



St. Louis River Alliance
394 Lake Avenue South, Suite 405
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2338
Phone: 218-733-9520
Fax: 218-723-4794
Web: www.StLouisRiver.org

2017 Official Ballot For Election to the Board of Directors

Vote for as many candidates as you wish for terms ending January 2020.

_____ Judy Gibbs
_____ Courtney Kowalczak
_____ Kristy DeVera
_____ Rob Schilling
_____ Other _____
_____ Other _____

Voting requires a current St Louis River Alliance membership.

If you are not currently a member or wish to renew your membership for 2017, please go to our website at <http://stlouisriver.org/individual-and-family-membership> and register there using a credit card or paypal. If you are able to attend the membership meeting bring membership form and payment (if you need to renew) on March 23rd and you will be given a ballot. It can also be dropped off at our office at address above if you are not able to attend the membership meeting.

To cast your vote

This ballot can be brought to the Annual Meeting on March 23rd, 2017 or you will be given one upon registration at the door. If you are unable to attend the meeting ballots must be in office before 4:00 pm March 23rd. Place ballot in a separate sealed envelope, marked "Ballot", which will remain sealed until opened and counted at the annual meeting. Place the sealed envelope inside another envelope that has your name and address.

Email ballot to: kris@stlouisriver.org if you unable to attend the membership meeting and cannot bring it to the office. It will remain closed until the counting of the vote.

Board of Director Candidate Profiles

Below are the four individuals who are being submitted to the membership by the Nominating Committee as candidates for the board of directors. One is a current board member who has agreed to serve for a second term. (Board members are allowed to serve two consecutive terms of three years. Members must be off the board for at least one year before being eligible to serve on the board again.)

Judy Gibbs

Judy is a lifelong environmental educator who helped create Hartley Nature Center and served as the Program Director for a decade. Later, she worked 10 years with the City of Duluth retiring from position as Parks & Trails Planning Project Coordinator, which included a lot of work in the St. Louis River Corridor. Those two experiences, with 3 years of the Superior Hiking Trail construction project sandwiched in between, has given Judy a great love for the St. Louis River Corridor and the lands that surround it. Judy currently works at Ecolibrium3, helping to organize a comprehensive agency response to Emerald Ash Borer.

Courtney Kowalczak

Courtney Kowalczak has over twenty years of experience in water resource research and educational outreach. Currently Courtney is Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College's Environmental Institute Director where she oversees coordination of research and extension projects between Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College and other partners. These projects include the NASA Gidakiimanaaniwigamig (Our Earth Lodge) STEM Camp: Investigating climate change and its effect on Ojibwe lifeways, EPA Tribal EcoAmbassador Mercury and Dragonfly Research project, and USDA NIFA funded projects such as the St. Louis River – River Watch, Bimaaji'idiwin Ojibwe Garden, Building Capacity in Sustainability, and Thirteen Moons. Courtney graduated from UMD with her B.S. in biology and went back to college for a Masters in Environmental Education. In her career she has worked as a stream ecology researcher at UMD and NRRI, at the non-profit Minnesota Waters, and is now focused on educational outreach at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Kristy DeVera

Kristy DeVera has lived in Duluth all but three years of her life. A majority of that time she has lived at, or near, the mouth of the French River on Lake Superior's North Shore. She graduated from Michigan Tech with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Despite her biomedical engineering start, she managed to land a job connected with her passion, Water Resources, when the City of Superior hired her in 2006 as an Engineering Technician. She started her journey with the City managing the sanitary and storm sewer databases, and surveying and inspecting infrastructure. Kristy was part of the team that created the City's Stormwater Utility, Utility Credit Program, and Long-Term Stormwater Management Program. In the fall of 2014, she started what she fondly refers to as a 10 month sabbatical working for AMI Consulting Engineers. While at AMI, she worked on site design for stormwater management, project permitting, and industrial stormwater permit compliance. This experience helped her understand the other side of water related permitting and influenced the recent updates and changes to the City of Superior's stormwater program; changes she has implemented since the City lured her back in her current role as the Water Resources Program Coordinator.

Kristy obtained her Certificate in Water Technology from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 2012 and currently holds certifications in Wisconsin as a Soil Erosion Inspector and in Minnesota as a Construction Site Manager and Construction Site SWPPP designer. Protecting our irreplaceable clean water sources truly is her passion, and it shows!

Rob Schilling

Rob lives in Cloquet and is the Environmental Manager at Sappi Paper Company in Cloquet. He is responsible for environment legal compliance; implementation of new regulations and participating in process of developing new regulations, which often time includes issues involving the St. Louis River. As a SLRA board member he will help facilitate opportunities to collaborate with Sappi.