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## **Tamarack Water Alliance Community Zoom Meeting Wednesday, August 6, 2025 10am CT**

**TOPIC: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is the Key Wise Solution to Moving Forward in a Good Way**

**PRESENTER: Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe ~ Water Warrior Woman**

This presentation is by Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe ~ Water Warrior Woman. She is a Tribal Member from Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe and currently lives and works at Prairie Island Dakota Community with her family. She grew up living and learning everyday from the beautiful shores of Gichi~Gami ~ Lake Superior. She lives each day as a Water Protector in full gratitude and respect that Lake Superior raised her to be who she is today. Her deep connection to the water comes from oral history, Ancestral wisdom, and knowledge of understanding that Water is Life.

The decisions we make today have everlasting effects on all our future generations. Our future grandchildren, great grandchildren, and their grandchildren will likely feel the most long lasting effects. When we allow poisons and toxins to be dumped in the water we are actually poisoning the people and all living things for many years to come. Another wise woman taught her that "Whatever happens to the water happens to the People ~ remember that. Water is Life."

**Register for the meeting and receive the Zoom link [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16)**  
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/eventreg.php?eid=16>).

### **NEW FACT SHEETS:**

- **Difference Between High Sulfide Mining and Taconite Mining**  
(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/HighSulifideVSTaconite.pdf>)
- **Minnesota Has Listed Round Lake as Impaired**  
(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/RoundLakeImpaired.pdf>)
- **Talon Metals Dumping Toxic Drilling Waste**  
(<https://www.tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TalonToxicSumps.pdf>)

### **NEW Tamarack Water Alliance Presentation**

**Science of Sulfide Mining: Dangers of Sulfide Mining**  
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/SulfideMining-details.pdf>)

**DOWNLOAD Tamarack Water Alliance fact sheets/flyers [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers)**  
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html#flyers>).

**DONATE to Tamarack Water Alliance: [here](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html)**  
(<https://tamarackwateralliance.org/donate.html>). Our current focus is on providing education about the risks of sulfide mining, narratives to counter the greenwashing and divisiveness

that some mining companies promote, as well as forging connections to other communities concerned about sulfide mines in Minnesota, across the Midwest, and around the world.

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.

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

**Too Risky:** If you believe nickel-sulfide mining is too risky in Aitkin County, Tamarack Water Alliance has yard signs with this messaging available. Your \$6 donation helps defray costs. Email [waters@tamarackwateralliance.org](mailto:waters@tamarackwateralliance.org) to arrange pickup of your sign.

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

**Sign Up For This Newsletter:** Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to sign up for the monthly Tamarack Water Alliance email newsletter at [tamarackwateralliance.org/php/articlereg.php](https://tamarackwateralliance.org/php/articlereg.php).

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**Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is the Key Wise  
Solution to Moving Forward in a Good Way - Nibi Ogichidaa  
Ikwe ~ Water Warrior Woman**



My name is Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe ~ Water Warrior Woman. I grew up on the shores of Lake Superior ~ GichiGami. We were taught from a very early age that we have the honorable duty to look out for the next seven generations. This means that the decisions that we make today will shape the lives of our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and seven generations into the future. They are counting on us to do the right thing ~ right now. Water is our true legacy.

A wise woman I know taught me that the Water that we have here today, is the same Water that was here with our Ancestors ~ thus Water is our relative. Furthermore, we are all made of water, and we all come from water. Water is our first environment in our mother's womb. Another wise woman I know, taught me that whatever happens to the water ~ happens to the people. When we allow poisons and toxins to be dumped into our water, we are actually poisoning our own people and all living things.





My Dakota family is now three generations removed from eating healthy fish and wildlife from our rivers, lakes, and streams. This is actually going backwards, and not looking out for the next seven generations. I often ask myself and others ~ How is this not the most important headline news? We are all in this together because all water is connected.

Now is the critical time, the compass to align all Water Protectors. Anyone can be a water protector! All you have to do is care, and help us keep our water clean for the next seven generations. Ancestral wisdom guides us and teaches us the original ways of life. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is the key wise solution to moving forward in a good way. All you have to do is remember what is most important going forward. Remember what we already know ~ Water is Life.

I recently had a very powerful dream. I was in a very beautiful place looking around and all of a sudden ~ A Bold Voice said to me "You better write that Water Index."

I said "Ok I will."

Then he said it again, even more Bold and Loud "I mean it ~ You better Write that Water Index!!"

I said "Yes ~ Ok I will then!"

Then he said it a third time in a very commanding voice "I mean it!!! You Better Write That WATER INDEX!!!"

I said YES I WILL!!

Then I woke up. All i could remember was that was a voice I would never say no to.

I went outside to put down tobacco to give thanks and gratitude for trusting me with this powerful guiding vision.

I think about this dream every day. I think about how and what is the best way to create this Water Index? I'm starting to wonder and realize that WE are the Water Index ~ as we align our hearts, values, and Water is Life ways.

We are stronger together. You are all invited to reach out with any questions, comments, networking, or to join our Water Protectors movement. I am working on creating a Water Index. You are all welcome to connect with me on LinkedIn ~ my name is Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe.

Miigwech ~ Pidamayaye ~ Thank You

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### **Amid Tariff Shocks, Sulfide Mining in Minnesota Still Isn't Worth the Cost Matt Doll, Minnesota Environmental Partnership**

"... Northern Minnesota's Duluth Complex is indeed home to large deposits of copper and nickel sulfide ores, but the ore is a very low, diluted concentration that is extremely spread out across the large complex, in contrast to richer veins like those found in Chile. To extract it, a far larger area must be impacted and massive amounts of earth must be processed. The NewRange (PolyMet) copper-nickel mine, for example, has planned to destroy 912 acres of wetlands...which sequester massive amounts of carbon and are among our most powerful assets for fighting climate change.

And even if a sulfide mine is economical for the company proposing it, that doesn't mean it will be economical for Minnesotans. No sulfide ore mine has ever been constructed in Minnesota, and no sulfide mine has ever operated anywhere in the United States without polluting its surrounding environment ...

In areas like the headwaters of Lake Superior (NewRange) or the Boundary Waters and the Rainy River watershed (Twin Metals), that kind of damage would be not only catastrophic but also likely. NewRange, for example, is planning to store its mine waste in a large, watery basin behind a dam. Failure of that dam - which would need to be maintained indefinitely - would mean a flood of poison into the St. Louis River watershed upstream from the Fond du Lac Reservation and Duluth."

"... ..We can protect clean water by recycling more copper," building up the infrastructure to reach the European average rate of 50% copper recycling, thus the equivalent of 13

NewRange Mine's worth copper at a fraction of the cost to our water, our environment and, ultimately our finances."

Reference: Environmental Insider July 19, 2025  
<https://www.mepartnership.org/mining/>

***"This toxic hole is 7,000 feet long, 5,600 feet wide, and 1,600 feet deep, and it will be with us now for the next 10,000 years, at least."*** (refers to America's largest superfund site- Butte, Montana)

Excerpt from A Field Guide to Going Nowhere: Around The Pit, by Nicolas Triolo, Longreads, April 24, 2025  
<https://longreads.com/2025/04/24/butte-montana-mining-superfund/>

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## 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](#) (tamarackwateralliance.org/docs/TamarackMineConcerns-Consolidated.pdf) and download [informative flyers](#) (tamarackwateralliance.org/resources.html):

- Talon Mine Risks,
- Geology of Aitkin County,
- Talon Dumping Toxic Drilling Waste,
- Minnesota Declares Round Lake Impaired
- High Sulfide Mines Create Acid Mine Drainage,
- Nickel Not Needed for Future EV Batteries,
- Minnesota's Prime Wild Rice Lakes Under Threat,
- Difference Between High Sulfide Mining and Taconite Mining,
- 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.

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