

# Minnesota's Oldest County Fair Celebrates 164 years!

**July 14-18, 2021 ~ Kasson, MN**

## Grandstand:

- 14 - NEW Enduro Races - 6 pm
- 15 - Thunderbird Open Stock Car Race - 7 pm
- 16 - Rice Bull Riding Challenge - 7 pm
- 17 - Free Antique Tractor Pull - 10 am
  - DC Championship Demolition Derby - 6 pm
- 18 - Dodge Mayhem Trailer Races - 3 pm

## New Attractions:

- Artist Kipp Davis
- Hill Billy Bob
- Magician Greg the Great
- Oxbow Park Animals
- Street Talk Band
- The White Keys



Visit [www.dodgecountymayhemfair.com](http://www.dodgecountymayhemfair.com) or  
call 507-634-7736 for more information

Check out our  
Facebook and Instagram page



# State Fair returns

## Aug. 26 – Labor Day

After being canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Minnesota State Fair will be held this year.

The Great Minnesota Get-Together will be held Aug. 26 through Labor Day on the state fairgrounds in St. Paul.

Gate admission ticket sales for the 2021 State Fair have resumed. Pre-fair discount admission tickets, on sale through Aug. 25 for all ages, are

\$13. Admission at the gate for adults 13-64 is \$16; kids 5-12 and seniors 65+ will be admitted for \$14; children 4 and under are always admitted free. Pre-fair tickets are on sale online at [mnstatefair.org/tickets/admission-tickets/](https://mnstatefair.org/tickets/admission-tickets/).

Gate admission tickets purchased for the canceled 2020 fair, as well as tickets already purchased for 2021, are valid for this year's fair.





CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA



— SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER —



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## SERVING YOU

Most people don't have the time or patience to attend hours of hearings at the Minnesota Capitol but still want to be informed about their top conservation issues.

This year we increased our policy team capacity, allowing us to collect, synthesize, and relay legislative information better than ever.



**Paul Austin**  
Executive Director

During a conference committee meeting, **our new Policy Associate, David Pelikan, recorded Senator Ingebrigtsen threatening to withhold funding for many popular environment-related budgets—**like state parks, the Minnesota Zoo, and more—if the Legislature didn't remove the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's ability to regulate clean air. **Conservation Minnesota used the recording to amplify the threat. Local media then picked up the story, turning it into headline news.**

Ingebrigtsen's ultimatum continued for the rest of the regular session and into the special session. We will watch this debate closely and keep our members informed as it unfolds.

Your support means we can continue to build our capacity to serve you better. Working together we can protect our Great Outdoors.

Itasca State Park, Mississippi River Headwaters





# WHAT “BUILD BACK BETTER” MEANS FOR MINNESOTA



In April, President Biden proposed the American Jobs Plan, an economic recovery package that puts people back to work while tackling climate change.

Conservation Minnesota is part of a national coalition working to ensure the following are included in all recovery investments: **tackling the climate crisis** by transitioning to a 100% clean energy economy, **finding equitable solutions** for communities that have been most harmed by toxic pollution, and **prioritizing high-quality union jobs**.

**What does that mean for Minnesota?** While the legislation is still in the beginning stages, Minnesota could receive nearly \$60 billion in federal funding through the American Jobs Plan. State leaders have identified many projects that would re-shape our infrastructure in a

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## GREEN LIGHT FOR CLEAN CARS

Minnesota is on track to become the 15th state—and first in the Midwest—to adopt stricter tailpipe emission standards after an Administrative Law Judge approved the Clean Cars rule and recommended it for adoption last month.

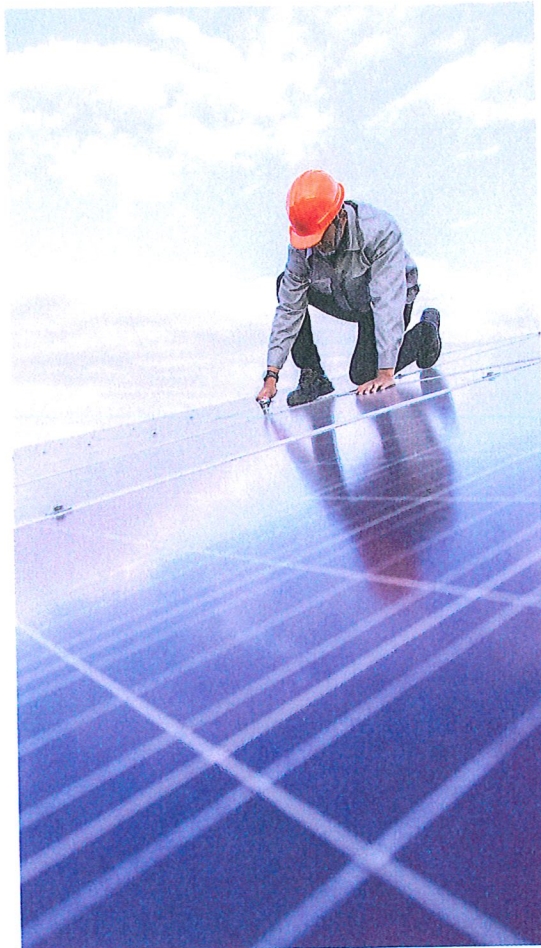
In the fall of 2019, Governor Walz announced the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) would use the rulemaking authority granted by the Legislature to adopt stricter standards. Since then, our staff have worked to increase support and combat misinformation related to the rule and electric vehicles.

We leveraged relationships and digital organizing expertise to elevate the importance of reducing climate pollution in our transportation



climate-friendly and equitable way, including the long overdue **land bridge over Interstate 94 to reconnect the Rondo neighborhood, electrifying a full rapid bus fleet across the Twin Cities, and replacing aging wastewater infrastructure and lead pipes** that will deliver cleaner water for all Minnesotans.

There will be many opportunities for Conservation Minnesota members to engage on this potentially historic investment, and we'll be sure to update you as the campaign continues.



sector. Our field team worked with city councils and environment commissions to pass resolutions in support of the rule and generate local public media attention. **Conservation Minnesota members submitted over 1,800 petitions and testimony in support of the rule.**

The rule has a few more stops—including the governor's desk for signing—before it becomes official later this summer. The judge's ruling is truly a win for Minnesotans. **Conservation Minnesota is proud of the key role we played, and we're excited to see more electric vehicles in the years to come.**



cover: June is Pride Month! We value and celebrate our LGBTQIA members, teammates, friends, family, neighbors, and fellow Minnesotans.



# A CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY

Minnesota has a successful history of investing in energy efficiency through the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). The program allows utilities to work with their customers to reduce energy use by investing in weather stripping, efficient appliances, lighting upgrades, and more. Reducing energy waste results in building fewer power plants, which saves consumers money and reduces carbon emissions by about 1 million tons per year.

For several years clean energy advocates have worked on the Energy Conservation & Optimization Act (ECO Act) to permanently secure, update, and expand CIP. During the last two years, ECO has been an important piece in Governor Walz's path to 100% clean energy proposal.

The ECO Act expands CIP to allow utilities to transition to cleaner fuel sources. It will also dedicate up to \$12 million in new spending for efficiency measures for low-income customers, including renters.

During this year's legislative session both **the House and the Senate passed the ECO Act**. The bill had bipartisan support and is the first major piece of clean energy legislation signed into law by Governor Walz.

**Your state senator, Gene Dornink, voted for the ECO Act.** (May 17, 2021—HF 164)

**Your state representative, Peggy Bennett, voted for the ECO Act.** (May 15, 2021—HF 164)

Find more of your legislators' votes at:  
**[conservationminnesota.org/voting-records](https://conservationminnesota.org/voting-records)**

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The work of Conservation Minnesota is guided by your values and priorities. We listen to Minnesotans and focus on solving the conservation problems that matter most to you.

**[conservationminnesota.org](https://conservationminnesota.org) | 612.767.2444**







**CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA**

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# County board gets update on wind project

**BY CHRIS BALDWIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Mark Lennox, senior project manager of development for the Dodge County Wind Project, recently told the Steele County Board that once the Dodge County Wind Project is complete, as many as 80 wind turbines producing up to about 260 megawatts will dot the border of Dodge and Steele counties.

The project, being developed by NextEra Energy, has been in development since 2014 and is expected to be commercially operational in 2023.

"Since we last spoke, the project was targeting 170 MWs at 57 or 58 wind turbines," said Lennox. "We've since gone back and we've found that there's an opportunity to increase our capacity."

This increase is a positive for both counties. "It's a new technology and it's a great improvement and it makes the project better," Lennox said. "It's about 70,000 to 100,000 worth of homes of electricity at 260 MWs."

Longer and more resilient blades and newer generators will help the project reach the 260 MW rate of energy. "The technology progresses so rapidly that what's coming up today will be more efficient," Lennox said.

"Hopefully, we can begin construction as early as in the spring of 2023," Lennox said. "We would expect a construction timeline of maybe six to eight months, so if all goes according to that plan, we would be done with construction between October and December of 2023."

When construction is finished, Lennox said that there will be around 12 turbines in Steele County, with the majority populating the western side of Dodge. The turbines are compatible with farming and ranching.

"Because they are more efficient, the project boundary has not shifted significantly with what it was previously. We were actually able to make it a little bit thinner, but it is still generally the same footprint that it was back in 2018," Lennox said.

Commissioner Jim Abbe asked Lennox if there has been any public input to the project. "So far, our public input has been mostly positive," Lennox said. "I've been giving updates to townships and the Dodge County Board."



## LETTER TO EDITOR

# Thanks to Eayrs for planting the seed of hope

the Editor:

A special thanks is in order to Sonja Trom Eayrs whose letter focuses on Dodge County but raises such larger issue about corporate farming across the country. The abuses of and animals are well documented and the inability of government to stop or correct such abuses is also

well documented.

I know some of the Dodge County farmers who participate and benefit from the corporate model of farming. Some are articulate in its defense. For some of these people I have served as their pastor and gone to many meetings with some of them. They invest much in both dollars and sweat in land and animals. I hope none

of them are supporting those who spew garbage, either of words or junk, on a neighbor's property or reputation. As the Apostle says, "You did not so learn Christ."

It has fascinated me that some of these farmers who appear to be so religious can quote Leviticus (18:22) about those who may be different, but they are either willfully ignorant of or pur-

posefully disobedient to the chapters which focus on the treatment of land and animals.

Mrs. Eayrs, continue the good work, planting the seed of hope even on very hard ground (hearts). One day, Lord willing, it will bear the fruit of justice.

Rev. Richard C. Hegal  
Retired Lutheran Pastor  
Bloomington Prairie

# OPINION