



## ENERGY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC) 2024 MEMBERS

### VOTING MEMBERS

#### Senate Majority Appointment

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##### Grant Hauschild

Grant Hauschild is the Minnesota State Senator for District 3 proudly representing the Arrowhead Region and many communities across the Northland. Senator Hauschild has a wide range of experience at the federal, state, and local level having worked in rural economic development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), serving as a Policy Advisor & Political Director to U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp, and serving on the Hermantown City Council. Senator Hauschild currently serves as the Executive Director of a healthcare foundation where he raises money for patients and families, medical equipment, and improvements to our local healthcare system. Grant and his wife Grace live in Hermantown where they are raising their two children Henry (4) and Isla (2).

#### Senate Minority Appointment

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##### Karin Housley

Karin Housley was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2012 and was re-elected in 2016. She represents District 33, which includes the Forest Lake area and communities along the St. Croix River Valley. In the state legislature, Karin has become known for her passionate advocacy for seniors, veterans, and families. She currently serves as the ranking minority lead on the Capital Investment committee.

Karin was born and raised in South Saint Paul, graduating from South Saint Paul High School in 1982. After attending Augsburg College in Minneapolis for a time, she transferred to State University of New York - Buffalo and graduated with a B.A. in communications in 1985.

Shortly after graduation, Karin married her high school sweetheart, Phil Housley. Phil's NHL Hall of Fame hockey career took them all around the United States and Canada, but the Housleys eventually came back to Minnesota and raised their family in St. Mary's Point. Karin and Phil have four grown children and four adorable grandchildren.

In addition to serving the communities she loves in the Minnesota Senate, Karin is also a licensed realtor. Along with her daughters, Karin owns and operates a successful real estate business in Stillwater. Over her career, Karin also worked as a television news producer and radio host and is the author of an investment book for women.

#### Speaker of the House Appointment

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##### Josiah Hill

Rep. Josiah Hill was raised in Stillwater. He holds a BA in English from UW-Madison, a MS in Secondary English Education from UW-River Falls, and a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Hamline University. He teaches in the English Department at his alma mater-Stillwater Area High School. He lives in Stillwater with his wife Emily and their 3 daughters (Grace-12, Cleo-9, and Quinn-7). He is deeply honored to be currently serving his first term in MN House of Representatives serving district 33B.

#### House Minority Appointment

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##### Shane Mekeland

Shane Mekeland is a member of the Republican party and represents Sherburne County. He is in his third term in the House and serves on the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy, and Labor and Industry, finance and Policy.

#### Prairie Island Member

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##### Michael Childs Jr.

Treasurer Michael Childs Jr. is serving his third term on the Prairie Island Tribal Council.

Childs previously served on the Tribe's Business Committee, Election Board and Election Committee. Childs also represents his community on the Energy Transition Advisory Committee for the Department of Employment and Economic Development of Minnesota.

Childs' priorities on Tribal Council include improving the consistency and effectiveness of government operations and promoting healing and balance within the community. He remains a strong advocate for increasing community involvement in government and is focused on ensuring the next seven generations of Tribal Members have the best lives possible. Childs is concerned how substance use disorders affect individuals and their families and is an active member of Al-Anon, which is for friends and family of problem drinkers.

Childs had a 14-year career at Xcel Energy power plants that included Prairie Island and Red Wing, where he worked as an instrument and control specialist. He served as a technical consultant to Prairie Island during the relicensing of Xcel's nuclear power plant starting around 2009.

Childs earned an associate degree in computer and consumer electronics from Northwestern Electronics Institute, an associate of arts from Inver Hills Community College, and a bachelor's degree in automotive engineering technology with a minor in manufacturing engineering technology from Minnesota State University Mankato, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Born in Minneapolis and living there until he was about 10, Childs finished growing up on Prairie Island. Childs' father, the late Michael Childs, Sr., served on Prairie Island Tribal Council in the 1990s. His mother volunteered at schools by teaching Dakota culture and beading.

Childs and his wife live in Welch. He has two daughters and two stepsons. Childs loves animals and has many cats. He also has a lifelong passion for repairing cars and general fabrication and has two racecars that he will race occasionally. He enjoys volunteering, exercising, and working outdoors.

## Impacted Communities - County Representative #1

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### Tamara Lowney

Hailing from rural Hill City, Minnesota, Tamara Lowney embarked on a career spanning over 20 years with ARAMARK, both in the United States and internationally. Her journey included leadership roles in hospitality organizations across Alaska, Ohio, and California. Tamara further extended her impact by joining the ARAMARK International Team, contributing to the success of major events like the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 Asian Games, and 2012 London Olympics. Managing diverse teams, she demonstrated resilience in overcoming challenges.

In 2013, Tamara returned to her roots in rural Minnesota, committed to giving back to her community. Graduating from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a management emphasis, she commenced her role at APEX in 2015, delving into economic

development in northeastern Minnesota. Tamara assumed the position of President at Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) in Grand Rapids, MN, in 2019.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Tamara received the Innovation Award from EDAM in 2020, part of their Excellence in Economic Development Awards. Under her leadership, IEDC underwent significant growth, raising over \$2.5 million in grants for The Forge—a multifaceted facility supporting entrepreneur incubators, workforce development, education, and training. The Forge, which opened in 2023, stands as a transformative asset for the Itasca County Community.

Tamara's adept leadership expanded IEDC from a team of three to seven, significantly increasing support for small businesses. Continuing her professional development, she earned a master's degree in business administration in 2023 and was appointed to the Energy Transition Advisory Committee in 2022.

Residing in Grand Rapids, MN, with her husband and daughter, Tamara and her family actively contribute to and cherish the small-town life they love.

## Impacted Communities - Municipal Representative #1

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### Marshall Hallock

Marshall Hallock is a seasoned government professional who brings over two decades of strong results-oriented public sector experience and a commitment to progressive and effective leadership to his current role as the City of Red Wing's Administrative Business Director. Before joining the City of Red Wing in 2000, Marshall began his career in private practice specializing in taxation and then served for more than three years overseeing the financial operations of local governments and advising cities throughout Minnesota as an employee of the State Auditor's Office.

Marshall received his Bachelor of Science in Business degree in accounting from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Business. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and a member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Marshall grew up residing in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Washington, Canada, and Switzerland. He now resides in Red Wing with his fiancé and has four children. In his spare time, Marshall enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, fishing, and playing cards. He has previously served, and continues to serve, in leadership positions with the League of Minnesota Cities, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Coalition of Utility Cities, and via various State committee appointments.

## Impacted Communities - County Representative #2

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### Gregg Felber

Gregg currently serves as the Chair for the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners. He represents Commissioner District 3 which includes Becker Township, City of Becker, Orrock Township, northern Elk River and a portion of Livonia Township.

Gregg has lived in Orrock Township for more than 26 years with his wife, Anne. They have a grown daughter, who lives in Tucson, AZ with her husband. Gregg grew up in Wisconsin and received an Associate Degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice from Winona State University before embarking on a career that emphasized public service.

Gregg worked for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for 25 years. Gregg served in the Jail, Courts and eventually retired from the Patrol Division in 2012. After retirement from Hennepin County, Gregg worked for the Corcoran Police Department as a part-time patrol officer for two years. Once retiring fully from the law enforcement field in 2014, Gregg obtained a graduate certificate in Cultural Resource Management Archaeology from St. Cloud State University and worked as a commercial archaeologist. Gregg's work in government roles continued when he worked for the Department of Defense, Minneapolis MEPS part-time for three years. Prior to being elected, Gregg served at Orrock Township Supervisor for 2 years. Gregg served in the Army National Guard for 6 years.

## Impacted Communities - Municipal Representative #2

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### Mary McComber

Mayor Mary McComber has served the City of Oak Park Heights since 2000 with her election to the City Council and her subsequent election to the office of Mayor in 2012. These obligations are already considerable with the traditional work required by all city officials in Minnesota; however Oak Park Heights has also been engaged in a number of matters that are likely not typically faced by a community of less than 5,000 persons including successfully accomplishing a multi-year engagement with MNDOT for the new St. Croix River Crossing, construction of a new City Hall, several park redevelopments and miles of street improvements. In each case, Mayor McComber served an essential role in developing the strategy and positive outcomes of each element.

Notwithstanding this already significant work, Mayor McComber has always and dependably served on a wide array of task forces, commissions and policy entities

outside of the City of Oak Park Heights that are charged with discovering the greater good for all Minnesota cities. These additional roles include engagement with the League of Minnesota Cities, the Metro Cities group as well as the National League of Cities and their related policy committees. Without these policy committees and the willingness of elected officials to serve on them, the ability of all Minnesota cities to advocate and defend various positions at the State and National level would be significantly minimized and cities in Minnesota would be less-able to perform their duties to their citizenry.

As another example of Mayor McComber's broader engagement, she has also served with the Coalition of Utility Cities that engages in policy formulation so as to safeguard city tax bases where local power plants are sited, including Oak Park Heights. Xcel Energy has announced the closure of its coal plant located in Oak Park Heights will occur in 2028. In response to this, though her work with the Coalition of Utility Cities, Mayor McComber has testified before the State Legislature educating and informing on the closure's impact to the City's tax base and also how the power suppliers have made tax-base commitments to many Minnesota cities in exchange for tax reductions to these entities has significant consequences to many Minnesota cities and their surrounding communities. Without this advocacy many cities would likely be forced to raise their property taxes or significantly cut their services to their citizens.

Mayor McComber has earned the esteem and admiration of her Council peers, other State and County elected officials as well as other elected and appointed members. Through these relationships, the overall perception of cities is enhanced as these parties understand that there are those who are serving, such as Mayor McComber, that take into account more than just the needs of their City, rather that of all cities.

The ability of one person to make a significant impact on one element in their community is positive and appreciated, however Mayor McComber's service in the wide array of projects and committees as listed has resulted in an overwhelming positive impact throughout her own community, statewide, and nationally. For her dedication as demonstrated to her City and all Minnesota cities, Mary McComber is deserving of this award.

## Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #1

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### Mike Hoppe

Currently employed at Xcel Energy as an Electrical Troublemaker and the President of IBEW Local 23 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), in Saint Paul, MN.

Mike graduated from Forest Lake High School in 1987, after which serving 3 years in the U.S. Army as a military

policeman. In 1991, he attended Dakota County Technical College, graduating from their Line Worker program. In 1992, Mike started working at NSP (Northern States Power Company), currently Xcel Energy. In 2004, he was elected to the Locals executive board, serving as Executive board member, Recording Secretary and currently as President. he also served as Business Manager for 8 years. This included representing approximately 550 members and administering three different contracts, pension plans and medical benefit plans. During this time, Mike also served as Treasurer of the IBEW State Council, dealing with Legislative affairs and various issues throughout the state of Minnesota.

Mike looks forward to serving on the Energy Transition Advisory Committee and feel his experience will be useful in making any decisions effecting people transitioning from the energy sector.

## Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #2

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### Kristin Renskers

Kristin Renskers is a Business Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 31, Duluth, MN. IBEW Local 31 is the exclusive representation for collective bargaining and contract administration of 21 professional and industrial contracts, covering approximately 850 Members in NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. Most of these contracts are utility based: Investor-Owned, Co-operative, and Municipal. Local 31 is proud to represent workers of Minnesota Power, whose generation division workers especially are facing the unprecedented change and challenges of a rapidly changing energy landscape. Kristin's committee goals will be to seek fair and equitable transitions for workers impacted or displaced by changing energy resources, as well as to ensure that future workers are considered in any policy, regulation, and legislation sought by stakeholders.

Kristin previously worked at Minnesota Power for 13 years, most recently as a Distribution Service Representative, performing electrical line design for residential, commercial, and industrial customers. She resides in Hibbing with her husband and two daughters.

## Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #3

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### Luke Lallemond

- 1998 Graduate from Chippewa Valley Technical College with a certificate in Electrical Power Distribution
- 1998-2019 employed with Xcel Energy as a Lineman
- 2013-2019 served as a Steward for IBEW L.U. 949
- 2019-present Business Representative for IBEW L.U. 949

## Impacted Worker Employed by Company under Contract

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### Richard Sackett

- Power Plant lead Electrician Boswell Energy Center, Minnesota Power total years of service are 24.
- Former Business manager/Assistant Business manager IBEW local 31.
- I am a father of four and have two bonus kids.
- My significant other and I are blending families in one home.
- Pursuing a degree with the college of St. Scholastica for Organizational Leadership
- Have been active in my county DFL, United way of 1000 lakes, numerous volunteer activities. I am an Emergency Medical responder.
- Currently remodeling my home.

## Professional Economic Development or Workforce Retraining Experience Representative

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### Abigail Wozniak

Abigail (Abbie) Wozniak is a labor economist and Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, where she serves as Director of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute. Her research has examined migration between states and cities, employer compensation and screening policies, and sources of inequality in the labor market. Dr. Wozniak has served in advisory and affiliate roles for numerous institutions, including NBER, IZA, LERA, Upjohn Institute, McKinsey and EconJobMarket.org. Her work has been featured regularly in the media, and she has been interviewed on Marketplace, NPR, BloombergTV and other outlets.

From 2014-2015, Dr. Wozniak served as Senior Economist to the White House Council of Economic Advisers, working on labor economics issues. She was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University in 2008-09 and the University of Chicago's BFI in 2017. She previously served on the faculty in the Department of Economics at the University of Notre Dame, where she earned tenure in 2013. She is a graduate of Harvard University (PhD) and the University of Chicago (AB). She is a former Associate Economist at the Chicago Federal Reserve.

## Utilities that Operate an impacted Facility #1

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### Trisha Duncan

Trisha and her team manage strategic relationships with local and state elected officials and business leaders in over 500 communities across Minnesota that are served by Xcel Energy. They play critical roles in the areas of operations, energy policy, emergency response, social investments, and economic and community development.

Trisha joined Xcel Energy in 2012 as the Community Relations Manager for Southcentral Minnesota managing relationships with 16 counties and over 70 cities. Prior to joining Xcel Energy she held various roles in local government leadership and led the Community Development Department for the City of Belle Plaine. She serves on a number of nonprofit.

boards and was elected by her fellow employees to serve on Xcel Energy's Federal XPAC, in which she currently is the chair.

Trisha holds an Executive MBA from the University of St. Thomas, a second master's degree in urban planning from MN State University Mankato and a bachelor's degree in marketing.

She has two children, three stepchildren and two small dogs with her husband Joe who is a principal civil engineer. In her free time Trisha enjoys recreational activities, traveling and spending time with her family and close friends.

## Utilities that Operate an impacted Facility #2

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### Joshua Skelton

Josh Skelton is the Chief Operating Officer for Minnesota Power and an ALLETE Vice President. He has been with Minnesota Power since 1999, working a number of different positions including facility Engineer, Technical Superintendent, and Business Unit Manager at a number of MP's generating stations, as well as the general manager and vice president of Generation Operations prior to his current role where he supports all of the operating functions at Minnesota Power as well as the ALLETE Safety team.

He has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Minnesota. He also is a professional engineer in the State of Minnesota. Josh has formally served on the Board of Directors for the Range Engineering Council and the Minnesota Power Foundation, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and is currently serving on the Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital Board and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

He, his wife Maggie, and son Brooks reside in Grand Rapids, MN, and enjoy the outdoors that Northern Minnesota offers.

## Nonprofit Organization with expertise and experience delivering energy efficiency and conservation programs

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### Alyssa Eilers

Aly Eilers is the Manager of Legislative Affairs for Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). CEE is a Minnesota-based, independent 501(C)(3) nonprofit with over 40 years of energy efficiency experience, focusing on research-based solutions to preserve and enhance the environment while strengthening our economy. CEE has demonstrated early leadership engaging with host communities and utilities to identify solutions and address the complex needs of the communities as they together forge a new future after a plant retirement.

Aly graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in Political Science, International Studies and Pre-Law. She joined CEE's policy team after working in the Minnesota State Senate for nearly 10 years as a legislative assistant, committee administrator and a caucus researcher for the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, Environment Finance Committee, and the Environment Policy and Legacy Finance Committee. While working on the Energy Committee, Aly worked on important energy related policy such as META, ECO, Host Community Transition and NGIA.

## Coalition of Utility Cities Representative

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### Shane Zahrt

As a senior attorney and lobbyist at Flaherty & Hood, Shane Zahrt uses his knowledge of the legislative process and his background in political organizing to develop and implement successful legislative strategies on behalf of public and private sector clients. Shane is a recognizable face at the State Capitol in the areas of energy, taxes, transportation and economic development, with a breadth of experience working with clients who have issues that span multiple legislative committees. Since joining Flaherty & Hood in 2016, Shane has been a central part of advancing Minnesota's support for communities and workers impacted by power plant retirements. Shane has also worked on behalf of clients to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding for regional and local projects, including more than \$200 million in state and federal dollars for improvements to U.S. Highway 14 in southern Minnesota.

# ENERGY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC) 2024 MEMBERS

## NON-VOTING MEMBERS

### Commissioner - Department of Employment and Economic Development (or Designee)

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#### Matt Varilek

Matt Varilek became DEED Commissioner on June 20, 2023. Since 2016, he served as President of the Little Falls-based Initiative Foundation, which supports economic and community development in the 14 counties and two sovereign tribal nations of Central Minnesota. Previously, he was Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), regional administrator for U.S. SBA Region VIII, and a candidate for Congress in South Dakota. He also served as an Economic Development Director and Speechwriter for the offices of U.S. Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson, and Director of Policy and Research for Natsource LLC, an energy brokerage based in New York. Commissioner Varilek earned a B.A. from Carleton College, a M.Phil. in Economic Development from the University of Glasgow, and a M.Phil. in Environment and Development from the University of Cambridge.

### Regulatory Affairs Director - Department of Commerce (or Designee)

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#### Dr. Sydnie Lieb

Dr. Sydnie Lieb is the Regulatory Affairs Director at the Minnesota Department of Commerce where she oversees utility finance, planning, telecom, and energy efficiency incentive programs. Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, she worked as a Manager of Environmental Policy at Xcel Energy where she led design and implementation of the company's clean energy and emission reduction strategy for the gas, electric, and transportation sectors. She has diverse experience in carbon emissions accounting and policy and has worked to implement federal and state carbon policies in her work at the U.S. EPA and the California Air Resources Board. Dr. Lieb holds a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in combustion emissions from University of Southern California. In her free time she enjoys running, cross country skiing, and spooking brown trout in the Minnesota driftless region with her husband and two-year old daughter.

### Commissioner - Department of Labor and Industry (or Designee)

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#### Jeremy Parker

Jeremy Parker is a senior field representative with Apprenticeship Minnesota at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Parker has extensive experience working in the construction industry and the areas of workforce education and training.

For a decade, Parker worked throughout central Minnesota performing field work on both commercial and residential construction projects before moving into building supply and sales side of the industry.

Prior to coming to Apprenticeship Minnesota, Parker spent 10 years in workforce education and training in corporate and non-profit settings. His experiences include providing job training and placement services to individuals looking to enter the building and construction trades and developing training materials and tutorials for commercial truck drivers.

In his role at Apprenticeship Minnesota, Jeremy provides compliance and oversight for registered apprenticeship programs in the utility and construction industries. He also promotes the opportunities of registered apprenticeship to students, educators, veterans, and community-based organizations across the state.

### Commissioner - Department of Revenue (or Designee)

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#### Jeremy Neeck

Jeremy Neeck is the Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Revenue, Special Taxes Division, Petroleum Tax Unit. Jeremy has worked in the Petroleum Tax Unit for the Department of Revenue since 2000. Our tax unit is responsible for the administration and collection of the Minnesota Motor Fuel Excise Tax that funds our roads and bridges in Minnesota.

Jeremy is a member of the Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA), Motor Fuel Tax Section. Jeremy was the National Chair for the Motor Fuel Tax Section from July 2022 to September 2023. Jeremy is on the FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Steering Committee, an FTA Motor Fuel Excise Tax Trainer, and the national keeper of dyed fuel statistics for FTA and the Federal Highway Administration. Jeremy lives in St. Charles.

## **Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission (or Designee)**

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### **William Seuffert**

Will Seuffert was selected by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to serve as Executive Secretary starting January 30, 2020. Will has spent his career in public service.

From 2013-2020, Will served as the Executive Director of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The EQB is made up of nine state agency heads and eight citizen members, representing each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts. The Board oversees the state's Environmental Review program, leads interagency work, and supports public engagement on priority environmental issues.

Before joining the EQB in 2013, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor to Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, working closely with the cabinet agencies and legislators involved in energy, environment, and agriculture issues.

Prior to that, Will spent five years as staff at the Minnesota State Senate; as a Legislative Assistant and then as a Committee Administrator for the Minnesota Senate Energy, Utilities, Technology and Communications Committee.

Seuffert holds a master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Eckerd College. He and his wife, Alice Seuffert have two children.

## **Commissioner - Pollution Control Agency (or Designee)**

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### **Frank Kohlasch**

Frank Kohlasch was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner for Air and Climate Policy in January 2023. Prior to this appointment, Frank was the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's first Climate Director in late December 2019 and was the MPCA's Air Assessment Section Manager from 2008 through 2019. Frank has been involved with state's greenhouse gas mitigation tracking and Minnesota's efforts to reduce the emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) since 2008, including regional collaborations to identify reduction pathways through 2050 for the electric generation, transportation, and industrial sectors. Frank is also a leader with the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), serving as the State Chair of the Climate Change Committee, on the Board of Directors and was the 2021-2022 State co-President.

Frank has a law degree from Hamline University School of Law (now Mitchell Hamline School of Law), a Bachelors Degree in Chemistry from Fort Hays State University, in Hays, KS, and studied environmental toxicology at the University

of Minnesota and nuclear chemistry at Washington State University.

## **Chancellor - Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (or Designee)**

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### **Rose Patzer**

Rose Patzer serves as the Executive Director at the Minnesota State Energy Center of Excellence. She has an MBA in Business Administration and a B.A. in Chemistry. Rose has served as faculty at Minnesota West since 2007 in the Biofuels Technology and Energy Technical Specialist programs.

She also provides project management services to the Minnesota State Energy Center of Excellence activities and chairs the Minnesota Energy Consortium meetings. She has a number of publications, presentations, awards, and certifications in areas of renewable energy, biodiesel and agriculture. She enjoys promoting awareness about the renewable and traditional energy industries and has actively participated in a variety of energy-related federal and state grants throughout her career.

## **Governor (or Designee)**

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### **Nicauris Heredia Rosario**

Nicauris Heredia Rosario (she/her) is a researcher and public policy professional with expertise in economic and workforce development, Latino affairs, community engagement, international relations, and comparative politics. She currently serves as a Policy Advisor at the Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan covering economic development, labor, and higher education issues. Nicauris holds a Master of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations and Comparative Politics from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a double Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from Rhode Island College.