide drift or other exposure to seek help as quickly as possible and understand laws that may affect their rights. We will be including a special link for doctors. Watch for our new Pesticide Tool Kit at www.cleanwateraction.org/mn!

1Sky: Minnesotans Fighting Global Warming

Here in Minnesota, 1Sky Organizer Jenna Garland has been working to bring Clean Water Action members in to Rep. Erik Paulsen's district, because he is a key vote on upcoming energy and climate legislation. As a freshman GOP Congressman, hearing from his constituents will be critical in pushing him to vote the right way.

Garland met with Mr. Paulsen and his staff in DC, even having a conversation with Erik about the need to cap our carbon while waiting to board their plane from DC back to Minneapolis. Garland has also represented Minnesota and Clean Water Action at the recent Power Shift 2009 conference, which brought

12,000 young people and climate advocates to D.C. She helped run the Minnesota State Breakout Session, leading 150 people in a discussion about how best to build a network of climate advocates across the state. Garland helped with the Power Shift Lobby Day Training, which trained approximately 5,000 of the 12,000 Power Shift attendees.

Between now and the anticipated U. S. House vote on the Rep. Henry Waxman's (D-CA) bill, Garland is working to organize grassroots lobby meetings with Erik Paulsen, as well as bringing labor, business, and faith leaders into Paulsen's office to make sure he's hearing from more than the usual suspects on the urgent need for climate legislation.

Celebrate Lake Superior Day

Lake Superior Day, Sunday, July 19, 2009 in Duluth, is to remind people about how important the lake and its surrounding basin are to our weather, health, food supply, recreation opportunities and lifestyles. Lake Superior Day is a time to highlight the many ways people use the Lake every day and encourages them to take action to protect it.



Healing Our Waters Conference

Clean Water Action is proud to present the Fifth Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference, September 10–12, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Duluth, Minnesota.

Help shape the future of Great Lakes restoration along with our extensive network of partners from the public and private sectors by attending the fifth annual Great Lakes Restoration

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Conference in Duluth. Enjoy field trips, engaging workshops and an evening overlooking Lake Superior.

To find out more about Lake Superior Day or the Healing Our Waters Conference, contact Rosie Loeffler-Kemp at 218-722-8557 or [rkemp@cleanwater.org](mailto:rkamp@cleanwater.org).

Restoration Act

Efforts to reverse the damage done to the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Supreme Court have begun anew. Senator Russ

Feingold (D-WI) and 23 co-sponsors reintroduced the Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787) in early April. This version, virtually unchanged from the bill he authored in the last Congress, restores Clean Water Act protections for wetlands, lakes and streams threatened by the 2001 SWANNC and 2006 Rapanos Supreme Court decisions.

Since those decisions, more and more waters continue to be stripped of Clean Water Act protections. Introduction of the U.S. House version, authored by

Minnesota Congressman Jim Oberstar, is expected shortly. The Restoration Act will be appear before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, of which our own Sen. Amy Klobuchar is a member, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which Rep. James Oberstar (MN-8) chairs and of which Rep. Walz (MN-1) is a member. The President and members of his administration have spoken in favor of restoring the scope of the Clean Water Act.

WILL MUNGER, JR: A PASSION FOR MAKING DULUTH BETTER

State Representative Roger Reinert may have said it best: “Will Munger does not live in the shadow of his father’s legacy. He has spent his life building his own. He is an outspoken and highly respected activist and community leader who brings stakeholders together who doesn’t always share the same agenda. The result is moving issues forward that many of us care about deeply.”

Clean Water Action has been fortunate to have Will Munger, Junior serve on our State Board as our District 8 representative. He has volunteered hundreds of hours helping with our candidate endorsing process, strategic planning and being a passionate voice for

Will Munger spent his childhood on the St. Louis River, helped his dad run the Munger Hotel after his mother died and while he went to UMD, where he graduated with a degree in Business/Economics and Political Science. He then went on to work as a Field Representative for March of Dimes for ten years and State Director for the MS Society for 25 years.

Will returned to Duluth in the mid-90s to help his dad run the Historic Willard Munger Inn, established in 1954. Will transformed the Inn, located near Spirit Mountain, into an eco-friendly destination that appeals to bikers, hikers, skiers,

“Duluth is a better place because of Will’s involvement, vision, genuine warmth and caring.”

Lake Superior by attending conferences, Great Lakes Lobby Days in DC, and at the State Capitol. According to Will, “Clean Water Action is on the forefront influencing legislative action, both by lobbying and working to get people elected. We know how to get right to the grass roots level to be effective.”

snowboarders and birders. Will also manages the Indian Point Camp ground, on the St. Louis Bay. Will has created a place for people to be active in the outdoors because he believes we truly appreciate the special places we have when we are out and enjoying them. Will speaks warmly of how both his parents, Martha and Willard, influenced his life



Will and his wife, Sally, on a trip to the Boundary Waters.

in many ways. He feels coming back home to Duluth has been very fulfilling.

Will Munger shares his passion and commitment for making Duluth a better place by serving on many local boards including: Visit Duluth, Save Lake Superior Association, St. Louis River Alliance and the Spirit Mountain Authority Board. “Duluth is a better place because of Will’s involvement, vision, genuine warmth and caring. Will is a fierce supporter of Clean Water Action and a tireless Board member for us,” shares Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, NE MN Organizer.

A special thanks to Will and Sally Munger for donating rooms and campsites to our Clean Water Action canvassers over the years. A highlight always is Will taking them for a walk by the St. Louis Bay, passing on history and stories. You have inspired many college students and new activists!

CLEAN WATER CURRENTS

A National Newsletter of Clean Water Action. | Volume 37, No. 2 | Summer 2009



From the President
John DeCock

THE LONG VIEW

One of the most pernicious influences in American society is the quest for the Quarterly Bottom Line. It encourages instant gratification at the expense of enlightened self interest, ignoring the greater good. This irrational outgrowth of corporate culture isn't even in the best interest of corporate profits. Thoughtful planning is sacrificed for short term profit four times a year to make shareholders happy and keep executives in their jobs. It doesn't work, yet it is the guiding principle of corporate behavior in this era.

Quarterly Bottom Line thinking has infiltrated our government and marketplace in ways that work against our long term interests. We burn fossil fuels as if there is an infinite supply and no adverse consequences. We allow toxins, sewage and drugs into our water as though some invisible force will remove all the bad stuff and what comes out of our tap will be okay. We don't hold polluters accountable or require sustainable practices and products because our health and environment aren't counted in the bottom line. We fail to invest in systems, policies and infrastructure that

will ensure a healthy environment and strong economy for the long term. Many people think that way.

Fortunately, members of Clean Water Action know better.

Clean Water Action is taking advantage of the historic opportunities we see before us. We have helped to build pro-environment majorities in many state legislatures and Congress. We have a chance, in fact a mandate, to address complex, long term problems with sustainable solutions. As we start the summer, the U.S. House is taking a first big step to address Global Warming and invest in a clean energy future.

That's just the beginning.

Big changes are on the horizon in environmental public policy—changes for which Clean Water Action has been working our entire history. Shifting to a new energy economy and protecting our waters from old and new threats cannot happen without a new and comprehensive approach. We have to look at choices we make in our everyday lives and how we impact natural resources. Any environmental

issue you care about: just add water. Water is the fundamental element which connects the natural world, our health and all the things we care about.

We take the long view to protect water and are promoting a 21st century approach to water use and management. We have a decades-long commitment to protecting our communities and ecosystems from toxics, outmoded water systems, water borne diseases, poor water use and management practices and a range of other issues that demonstrate the connection between water and every aspect of our lives and our world.

Clean Water Action empowers people to make democracy work. We work for solutions that protect health and natural resources. Where big, bold initiatives and decisions are required; our people power makes it happen. People power and a long, persistent approach. That is what we do. Constant pressure applied constantly. It's the way diamonds and good environmental policy are made.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR BATH TUB?



Bubble baths should be clean, safe and fun. But *No More Toxic Tub*—a report published in March 2009 by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics in partnership with Clean Water Action and other organizations—found hazardous ingredients in numerous bath products marketed to babies and children. The report lists 38 products contaminated with formaldehyde, 1,4-dioxane or both, although neither contaminant appears on product labels. Both chemicals are linked with cancer but neither toxin is federally regulated in the United States.

The European Union and Canada prohibit 1,4-dioxane use *at any level* in cosmetics, while Sweden and Japan have banned the use of formaldehyde in cosmetics and toiletries. Canada and the European Union also closely regulate the chemical. In the U.S., the FDA has done nothing.

The *Toxic Tub* report found that 67% of tested products contained 1,4-dioxane. 82% contained formaldehyde. 61% contained both toxins. Even trace amounts of these chemicals can present health risks for babies and may contribute to serious health problems and disease.

“Many people are shocked,” says Clean Water Action’s Mia Davis, who coordinates the national Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. “We shouldn’t have to be chemists to pick safe products for our children.”

Baby products are often marketed as gentle and safe—terms not typically associated with cancer-causing chemicals. The list of contaminated products includes trusted names like Johnson


& Johnson, Sesame Street Bubble Bath and Gerber’s Grins & Giggles Milk & Honey Body Wash.

To spread the word about dangerous chemicals in baby products and other cosmetics, Clean Water Action offices across the country have hosted a series of successful outreach events, inviting members and non-members to ask questions, read literature and learn about products ranging from safe to dangerous.

“It’s not just babies, it’s everyone,” explains Sarah Holzgraf, campaign organizer for Clean Water Action’s New Hampshire office. “People see a product on the table and think: ‘I use that! Why is it there? What’s wrong with it?’” Holzgraf explains that people are surprised and upset to learn the cosmetics industry is self-regulated. “They think the government is protecting us.”

Clean Water Action New Hampshire is also working with the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics to collect petition signatures to deliver to public officials, urging them to support more effective regulations of chemicals in personal care products. New Hampshire members can sign the petition at: www.cleanwateraction.org/takeaction/nh

To learn more about Clean Water Action’s work for Healthy, Safer Families and Communities, visit www.cleanwateraction.org.

 *The trouble with these chemicals doesn’t end in the bath tub. “They are getting back into our waterways,” says Davis, who explains that these are just two of the many chemicals and toxins we are washing down our drains. Our cosmetics, household cleaners, pesticides and prescription drugs all eventually find their way through our plumbing and into the environment. This chemical cocktail can wreck havoc on ecosystems, wildlife and community water supplies. Some of these chemicals have been linked to damaged aquatic ecosystems, where frogs are sprouting six pairs of legs and male fishes are developing female reproductive organs.*

Bathe without chemicals: get informed and read labels

Neither formaldehyde or 1,4-dioxane are intentionally added to baby bath products, which means they do not appear on the ingredients list. Instead, the chemicals are contaminants that combine and degrade during the manufacturing process or in the bottle. Reduce your risk of exposure by reading labels and avoiding any products with the following ingredients.

Formaldehyde may be found in products containing:

- quaternium-15
- diazolidinyl urea
- DMDM hydantoin
- imidazolidinyl urea

1,4-dioxane may be found in products containing:

- PEG-100 stearate
- sodium laureth sulfate
- polyethylene
- cetareth-20

Formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane are not the only potentially dangerous chemicals in our bath products, and there is no comprehensive list of safe options. You can reduce your exposure:

- Choose products with fewer ingredients.
- Avoid products that use synthetic fragrance or dyes.
- Use fewer products overall.
- Read labels and avoid the ingredients listed above.
- Research your favorite products at www.cosmeticsdatabase.com
- Contact your elected officials to support regulation of the cosmetics industry.
- Share concerns, fears and frustrations with manufacturers.
- Read the report at www.safecosmetics.org/toxictub

RESTORING THE CLEAN WATER ACT MUST TOP CONGRESS' AGENDA

The Clean Water Restoration Act, introduced in April by Senator Russell Feingold, (D-WI) and almost two dozen co-sponsors, would restore critical Clean Water Act protections lost during six years of the Bush Administration's "No Protection" Policy. Reversing these policies has been a top priority for Clean Water Action since late 2002 and it should be Congress' priority now.

Beginning in 1975, the Clean Water Act was interpreted to protect all of the waters of the United States. For decades, it was presumed that every body of water fit this description, and qualified for federal protections. Now, in the wake of confusing and ill-defined U.S. Supreme Court rulings (*Rapanos v. United States* and *SWANNC v. Army Corps of Engineers*), the opposite is true. Now, federal Clean Water Act enforcers must undergo a resource intensive analysis

for every stream, creek, wash, wetland, tributary and river before it can retain protections under the Clean Water Act.

Confusion over Clean Water Act protection has led to delays in permitting decisions, to the dismay of developers; and a lack of protection enforcement, to the dismay of environmentalists. Hundreds of pollution enforcement cases and development applications have been dropped

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FOR CALIFORNIA WOMAN, PROTECTING A RIVER CAN COST YOU A JOB

Heather Wylie traded her job for a river. And she'd do it all over again.

In 2008, Wylie joined a handful of protestors for a kayak trip down the Los Angeles River, earning the wrath of her employers and the attention of a nation. Why? At the time, Wylie was a biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agency had just designated the LA River "non-navigable"—putting the watershed at risk and setting a dangerous precedent. Wylie and her compatriots set out to prove the Army Corps wrong. If they could make the journey then the LA River must be navigable which was a critical first step in retaining Clean Water Act safeguards.

Wylie's passion for water began in college when she worked as a canvasser with Clean Water Action. "That was really fun," she remembers. After college, Wylie worked with the Army Corps. Wylie's enthusiasm for environmental protection matured into opposition of the Army Corps' policies. By 2008, she was frustrated enough to grab a paddle to prove her point.

The trip succeeded—triggering events involving the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, Congress, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and other organizations and individuals. By the end of the summer, the EPA had wrested jurisdiction of the LA

River system from the Army Corps. In December, Wylie lost her job.

Some people say Wylie lost her job over a kayak trip but that's not true. She'd probably still be working for the Army Corps if she'd chosen a different river. Wylie lost her job over a word: navigable.

Why the fuss over a single word? Navigable, according to current interpretation, is the only word that matters when protecting America's waters. Only waterways deemed navigable qualify for federal oversight and protection under the Clean Water Act. Wylie proved the Army Corps wrong. She lost her job.

Despite its importance, no clear guidelines define navigable as it applies to the Clean Water Act. The law itself broadly defined "navigable" as "the waters of the United States," regardless if water had, or could, be navigated. For decades, it was presumed every body of water fit this description, and qualified for federal protections. In the wake of confusing, ill-defined U.S. Supreme Court rulings, the opposite is true. Now, federal Clean Water Act enforcers must undergo a resource intensive analysis for every stream, creek, wash, wetland, tributary and river before it can retain protections. The farther away a creek or wetland is from a body of water you can float a boat on, the harder it is to keep it protected. Designating waterbodies



as being navigable-in-fact has become a critical first step in retaining Clean Water Act protections on the creeks and wetlands that drain to them.

The result of this confusion has been a sudden halt to the permitting process, uniting environmentalists and developers in frustration. Hundreds of pollution enforcement cases and development applications have been dropped with thousands more indefinitely delayed. Lately, it's hard to find anyone—environmentalist or developer—who believes the Clean Water Act's regulatory process is working.

With a kayak and some personal sacrifice, Wylie proved herself right. The EPA is reviewing the LA river system. Wylie is hopeful it will soon be officially defined as navigable.

But this story extends beyond LA. This is about our lakes, rivers, and streams, and how we choose to protect them.

The consequences are felt in our homes and communities, from the tap to the

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WHAT YOU WON'T SEE IN THOSE 'CLEAN COAL' ADS: DIRTY AIR, A WALL OF SLUDGE, POISONED RIVERS

Surely you've seen the ads scattered around the internet and splashed across our newspapers and magazines. Commercials interrupt our favorite television shows and invade our local radio station's airspace. They are everywhere. But that doesn't make them true.

No PR campaign, no matter how well executed, can make coal clean.

Advocates for "clean" coal argue that technology exists—almost—that will allow coal-fired power plants to capture their carbon emissions and store the climate-changing gas deep under ground. Technically, this may be true. Realistically, this is extremely expensive, and doesn't begin to address impacts on our water from continued coal mining and reliance on it to produce electricity. From mines to power plants, the process of wresting energy from coal is dirty and unhealthy for our waters, our communities and our bodies.



When the Kingston Fossil Plant dam failed on December 22, 2008, decades of hazardous coal ash and sludge were released along the Emory River in Tennessee. An estimated 1.1 billion gallons of contaminated water oozed downstream. Homes were destroyed and many wild creatures were killed, but no one knows what the long term impacts might be.

Already, water samples collected by Appalachian Voices have revealed frightening levels of contamination. Arsenic was present at 30 to 300 times the allowable limits. Lead was present at 2 to 21 times the legal limit for drinking water. In fact, every water sample collected by Appalachian Voices had elevated levels of arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, nickel and thallium. The Tennessee Valley Authority, responsible for both the dam and its rupture, claim that their water samples reveal acceptable levels of contamination for drinking water. Whether or not you believe their results, the question remains: Did they drink the water?

Would you?

To find out more about coal power and its impact on water, visit us online at: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/currents/spring2009>

Restoring the Clean Water Act *(continued from page 5)*

entirely, and thousands more have been indefinitely delayed. The Clean Water Act is broken and must be fixed.

Restoring the authority of the Clean Water Act to protect water resources must top Congress' water agenda. Current policies threaten protections for sources of drinking water for more than 110 million Americans. Waterways at risk range from most of a 53-mile stretch the Los Angeles River basin, declared exempt from Clean Water Act protection by the Corps of Engineers, to Avondale Creek in Birmingham, Alabama, a continuously flowing

stream that flows into residential neighborhoods, a lake and eventually a large river.

There is wide support for Congressional action to fix the Clean Water Act and restore the protections that were in place just six short years ago. Earlier this year, more than 160 scientists sent a letter to President Obama urging him to support the Clean Water Restoration Act, which would clarify in law the connection between waterways—connections well understood by scientists. Committee action in the U.S. Senate is expected in May.

 For more information on the need for Congress to act now on the Clean Water Restoration Act, visit us online at <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/restorationact>

Protecting a River Can Cost You a Job *(continued from page 5)*

stream. We need a water protection process that makes sense. The Clean Water Act is now broken and over half of our nation's waterways—and our health—may no longer be protected. It's time to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act and restore the original intent of the Clean Water Act.

Wylie doesn't regret her lost Army Corps job. She insists she'll grab that paddle again if needed. But we cannot protect our water resources by floating a kayaker down every river. We need to revive clean water protections in our nation. "Our nation's waters will continue to be in a state of crisis until the Clean Water Restoration Act is passed," says Wylie. Once again, she's right.

MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY! Take advantage of one of the easiest and most convenient ways to support Clean Water! You can make a gift to Clean Water Fund by payroll contribution through **EarthShare's** workplace giving program at numerous private companies, many state and municipal government organizations, and in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), by selecting CFC # 10636 on your pledge form. Clean Water Fund is a member of EarthShare, a nationwide federation of the country's most respected environmental and conservation charities. For more information about how you and your workplace can support Clean Water Fund, please call (800) 70-WATER x169.



Green Stimulus Funding *(continued from cover)*

Amendment's fund for water up with about 20% to testing and assessment of waters and preparation of water quality plans, 65% to wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and nonpoint source protection and restoration, and 15% to research, tool development and education along with drinking water source protection.

The dollars going to testing and assessment are necessary for the state to determine which of our waters are polluted. Only about 40% of Minnesota waters have been tested. Ongoing funding is also necessary to monitor waters on a 10-year cycle. The money targeted at cleanup represents a dramatic increase in funding targeted toward on-the-ground projects with the

most impact on water quality. High-resolution digital elevation mapping has been popular at the legislature and will likely receive Amendment funding. The new tool will prove valuable to clean water projects across the state as it makes available publically detailed information on the slope and layout of land, helping map watersheds.

MEMBER PROFILE: CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN

This past February, Clean Water Action member Christopher Sullivan joined two Clean Water staff members, Deanna White, Program Director, and Jenna Garland, 1Sky Organizer, at an in-district meeting with Congressman Erik Paulsen, who represents Mr. Sullivan in Washington, D.C.

Clean Water Action organized the meeting with Paulsen to communicate the importance of our rivers, lakes

and streams to members in the Third Congressional District. Garland contacted Chris while doing a member phone bank, looking for folks who would be interested in meeting with Mr. Paulsen or engaging in other actions. At the meeting, Chris told a moving story about growing up very connected to the natural world, spending his childhood playing outdoors. Chris spoke passionately about the importance of growing up in a thriving, beautiful and healthy natural environment.

Christopher Sullivan is a great example of a Clean Water Action member who is willing to exercise his personal convictions. One of his greatest skills is his ability to translate his environmental commitment into effective advocacy.

Working with Chris was inspiring, says 1Sky Organizer Jenna Garland. "He's a member who takes his environmental commitment to the next level, by working with us to directly lobby his legislators."



From left: J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy, Kate Ellis of Fresh Energy, Deanna White of Clean Water Action, Amelia Kroeger of the West Metro Global Warming Action Group, Congressman Erik Paulsen, Jenna Garland of Clean Water Action, and Clean Water Action member Christopher Sullivan.