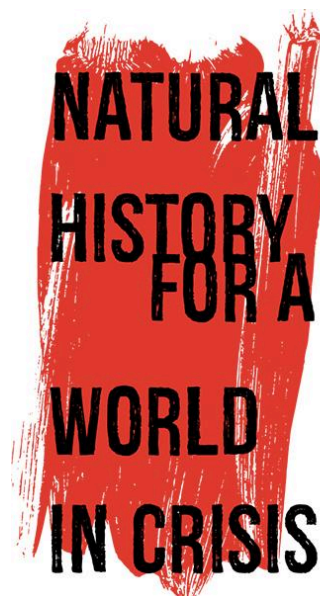


Aquifer Defenders: Learning from Waadookaamad Amikwag
Curated by Red Natural History Fellow Kai Bosworth
8/1/2024



EVENT CHAT

- 00:31:24 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Welcome! The event will begin soon. We invite you to introduce yourselves here in the chat. Name, any affiliation, where you're Zooming in from.
- 00:31:45 Ame Min-Venditti: Ame, ASU, on the lands of the Puyallup (Tacoma, WA)
- 00:31:48 Lynn Zeleski: Hi, all. I'm from Hastings, Nebraska.
- 00:31:48 john margerum: Jake from Philadelphia
- 00:31:58 The Natural History Museum: If you don't know what traditional lands you are on, here's a resource: <https://native-land.ca/>
- 00:32:05 Steve MacLean: Steve Ahgeak MacLean, Managing Director of WWF US Arctic Program. Dena'ina lands in Anchorage, Alaska
- 00:32:14 Gabriela Chavarria: Gabriela Chavarria, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, WA USA
- 00:32:20 Camille-Mary Sharp: Camille here from Treaty 13/Tkaronto!
- 00:32:24 Amber Lewin: Hello everyone, I'm Lotus and live in Rhode Island (United States)
- 00:32:28 Edwardf Morris: Hi, I'm an AI assistant helping Edward Morris take notes for this meeting. Follow along the transcript here: https://otter.ai/u/N1AftPhZDKykiPRe34vBSLC_p30?utm_source=va
- 00:30:00 Andrea Rollefson: Welcome to "Aquifer Defenders: Learning from Waadookaamad Amikwag", a virtual event curated by Kai Bosworth with The Natural History Museum.
- 00:30:14 Andrea Rollefson: The event will begin soon. We invite you to introduce yourselves here in the chat. Name, any affiliation, where you're Zooming in from.
- 00:30:50 Andrea Rollefson: If you don't know what traditional lands you are on, here's a resource: <https://native-land.ca/>
- 00:31:16 Matthew Brockmeier: Loretta & Matthew Brockmeier, Random Lake, Wisconsin
- 00:31:24 judi clinton: Judi in loway, Hi everyone
- 00:31:42 Scott Russell: Scott from Minneapolis
- 00:31:51 Joyce Frey: Tansi.... Dr. Joyce Frey here in Kansas, traditional home of the Wichita and Pawnee.
- 00:31:58 Janice Penn: Jan Penn in the Penokee's of the Bad Rive Watershed. Hi!

00:32:06 Andrea Rollefson: Greetings! Thank you for coming to “Aquifer Defenders: Learning from Wadookawaad Amikwag.” This event is part of the “Natural History for a World in Crisis” programming series, organized by the 2023-2025 cohort of Red Natural History Fellows with The Natural History Museum.

00:32:07 Andy Burt: Andy Burt, Stolen land of Wabanaki Confederation, (Edgecomb, Maine) volunteer with Wabanaki Alliance Coalition

00:32:22 Bailing Li: Bailing Maryland

00:32:22 Terry Hampton: Terry Hampton, Carlsbad, CA, Payomcawhikum land

00:32:32 Andrea Rollefson: We invite you to introduce yourselves here in the chat. Name, any affiliation, where you’re Zooming in from.

00:32:47 Gabriela Chavarria: Gabriela Chavarria, Burke Museum, joining from Seattle, WA

00:32:51 Julie Savage: Julie Savage, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, southern Georgia

00:32:52 Andrea Rollefson: We’d also love to know what brought you here: what are you hoping to get out of this conference?

00:33:15 Eva Hutt: Eva she/her/ella, Denver, CO

00:33:19 Ansu John: Ansu John, Geographer/Educator from Poulsbo Washington

00:33:41 Heidi Meade: Heidi St. Francis, MN WA volunteer

00:33:42 Nicolas Chevalier: Nicolas, with Climate Justice Montreal, in so-called Montreal/Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang. Organizing against Line 5/9

00:33:48 Sarah Wirth: Sarah Wirth she/her from Dubuque, IA

00:33:51 Andrea Rollefson: You can learn more about the inaugural cohort of Red Natural History Fellows here:
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/meet-the-inaugural-cohort-of-red-natural-history-fellows/>

00:33:53 Doris Payne: Doris Payne from San Diego County. Here to learn more.

00:34:01 Andrea Rollefson: Our edited collection of essays on Red Natural History, featuring texts by the fellows-- Indigenous historians, theorists, and ethnobotanists, as well as critical geographers, landscape architects, artists, and activists: <https://bit.ly/RNHessays>

00:34:34 Andrea Rollefson: For more info about the virtual event series:
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/events/natural-history-for-a-world-in-crisis/>

00:34:41 Joyce Frey: I am an International psychologist with an emphasis on Indigenous cultures. I have been in cultural immersion with the Plains Cree in Saskatchewan for a decade. I continue to learn and advocate for all First Nations and Native Americans.

00:35:17 Andrea Rollefson: If you have any questions, please add them to the Q&A, which you will find at the bottom of your screen.

00:35:41 Andrea Rollefson: Victoria M.L. McMillen (Migizi Clan, Anishinaabeg Nagachiwaanong) and her family have been Indigenous volunteers for Waadookawaad Amikwag for over two years. With backgrounds in natural resources, human services, and education, they offer their perspectives as cultural and Traditional Ecological Knowledge carriers. By including

their children in WA efforts, they seek to educate and embolden the next generation in their rights to self-determination and the protection of treaty rights.

00:36:34 Sue H: can you make the audio clearer?

00:39:54 Sue H: No, there seems to be a bit of an echo - words not clear from Victoria - they were with Beka

00:40:13 Steven Paulsrud: Steve from Muscatine Iowa. We need to keep our surface//groundwater clean.

00:40:27 Steven Paulsrud: use cc

00:41:05 Maura Stephens: use cc?

00:41:41 The Natural History Museum: There should be a button that says "Show Captions" in the menu bar at the bottom of the Zoom window.

00:41:48 Marilyn Guida: yes.cc helps

00:42:22 Steven Paulsrud: closed caption option on lower line of tablet/laptop

00:42:36 Maura Stephens: 

00:43:33 Andrea Rollefson: Our new, year-long virtual event series, "Natural History for a World in Crisis", is curated by the Red Natural History Fellows with The Natural History Museum. More info here:
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/events/natural-history-for-a-world-in-crisis/>.

00:44:07 Andrea Rollefson: For news on future events, sign up for our email newsletter:
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org> (signup at top of page)

00:44:54 Andrea Rollefson: "Aquifer Defenders: Learning from Waadookaamad Amikwag" is a panel discussion curated by Kai Bosworth with Victoria M.L. McMillen (Migizi Clan, Anishinaabeg Nagachiwaanong), Jami Gaither, and Jeff Broberg.

00:45:02 Andrea Rollefson: This event explores how Indigenous knowledge and Western science can be mobilized to halt the destruction caused by pipelines, stop future projects, and protect the land and water for future generations, highlighting the work of Waadookaamad Amikwag ("Those Who Help Beaver").

00:45:13 Andrea Rollefson: Waadookaamad Amikwag is a diverse community group of water protectors, scientists, drone pilots, field monitors, and grassroots organizers that is gathering and interpreting evidence of environmental destruction from the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline, expanded in 2021 after a decade of Native-led resistance. The group's work reveals how water protectors are fulfilling obligations to the land and water enshrined in the region's founding treaties, and pressuring state and federal agencies to do the same.

00:45:22 Andrea Rollefson: You can find more info about this event here:
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/events/aquifer-defenders/>

00:45:30 Andrea Rollefson: If you'd like to be apprised of future events or learn more about The Natural History Museum, please subscribe to our email list at
<https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/>

00:45:42 Andrea Rollefson: Kai Bosworth is a geographer and Assistant Professor of International Studies in the School of World Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Red Natural History Fellow with The Natural History Museum. His first book, Pipeline Populism:

Grassroots Environmentalism in the 21st Century (2022) investigates how contemporary environmental struggles and resistance to pipeline development became populist struggles.

00:46:45 TaWanda Talley: Good evening! TaWanda Talley & Carolyn Talley, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Richmond, VA

00:47:23 Andrea Rollefson: You can check out Kai's vision for the future of his discipline in his short essay "Radical Geography: Historical Limits and Future Possibilities in the Context of Indigenous Resurgence," published in our "Red Natural History" issue of Social Text journal: <https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/learn-teach/writing/radical-geography-historical-limits-and-future-possibilities-in-the-context-of-indigenous-resurgence/>

00:47:31 Andrea Rollefson: Kai's first book, "Pipeline Populism: Grassroots Environmentalism in the Twenty-First Century," explores how contemporary environmental struggles and resistance to pipeline development became populist struggles. You can learn more about it here: <https://www.upress.umn.edu/9781517911065/pipeline-populism/>

00:47:43 Andrea Rollefson: If you have questions during the webinar, you can post them in the Q&A. We'll aim to field at least one or two questions from the audience during the discussion after our panelists present.

00:48:54 Andrea Rollefson: Victoria M.L. McMillen (Migizi Clan, Anishinaabeg Nagachiwaanong) and her family have been Indigenous volunteers for Waadookaamad Amikwag for over two years. With backgrounds in natural resources, human services, and education, they offer their perspectives as cultural and Traditional Ecological Knowledge carriers. By including their children in WA efforts, they seek to educate and embolden the next generation in their rights to self-determination and the protection of treaty rights.

00:49:12 Andrea Rollefson: Waadookaamad Amikwag, Ojibwe for 'Those Who Help Beaver', is a multicultural volunteer community group made up of water protectors, credentialed scientists, licensed drone pilots, field monitors, and grassroots organizers mindful of the traditional homelands of the Anishinaabeg people and traditional ecological and Indigenous knowledge.

00:49:22 Andrea Rollefson: You can learn more about Waadookaamad Amikwag's findings on their website: <https://waadookaamadamikwag.org/>

00:52:46 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: If you have questions for the speakers, you can post them in the Q&A. We'll aim to field at least one or two questions from the audience during the discussion after our panelists present.

00:57:11 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Jami Gaither is a co-founder of Waadookaamad Amikwag and a retired metallurgical engineer who understands the technical issues around pipeline stressors that can lead to leaks and spills. Her family lives on land abutting the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline corridor, near the White Earth Reservation, where Waadookaamad Amikwag have identified two significant Line 3 damage sites. Since 2014, Jami has testified against Line 3 and documented the many failings of the state's regulatory process on her blog.

00:57:31 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: If you'd like to learn more about the Line 3 fight, this 6-minute video lays it out: <https://youtu.be/-9VIXaO4AJs>

01:00:07 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Breach reporting: STRIB Jennifer Bjorhus
<https://www.startribune.com/enbridge-aquifer-water-oil-pipeline-line-3-environment-climate-change-aitkin-county-moose-lake-peat/600293054/>

01:00:16 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Breach Reporting: Nathan O'Neal Fox 9 (video)
<https://www.fox9.com/news/fourth-aquifer-breach-confirmed-along-enbridges-line-3-oil-pipeline-corridor>

01:01:01 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: People Not Polluters is a group of organizations working to influence Minnesota state decisions on projects that threaten environmental damage – from mines and crude oil pipelines to metal shredders and pesticide drift. More on their work here: <https://peoplenotpolluters.com/who-we-are>

01:01:12 Eli Brown: Will this be recorded?

01:01:27 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Petition of People Not Polluters Petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/people-not-polluters>

01:02:02 Beka Economopoulos, The Natural History Museum: Yes Eli, we'll post the recording at TheNaturalHistoryMuseum.org and we'll email it out to all registrants

01:02:21 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Jeff Broberg is a Minnesota Licensed Professional Geologist born, raised and educated in Minneapolis. He dedicates his time and experience to nonprofits working to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's waters. Jeff helped launch Waadookaami Amikwag, using high-resolution remote thermal sensing to document the damages caused by Enbridge Line 3, with the aim of holding the regulators, contractors, and Enbridge accountable. With Waadookaami Amikwag, he helps prepare legal briefs for Indigenous legal actions against State and Federal regulators and Enbridge to ensure and protect the rights of nature.

01:02:24 Eli Brown: Thank you!

01:05:51 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: If you are interested in digging deeper into the question of how oil pipeline construction can impact underground aquifers, take a look at WA's fact sheet here:
https://waadookaami.amikwag.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/july-2023-hydrologic-disruption-paradigms_fact-sheet.pdf

01:06:09 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Check out WA's summary report on their investigation of damages caused by the Line 3 buildout here:
<https://waadookaami.amikwag.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/july-2023-one-page-summary.pdf>

01:06:19 Ansu John: It's quite a legacy of arrogance of the western academy to label generations of profound empirical learning, insight gained by observation/experimentation for hundreds of years, and understanding of complex biotic / physical influences "traditional ecological knowledge".

More like that is superior science.

01:08:42 Scott Russell: Construction ended Sept. 30, 2021 more than two and a half years ago. They still haven't identified all the damage, let alone addressed it.

01:09:00 Marilyn Guida: can he give us the website again - Mr. Broberg?

01:09:44 Beka Economopoulos, The Natural History Museum: Here's the website:
<https://peoplenotpolluters.com/who-we-are>

01:11:30 Jeff Broberg: <https://waadookaami.amikwag.org>

01:12:10 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum:
<https://environmentalintegrity.org/>

01:15:15 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Funding for WA's water testing was provided by CAES <https://caes.org/>

01:15:41 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Please post your questions for our panelists in the Q&A—if there's time, we hope to field questions from the audience during the conversation.

01:16:16 Marilyn Guida: Beautiful Victoria

01:16:52 Sue H: I wonder if it would help of Victoria got nearer to the Mic? Others are clear

01:17:24 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: 10/6/22 Letter to AG and Regulators
<https://waadookawaadamikwag.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/draft-line-3-wa-partners-state-data-sharing-moa.docx-10-6-22.pdf>

01:18:24 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: WA Website Walkthrough:
<https://youtu.be/u4bXHUvd9Q>

01:18:34 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Presentation on Walker Brook to Clearwater County Board of Commissioners in December 2022
<https://youtu.be/XtUWBb-wgRA?si=ltFFwewXWGS DhvAo>

01:18:44 Sue H: You do realize that most of these are political questions

01:19:28 Jami Gaither: Fines for water protectors were higher than the \$1000 fine given enbridge for bursting an artesian aquifer.

01:20:08 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: 1855 Treaty Authority's Resolution Establishing Rights of Manoomin (wild rice):
<https://whiteearth.com/assets/files/judicial/codes/1855%20Res%20estab%20Rts%20of%20Manoomin%202018%20with%20Resolution.pdf>

01:20:40 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: WA's site surveys describe the damages as the oil flows in Line 3/93. Available for download here:
<https://waadookawaadamikwag.org/sites-2023>

01:21:32 Steven Paulsrud: In Iowa all we are left to do is sue companies that are not following their building permits. The EPA and Iowa DNR are worthless. The US Supreme Court has taken away EPA powers to regulate. The DNR levies minimal fines. And in Iowa we are left with some of the most polluted lakes, streams and rivers in the nation.

01:23:00 Eva Hutt: @Steven see recent CO legislation re-protecting waterways that EPA doesn't do anymore

01:23:31 Christian Artuso: the treaties do NOT surrender the land (ceded is a European legal concept that is used for convenience and to enable forceful removal and other acts of exploitation that are actually in breach of the treaties), but the most fundamental content of the treaties that the Anishinaabeg (and others) agreed to is to share the land!

01:24:06 Steven Paulsrud: Thankfully The Driftless Water Defenders has gotten public and legal support to fight back against local livestock polluters!

01:24:18 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Judge Metzen:
<https://waadookawaadamikwag.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/order-to-dismiss-and-memo.aubid-goodwin-laduke.9-14-2024.mn-9th-district-aitkin-co.20240731111439306.pdf>

01:24:21 Andrew Hellinger: MN and WI are both dangerously possible pro Trump states. What has happened with Line 3 is child's play compared to what he and his cronies plan to do if he get in again. He must be stopped.

01:28:11 Kathleen Schuler: It's regulatory capture. Enbridge walked all over the state agencies MPCA and PUC.

01:28:14 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: the joint Waadookawaad Amikwag / Healing Minnesota Stories blog summarizing the damage from the 4 aquifer breaches and the damage at Walker Brook.
<https://healingmnstories.wordpress.com/2023/08/08/enbridges-aquifer-breaches-a-summary/>

01:29:48 Sue H: Steve - the same problem is here in NY - even when permits are violated, and the regional office recommends fines or revoking permits - the head of the DECm a political appointymen

01:31:11 Jami Gaither: Getting a fiscal sponsor has not been easy for a group like ours. We'd welcome ideas and support.

01:31:22 Kathleen Schuler: We appreciate your work, Victoria, Jami and Jeff!

01:31:33 Sue H: to finish - appointment, and the recommendations are overuled - I repeat, these are political questions

01:32:46 Jami Gaither: Jaime is right. Our website has links to letters written by US Reps asking for INDEPENDENT investigations. Denial is all we got.

01:33:28 Scott Russell: Much of the Line 3 review happened during the Trump administration...Trump's first act was to underimine DAPL challenges and fast track it.

01:34:48 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: You can check out a powerful video statement from Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate regarding the irrefutable adverse health impacts of Line 3 here:
<https://twitter.com/HP4HC/status/1427743120956010507>

01:35:20 Matthew Brockmeier: Excellent presentation, excellent panel, and excellent moderation. Thank you.

01:35:22 Sue Moore: can we have a listof all of thewebsites in the chat?

01:36:02 Scott Russell: One part of corporate/polluter capture is the extremely weak fines available on the books (no doubt lobbied for by industry). . Line 3 permit violations did not come with sanctions that would deter bad behavior.

01:36:13 Ansu John: the rationale of these agencies is a settler colonizer one: make it easy for euro settlers to take a ticket and rape the land.

01:36:18 Sue Moore: wonderful-thank you!

01:37:09 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: The US Ary Corps of Engineers just extended the public comment period for the Enbridge Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project through to August 30. More info here:
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/regulatory/WI-Special/WiL5R%20NOA%20Dr>

aft%20EA%20PN%20Time%20Extension%202%2020240726%20final.pdf?ver=02yX73l6gsq-ITzzkW-LoA%3d%3d

01:37:19 Matthew Brockmeier: A longstanding notion is regulatory capture, where the regulated entity has a greater stake than anyone else, and can devote more resources than opponents. Obviously at play here.

01:38:01 Kathleen Schuler: We want to request a public legislative hearing on the Enbridge damage

01:38:04 Matthew Brockmeier: By greater stake, I mean financial - not environmental or moral.

01:38:49 Eva Hutt: thank you for this strong work - you're doing it for all of us and for the land

01:39:53 Nicolas Chevalier: We are working to get Line 5 shutdown on the "Canadian" side. The politicians here are mis-using an old pipeline treaty to keep Line 5 running...

01:40:24 Marilyn Guida: Have you all been able to bring the decision makers to the land and discuss what's going on in that way? get them out in the real world?

01:40:39 Sue H: Exactly! Agency capture by industry - but the heads of agencies are appointed by elected officials - sooo politics matter ... you won't get decent decisions that reflect the needs of the people until you get better better leaders

01:40:54 Janice Penn: Thanks for your comments on Line 5 in WI-the ACE comment period and the need for baseline thermal imaging-any help welcome!

01:41:14 Nicolas Chevalier: <https://climatejusticemontreal.ca/campaigns/line-5>

01:41:34 Joyce Frey: A great session! A huge problem, one of many that exemplifies the Neo-colonial systems are still alive and well.

01:41:41 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Waadookawaad Amikwag <https://waadookawaadamikwag.org/>

01:41:45 Julia Fonseca: Ethical grounding is key

01:42:05 Ansu John: Thanks Jeff for addressing this

01:43:28 Ansu John: western science has no allowance for the sacredness of the earth itself, nor the sacred quality of our relationship with the substrate of life itself...

01:43:34 Maura Stephens: fantastic thank you! please keep me informed ecology at use dot startmail dot com

01:43:40 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: here's the short video you can watch for context on Waadokawaad Amikwag and the Line 3 fight: <https://youtu.be/-9VIXaO4AJs>

01:44:21 Jami Gaither: YES!!

01:45:16 Doug Heuer: Thank-you Jeff, Jami and Victoria. Miigwich

01:47:54 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Please let us know your thoughts about this event. We value your feedback.

01:48:15 Ansu John: how do we send feedback

01:48:24 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: If you enjoyed this event, you can learn more about The Natural History Museum and subscribe to our email list at <https://thenaturalhistorymuseum.org/>

01:49:21 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: Thank you for joining us! Stay tuned for more events from our “Natural History for a World in Crisis” series.

01:49:30 Sue H: Seriously, you really do need to get into electoral politics ... maybe not as a "non-profit" to lose that status, but as all the folks as individuals - do politics!

01:50:32 Jeff Broberg: Thank you everyone. Help us do no more harm.

01:50:45 Sue H: Amen!

01:51:26 Andrea Rollefson, The Natural History Museum: You’re listening to “Sun of the Son” (1971) by the Mi’kmaq songwriter and activist Willie Dunn.