On this Thanksgiving it is an outrage that the Dakota people are forced to fight non-violently with their bodies to protest the DAPL (Dakota Access Pipeline) that will border on their territory and most certainly pollute their water and land, destroy sacred and historic sites, and contribute to accelerating climate change which threatens the earth with the mass extinction of species, including humans. Native Americans have travelled a tortuous path since 1621, but, as much as things have changed since that first Thanksgiving, whites are still trying to destroy the earth for short-term private gain while the natives are again telling us there is a better way to protect it for future generations.

The DAPL is being built by a Texas conglomerate, Dakota Access, LLC, to carry Bakken crude oil through North and South Dakota, Iowa, to Illinois where it will connect with a pipeline running to Texas. The pipeline was originally slated to run north of Bismarck, near a middle-class suburb, but it as re-routed by the Army Corps of Engineers to run along the border of the Standing Rock (Sioux) Reservation in another blatant example of environmental racism. Dakota Access, LLC is using eminent domain to condemn some of the land, a misuse of an instrument intended for public use (not private use) in the “public interest” which this pipeline is most certainly not.

During the non-violent protests, North Dakota authorities have reacted with the use of vicious police dogs, high pressure water cannons in sub-zero temperatures, and concussion grenades, causing injuries to hundreds of protestors including Sophia Wilansky of New York who may lose an arm after being hit with a grenade. Thousands of protestors are braving the winter temperatures to continue the protest including people from over 500 tribes of North America, the largest gathering of Native Americans in modern history.

What can you do to help? You can contribute by going to Standing Rock Reservation to stand with the protestors, by volunteering support and logistics, and/or by donating money. MN350.org is an excellent place to do these things as it is providing the fight against DAPL with all three: protestors, volunteer coordination, money and supplies.

Another way is for everyone of us to drive less by carpooling, using mass transit, walking, biking, and purchasing an electric car or PHEV. Make it your goal to cut your carbon emissions from driving by 50% this coming year. Whether we like it or not, we are at war with the oil, gas and coal companies that will destroy our planet for the profit of a few. While you’re at it, put solar on your house or join a community solar garden or crowd-fund solar and wind projects, or purchase WindSource or other green energy offset programs to get 100% renewable energy for your electricity. Stop or cut back eating meat, eggs, and dairy that produce more greenhouse gases worldwide (26%) than the entire transportation sector. Teach your children, neighbors and friends about the urgent threat of climate change and what they can do to mitigate its effects. We are all at war, and our bought-and-sold governments are most likely to be on the other side.
What Hath We Wrought?
by Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti

Of all the people in these United States, we Minnesotans should have some understanding of what just happened politically at the national level. Those of us older than 35 remember the 1998 election for Minnesota Governor, which brought us Jesse Ventura. He, too, ran “against the system” as a plain-speaking regular guy. He was a skilled public performer. We were sick of “same-old, same-old” and went for the outsider in a last-minute emotional wave.

The danger is to think that “it will be alright” just like in 1998. To paraphrase, “Donald Trump is no Jesse Ventura.” The reality is, almost no one knows what Donald Trump believes, much less what he’ll do with regard to the environment. (I think “no one” includes the President-elect, himself.)

What we do know, is that because this wave of populism swept one party into power at all levels from President (and therefore Supreme Court) to Congress, to both houses in Minnesota, we are very likely to get a strong push to fulfill every wish of every major donor to that party. The auto industry wasted no time in writing the President-elect asking for him to roll back auto efficiency standards. The fossil fuel industry is looking forward to increased drilling and mining with little oversight. In a democracy built on a complex system of checks and balances, we have lost nearly every check… Except the people of this great nation.

There are two essential forms of power in our country. We are all aware of the great, distorting power of money in our political system. I have personally witnessed this here in Minnesota, at work in our legislature, just this year.

Buffer Law Implementation Development by Jill Crafton

While the Buffer Initiative that Governor Dayton signed into law in June 2015 is considered “insufficient” by some, it does expand the scope of waters covered, establishes timelines for implementation, provides for enforcement and strengthens soil erosion statutes.

Under previous Buffer Law there were no deadlines for buffer installation nor triggers in place to compel buffer compliance. Unless there was a claim or complaint, there was no or little enforcement of buffers. In order to change this former scenario, a process is in place to use maps to identify buffer areas and develop compliance and enforcement policy and practices. Since Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) exist in counties throughout the state, they are charged with reaching out to landowners and providing technical assistance to get buffers installed (or alternative practices). The Counties and Watershed Districts may take on enforcement responsibilities. Timelines are established for implementation and policy is being developed to provide a structure for SWCDs, Counties and Watershed Districts to act.

Established policies include 1) Buffer Compliance Determination, 2) Buffer Law Reporting and Progress Tracking, 3) Alternative Practices Implementation approved for agricultural land, 4) Other Approved Alternative Practices, 5) Local Water Resources Riparian Protection (Other Watercourses; specific steps to achieve riparian protection), and 6) Failure to Implement- standards for sufficient implementation and consequences for not meeting such standards. Comprehensive planning and implementation policy is essential to achieving Buffers on our Public Waters. Stay tuned to learn more at the MN Division Watershed Summit.
**Fall Board of Directors**

*by McCabe Chapter President Rich Staffon*

On Friday evening we met at Hartley Nature Center for snacks and beverages and then listened to a presentation by Piper Donlin, Sporting Outreach Coordinator for Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. Piper gave us an update on their work to protect the BWCAW from the proposed Twin Metals copper mine. Piper’s office is located in Duluth, she is the granddaughter of Art Hawkins and just joined the Ikes. It was encouraging to listen to this young millennial who is so poised and energetic, and is working hard to protect our natural heritage. There is hope for the future generation!

On Saturday morning, prior to the business meeting, a group of us toured the pine thinning project that was completed this summer at Hartley Nature Center with input from the McCabe Chapter. Craig Sterle, retired DNR forester, led the tour and explained how the thinning project will open up and diversify these pine plantations to create more natural looking forest stands. We also viewed some of the tree damage caused by the extreme windstorm that hit Duluth this summer, just as they were completing the pine thinning project.

After the business meeting a group of us drove to west Duluth where we toured a DNR project that is using a contractor to restore Knowlton Creek, which is located on the steep hills just below the Spirit Mountain Ski area. The creek is a trout stream and has been heavily eroded and deeply gullied by a combination of excessive runoff from the ski hill over the years, and the 2012 flood in Duluth. The creek has undergone an amazing transformation as this project raised and restored the stream bed to its original level; installed an amazing amount of rock and log structures to create hundreds of riffles and pools; shaped and protected the stream banks with coconut fiber matting; and revegetated it all with a mixture of grasses, forbs, and trees. This tour was led by DNR Fisheries stream restoration expert Nick Peterson. The water in this stream used to be reddish brown in color from all the clay silt, but is now running clear and cold. We all came away from this pretty impressed by the work that was being done.  

**Great Lakes Ballast Water Project**

*by McCabe Chapter President Rich Staffon*

Phyllis Green, Superintendent of Isle Royal National Park recently spoke at a gathering in Superior about efforts to develop an effective means to treat the ballast water of ships coming into the Great Lakes.

**Over 50 invasive aquatic organisms have the potential to negatively impact the Great Lakes.**

Green realized several years ago that a small ship that the National Park Service used to access Isle Royal from Michigan could introduce an invasive organism into the park. She developed a system to pump and mix chlorine into the ballast water of the ship that kills organisms on board. Then a chemical is pumped in to neutralize the chlorine, making it safe discharge the ballast water and not corrode the ballast tanks.

Green then turned her attention to commercial ships using the Great Lakes. Over 50,000 ships operate in the world’s oceans and ports. To balance their ships as they unload and load they pump their ballast water in or out. A 1000-foot ship holds 15 million gallons of ballast water. Regulations to be enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard are in place that will require ships to have on-board ballast water treatment systems. But due to the need to perfect ballast treatment technology and the high cost, this requirement is years away from being enforced. Meanwhile, since the salt water can be 85% effective in killing organisms on board, ships entering the US are required to exchange their ballast water into the ocean before entering, but many organisms can shelter in the sediment found in the bottom of the ballast tanks or find nooks and crannies in the complex ballast tank baffles.  

Lunch was reported to have been great. Thank you McCabe Chapter!
Before delving into where the process is currently at, let’s recap the history. In the summer of 2013 Enbridge applied for a Certificate of Need (CN) and Routing Permit (RP) to the Minnesota Utilities Commission (PUC) for a project call the Sandpiper Pipeline (SP). Shortly thereafter Enbridge and Marathon Oil entered into a Partnership for the project, forming the North Dakota Pipeline Company (NDPC). Thus began a series of public open houses in the Counties along the proposed route where NDPC described their plan in terms that emphasized jobs and energy security, and why the project would benefit Minnesota and the nation. Public input meetings were subsequently held before the PUC, and a contested case hearing (CCH) begun before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Before the CCH began, groups in opposition to the project quickly formed, including the Carlton County Land Stewards (CCLS) who represented landowners near the eastern terminus of the project, and the Friends of the Headwaters (FOH), who were centered around Park Rapids. These were joined by two Native American organizations, Honor the Earth (HTE) and the White Earth Band of Ojibawa. These groups entered the proceedings as “Intervenors”. However, not to be overlooked was opposition provided by a multitude of individual citizens, groups such as MN350, Sierra Club, the Big Sandy Lake Association, and the Whitefish Chain Lake Association, among others.

The pipeline permitting process is highly structured and quit complicated for anyone new to the process. Its a result of the multiple laws, statutes and rules that govern the process, as well as the involvement of several state and federal agencies, and because of the complex and often conflicted missions of those agencies. In addition, pipelines projects are not an everyday occurrence for these agencies and regulators. And for the public that must try to instantly get up to speed with all the bureaucracy, and we see a perfect formula for confusion. So, at the request of HTE, and possibly to the relief of the PUC, a request was made and granted to “bifurcate” (i.e. Separate) the Need proceedings from the Route proceedings. The Certificate of Need examines if there is truly a need for the project, or are there already alternatives that could fulfill the need to transport the crude. The Route Permit looks at the location proposed, alternatives to that route, the positive and negative impacts to the environment and socio-economic characteristics, and considers mitigation measures to reduce harm for the route and the alternative. The Minnesota Environmental Protection Act (MEPA - 116D.04 Subd. 6) says that if an alternative(s) is found that creates less harm to the environment, the project must be rejected; and that economic considerations alone shall not be used as justification for approval.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) is charged with assisting the PUC in fact-finding for the project. Over the course of the proceedings, the DOC prepared documents for PUC review. It appeared to many intervenors that DOC was obtaining far too much of its information directly from the project applicant (NDPC), and that their insufficient scrutiny or independent verification of the information before it was accepted as fact and presented to the PUC.

Additionally, it seemed clear that DOC/PUC were ignoring language in the MEPA, requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) for pipeline projects. (The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in 1989 created “Rules” that would permit an expedited environmental review process - a Comparative Environmental Analysis, i.e. CEA). The CEA would still require a rigorous review of the impacts, look at feasible alternatives that might result in fewer impacts, and identify mitigation strategies designed to minimize consequences to the environment and society. The applicant was to submit the CEA along with their permit application. Neither an EIS nor a CEA had been completed that met MEPA requirements. What was prepared and submitted by NDPC was their “Environmental Information Report (EIR)”. This was little more than an inventory of natural and manmade features along the proposed route, with no attempt to conduct any real analysis of impacts and little in the way of substantive mitigations, a fact affirmed during testimony by the plan’s lead supervisor. But this fact was ignored when in June of 2015, the PUC issued the Certificate of Need.

Continued on page 6.
A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

December 2015 to December 2016 who have contributed to our efforts in the past 12 months. We know that there are a lot worthwhile causes that you could support with your valuable time and money making your contributions to our efforts especially valuable to us.

2016-2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Sam Guida, a third-year student at the University of Minnesota Morris, won the Ruth Saari Scholarship for future environmental educators. He is dual majoring Environmental Science and Environmental studies with concentrations in Chemistry and Environmental and Outdoor Education. His passion and desire is to be an outdoor and environmental educator. This summer he worked at the Camp Olson YMCA as the Nature Center Director and as a Counselor in Training. This past fall he has also been taking classes at the University of Minnesota Duluth in their Environmental and Outdoor Education program, which will allow him to have a concentration in the same when he graduates. He would like to secure an internship with the Morris Office of Sustainability, hoping to learn how environmental education is understood, and implemented in the k-12 system of Morris and the greater surrounding area. He is very grateful for the support he has received via the scholarship.

Gary Patton, a veteran, has a long standing love and connection with nature and after recovering from some significant health concerns is finally able to work toward obtaining his goals. He won the Minnesota Division Scholarship. Currently he is studying Natural Resources at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. In May of 2017 he hopes to transfer to Saint Cloud State to pursue a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. He has shown strong leadership in his endeavors both in and out of the classroom, and is a source of motivation for his fellow students.

Madeline Grunklee won the Minnesota Valley Scholarship. She is majoring in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Her minor is in Environmental Science and Policy Management. She expects to graduate in May of 2017. Last year she attended Western State Colorado University on a National Exchange program and is considering doing her graduate work there by pursuing a masters in Environmental Management.

Pipeline Paradox continued from page 4.

However, in a major win for the environment, in August the MN Court of Appeals sided with the intervenors, throwing out the Need and ordering that the PUC conduct an EIS. The Order was appealed to the MN Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case, thus allowing the Appeals Court decision to stand. The PUC was essential forced to start over. In January 2016 the PUC met to lay out a calendar for the EIS, beginning with public Scoping. Public Scoping meetings were held that spring, with new, multi-agency staff (DOC, DNR, PUC) there to assist the public in communicating their concerns and ideas. In addition, more parties petitioned to enter the case as intervenors, including the Sierra Club, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibawa, and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA). A formidable legal team was forming that could match that of NDPC and the attorneys representing unions and chambers of commerce supporting the project.

For the full article (Parts 1-4 go to http://www.minnesotaikes.org/Izaak/Files/Pipeline-Paradox.pdf

Ballast Water Testing continued from page 3

Green has worked tirelessly to develop a portable on board ballast water treatment system that can be used on commercial ships. With hard obtained funding, Green has finally had the resources to scientifically test the portable system on three ships. So far the testing shows that the process is about 99% effective in treating the ballast water.

The cost for this small, portable treatment is minimal compared with all the other costs of operating a large ship.

Phyllis and her cohorts are continuing to work to acquire enough funding to do more research and testing of this emergency treatment system. Their has been resistance from some in the shipping industry and the working to acquire enough funding to do more research and testing of this emergency treatment system and to convince regulators to require it on ships coming into the Great Lakes. It was frustrating to hear how the shipping industry and government regulators are fighting this effort, and how hard it has been to get a few million dollars needed to do the research and testing. The treatment system they have devised is effective, portable and low in cost, especially when compared with the huge financial and environmental expense society must endure should another invasive species get loose in the Great Lakes. Part of the problem is that the shipping industry is not held responsible for the introduction of an invasive species. That cost is borne by the public and the waters that we all own. Phyllis Green is a dedicated public servant who is going well beyond the call of duty to protect Lake Superior and all the Great Lakes!
January 27 - Friday evening
hosted by Minnesota Valley Chapter
7:00 - 9:30 PM Wine, Cheese & Beer party
Minnesota Valley Chapter, 6601 Auto Club Rd., Bloomington, MN 55438, 952-944-1423
$10 per person at the door

January 28 - Saturday
Board of Directors Meeting; Strategic Planning Meeting; Evening Program
hosted by the Bush Lake Chapter
REI, Bloomington, 750 W American Blvd, (952) 884-4315, rei.com/stores/bloomington.htm

Evening Program
5:00 Potluck Dinner (provided by Bush Lake Chapter)
6:30 Protecting Fragile Public Lands in Southern Utah and Throughout the US. Barry Drazkowski and John Siekmeir talk about efforts to protect Utah’s Red Rock Wilderness and Bear’s Ear Wilderness areas and efforts by the state of Utah and incoming administration to open up the area to oil and gas drilling. Parallels to the fight against sulfide mining in the BWCA will also be explored.
7:30 DAPL Protests- Mobilizing Worldwide Opposition to Pipelines and Climate Catastrophe: Speakers from MN350.org and Minnesota Izaak Walton League members will talk about the Standing Rock protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Several IKEs involved in opposition to the Sandpiper Pipeline across Northern Minnesota will also share their experiences.

Possible Accommodations:
Four Points by Sheraton Minneapolis Airport, 7745 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423, (612) 861-1000, fourpointsminneapolisairport.com - rates $119 to $169
Super 8 Bloomington/Airport, 7800 2nd Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420, (952) 888-8800, super8.com - rates from $84
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 1601 East American Blvd, Bloomington, 55425 1 (800) 315 2621, 952-854-1687, mspbm@ihg.com - rates from $134

Registration Form - Fall Gathering and Board of Directors’ Meeting
*Registration includes all food and beverages on Saturday.
Name(s) _______________________________________________________
Address:  _______________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ____ Zip: ________________
E-mail: _________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
___ 35.00 per registration (Saturday only) see above for Friday evening.

Complete the form and mail with our check or money order made out to Minnesota Division IWLA and mail to:
Minnesota Division IWLA, 2233 University Avenue West, Ste. 339
Saint Paul, MN 55114

Or register on-line at minnesotaikeaes.org/Izaak/Events.html

Contact us at 651-221-0215 or ikes@minnesotaikeaes.org.
MINNESOTA WALTONIAN

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2017 Division & National Dues (Including national dues - Chapter dues are in addition)
2017 Dues: Individual $62.50, ($50 Nat’l/$12.50 Div.), Family $80.00 ($75 Nat’l/$15 Div.), Student $35.00 ($25 Nat’l/$10 Div.), Youth $16.80 ($10 Nat’l/$6.80 Div.)

AWARDS

Time to Plan Nominations

Who deserves an Ike award for outstanding environmental work carried out in 2016. Many. Here’s your opportunity to nominate your candidates for a whole array of natural resources topics. Deadline for nominations is March 30.

- The Dave Zentner Minnesota Defenders Award
- The Distinguished Service Award
- The Dr. Walter Breckenridge Award.
- The Ed Franey Outdoor Writer and Conservation and Media Award.
- Sigurd F. Olson Conservation Award.
- IWLA Stewardship Awards
- Ray Haik Watershed District Award.

The Minnesota Division award applications are on the Division website www.minnesotaikes.org. National awards are on www.iwla.org. If you have questions, please contact the Minnesota Awards Chair, Gary Schwartz at presike1@live.com or 507-363-1710.