



**Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10am CT**

TOPIC: Native Wise LLC - Our Mission to Revitalize and Share Indigenous Agricultural Practices

PRESENTER: David Wise, BS - Ojibwe, born and raised on the Fond Du Lac Reservation in Sawyer, MN.

Well versed in traditional agricultural practices passed down to him from many generations of Ojibwe ancestors, David has a passion for reconnecting Native Youth to their culture and to the land. David holds a BS in Environmental Science and has worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Conservation Planner and Tribal Liaison. David and his wife Patra Wise regularly host educational classes, focusing on a variety of agricultural and cultural topics, at Dancing Crane Ranch which they founded in 2021. These classes are open to the public. More information can be found at www.nativewisellc.net or on Facebook at Native Wise LLC or by emailing nativewisellc@gmail.com.

The nearby proposed Talon Metals high sulfide mine would be an environmental threat to our traditional, restorative farming practices which includes bee keeping for honey, maple syrup, a bison herd, Ojibwe Spirit horses and wild rice which grows in waters that meets the Minnesota state standard of a limit of sulfide levels to 10 parts per million.

REGISTER FOR THE MEETING AND RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK ([here](#))

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16>) All welcome.

NEW FACT SHEETS:

[Is There Really A Talon - Tesla Supply Agreement?](#)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TalonTesla.pdf>)

[Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption](#) - updated

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/RioTinto.pdf>)

[Copper & The Green Economy](#)

(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/CopperGreenEconomy.pdf>)

VIEW Previous Tamarack Water Alliance Zoom Presentations [here](#)

(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#info>)

DOWNLOAD Additional Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers/presentations

[here](#) (<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers>)

[DONATE to Tamarack Water Alliance](#): <https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html>

A big thankyou to everyone who has donated to Tamarack Water Alliance this past year. Your donations are very much appreciated!

Your donation goes to support our community educational activities which include tabling at community festivals and parades, participation in other community events, targeted speaking engagements with interested local organizations, monthly informational public Zoom calls and an associated email newsletter, website and social media, letter writing campaigns and articles in local news outlets, interviews with media, and other community outreach and canvassing. Tamarack Water Alliance is a Minnesota non-profit. We are not certified as a federal non-profit (e.g. 501c3).

Sign-Up To Receive Updates from the DNR on Talon Metals Environmental Impact Statement [here](#) (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html>)

Volunteer with the Tamarack Water Alliance. Send us an [email](#) at waters@tamarackwateralliance.org.

Sign-up for the Tamarack Water Alliance monthly email newsletter at (<http://eepurl.com/hOboEb>).

Native Wise LLC: Our Mission to Revitalize and Share Indigenous Agricultural Practices

David Wise-Ojibwe, BS, Born and raised on the Fond Du Lac Reservation, Sawyer, MN.



Early Influences

I am Ojibwe, born and raised on the Fond Du Lac Reservation in Sawyer, Minnesota. I was greatly influenced as a child by my paternal grandmother, also Ojibwe from Sawyer, who took the time to share teachings that I will carry with me throughout my life. I spent many hours with my grandmother, learning the names and medicinal uses of herbs, shrubs, trees, fungi and all manner of plant life Native to this area.

A deep respect for our Mother Earth was instilled in me and it has shaped my entire life. Because of the influence of my grandmother, our Cultural teachings and the knowledge of my heritage, I had the drive to pursue a career in the field of Conservation. I obtained a degree in Environmental Science and spent many years working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Tribal Liaison and Conservation Planner. I combined my Cultural knowledge with scholastic knowledge and had the honor of implementing Conservation Plans on the landscape that would benefit Mother Earth, Tribal Nations and the public.

Desire To Make Larger Impact on Ojibwe People & Youth

There are many projects that I am proud of today, and some that I reflect on often. At some point in my career, however, I felt a need to make a larger impact in my own community, with Ojibwe people and specifically, Ojibwe youth. Time after time I would interact with Native youth that had been removed from their Culture and had very little knowledge of Cultural teachings. This affected me in such a deep way, as I had the privilege of learning my heritage from my own family here in Sawyer. I felt a push to make a change and that has led me to where I am today.

Dancing Crane Ranch - Bison, Spirit Horses, Cultural Teachings

I still live in Sawyer, but I have purchased my great uncle's land and have been working over the last several years to build a Bison operation, Ojibwe Spirit Horse Sanctuary and Cultural Teachings Center. My wife and children and I live on our ranch, the Dancing Crane ranch, and work towards restoring our land to a pre-colonization eco-type, or as close as we can get to that goal.

Educational Classes & First Ojibwe Horse Club

We returned Bison to the land after over 150 years of absence and are members of the Ojibwe Spirit Horse Society whose goal is to bring back the endangered Ojibwe Spirit Horse, whose numbers are reaching almost 200 right now. We have 3 Spirit Horses currently at the ranch and are working to make space for more. We spend our time building fencing and installing waterlines so that we can rotate the animals in a natural grazing system that would mimic their original lifestyle.

We host educational classes on the ranch at least once a month and although we target Native youth, we open our classes to all those interested in Ojibwe culture or agricultural knowledge. We started the first Ojibwe Horse Club and have around 25 Native youth as members, learning from a trainer to reconnect to our long lost relative, the Ojibwe Spirit Horse. The smile on the face of a child that feels a connection to their own breed of horse and feels pride in who they are and where they come from after being removed from their culture and heritage is what motivates everything we do, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for us here at Dancing Crane Ranch. More information can be found [here](http://www.nativewisellc.net) www.nativewisellc.net or on [Facebook](#) at Native Wise LLC or by [emailing](mailto:nativewisellc@gmail.com) nativewisellc@gmail.com.

Dangers of Sulfide Pollution from proposed Talon Metals/Rio Tinto Mine

The nearby proposed Talon Metals high sulfide mine would be an environmental threat to our traditional, restorative farming practices. This includes raising bees for honey, sugar bushing for maple syrup, raising bison and Ojibwe Spirit horses, in addition to harvesting wild rice in the early fall which grows in waters that meets the Minnesota state standard of a limit of sulfide levels to 10 parts per million. The unfiltered toxic heavy metal dust blown from the mine vent shafts would pollute the air and fields where our bison herd and horses graze.



Minnesota's Water Future Matters To Everyone

"We don't inherit the land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." — @Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Virgil Wind's powerful reminder in a recent @Star Tribune commentary.

The proposed Tamarack nickel mine threatens Minnesota's vital water systems, with its footprint spanning both Mississippi and St. Croix River basins. This puts drinking water for millions at risk and endangers clean water access for generations to come. Chief Wind shares his personal connection to the land and water, highlighting the importance of intergenerational responsibility, the interconnectedness of all Minnesotans and the potential consequences of prioritizing short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability.

As proud partners of @Water Over Nickel, (<https://waterovernickel.com/>), we're committed to protecting our water, land and people from the negative impact of nickel mining.

Read Chief Wind's full commentary Dec. 29, 2024 : <https://www.startribune.com/why-minnesotas-water-future-matters-for-everyone/601200122>. <https://www.startribune.com/why-minnesotas-water-future-matters-for-everyone/601200122>

#WaterOverNickel #Minnesota #CleanWater

Who We Are

Tamarack Water Alliance is a group of local residents and landowners working together with others from across Minnesota to protect water and community health from the dangers of sulfide mining near our beloved lakes and wild rice beds, at the headwaters of the Kettle River and in the Mississippi River watershed. Visit our website [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html) (https://tamarackwateralliance.org/index.html)

A proposal by a foreign owned mining company, Talon Metals/Rio Tinto to mine nickel and other metals near Tamarack in Aitkin County threatens the health of our communities. This kind of sulfide mining, especially in water-rich environments, has never been done without severe impacts to water and the health of those downstream. Mining here is also a threat to environmental justice and the long-term economic security of nearby native and rural communities.

Review our [community slide presentation](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) (tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) and download [informative flyers](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html) (tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html):

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,
- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,
- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Minnesota Regulators Poor Record In Protecting The Environment,
- Eagle Mine Environmental Report & Saving Our Meager Nickel Reserves
- Is There Really A Talon Tesla Supply Agreement? (no)
- Rio Tinto: A History of Corruption
- Green Bridge Metals -Canadian proposed sulfide mine near Duluth seeks to acquire battery rich mineral assets
- Copper and The Green Economy
- Prove It First!

We will be sending this monthly newsletter to keep you informed about this project, to share information and opportunities to act, and to invite you to gatherings where you can connect with others who share a passion for clean water and community health.

