

**EMPOWERMENT**  
We use the power of the law  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
to help you protect our heritage of  
**COMMUNITY**  
healthy water, air, land and government.  
**JUSTICE**

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**ANNUAL REPORT / 2017**



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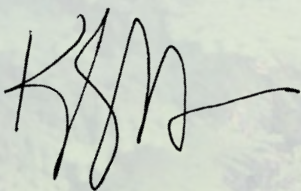
## DEAR FRIENDS

This past year included another round of weakened policies putting clean water and public health at risk. Lack of enforcement of even the most basic standards has caused problems for communities throughout the state. However, more and more people understand how bad policies hurt our clean water future. It is up to us to make sure that our elected officials know that clean water is not a partisan issue. Every elected official in any party and at every level of government has a duty to protect and sustain clean water and a healthful environment for all of us today and those yet to come.

One action all of us can take is to be sure our friends, family and neighbors understand their vote is their voice if they care about clean water. There is research suggesting a significant number of people who care about clean air, land and water simply don't vote as often as they should. We each can make a difference if we get just 5% of people who don't let their voices be heard to the polls. While money talks, people standing together are louder.

We can get a public conversation going about the connection between policy and clean water by writing letters to the editor, talking with our fishing buddies, having conversations in our quilting clubs and with anyone anywhere who cares about clean water. If a candidate wants my vote I expect them to publicly pledge to restore legal protections to our wetlands, water, land and air.

More people are working together to protect clean water than I've seen in decades. Here at Midwest Environmental Advocates we're lucky to see good people working together in every corner of the state. We do our best to connect champions from Bayfield to La Crosse and everywhere in between to amplify our common values that honor our Wisconsin conservation legacy. It's up to us to engage people we know care about our natural heritage to use their voices. Thank you for everything you do to promote strong communities and considerate civic discourse.



Kimberlee Wright  
*Executive Director*

# PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

People working together with the power of the law on their side

## MEA HIGHLIGHTS

**Jacklyn Velasquez joined MEA for a two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowship focused on partnering with tribal communities and governments to protect clean water for generations to come.**



PHOTO BY JACK DOUGHERTY

Jimmy Parra worked with community advocates in Green Bay to increase their power to hold polluters accountable to permit conditions.

Tressie Kamp, with 16 citizen-Petitioners from throughout Wisconsin, catalyzed public discourse leading to the Legislative Audit Bureau report that documented failures in Wisconsin's water pollution permitting program.

With partner organizations, Sarah Geers fought back when the powerful industrial livestock lobby exempted known polluted runoff from regulation in a legal settlement with DNR.



PHOTO BY ANDY ADAMS

**MEA is proud to have supported the development of Wisconsin's Green Fire, an organization of natural resource experts, academics, and authorities in other disciplines formed to be a voice for conservation.**

## CITIZEN HIGHLIGHTS

Wisconsin's Conservation Congress passed resolutions by wide margins in every county calling for accountability under the Clean Water Act and to repeal legislation that rolls back environmental protections.

People Over Pipelines, a coalition of families and organizations invited Jimmy Parra to unravel the complex regulatory framework to help stop the expansion of Enbridge Line 61 that pumps Canadian tar sands oil through the middle of Wisconsin.



**Over 500 citizens filled the Capitol to show their concern for our clean water future. MEA is honored to support civic action with the power of the law.**

# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE AND EXPENSES

FY 2017

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support

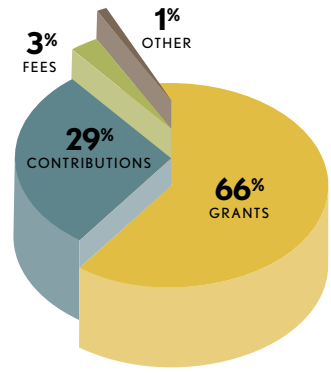
Grants	\$482,303
Contributions	209,690
Fees	23,443
Other, Including Use of Organizational Reserves	9,957

**Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support** \$725,393

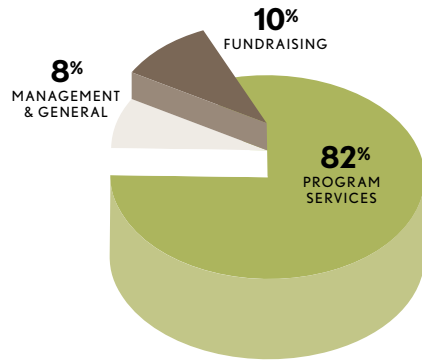
### Expenses

Program Services	\$593,889
Supporting Activities	
Management & General	57,412
Fundraising	68,806

**Total Expenses** \$720,107



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TOTAL EXPENSES

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## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1999, Midwest Environmental Advocates is a nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental law center that supports people working for healthy air, land, water and government for this generation and the next. We use the power of the law to help concerned citizens protect our natural heritage.

We are not your average law firm, nor are we your typical environmental nonprofit. Our mission is to empower citizens to make a difference and to support their efforts to protect public health and the environment using sound science and the law. We believe that every citizen has the potential to make a difference.