

For Immediate Release!

Media Contacts: Nicole Kneeland 715-292-9416
Lyz Jaakola 218-393-3528

Mother Earth Water Walk Duluth Press Conference
Monday, June 6th, 4-6 pm
University of MN, Duluth, Kirby Lounge

This is an opportunity for the media to meet the walkers from the West and the North. Learn about the history of the water walk, the journey these women have shared with the water and the significance of salt water from the four directions coming together in Bad River, WI with Lake Superior on June 12th.

Media is welcomed during the walk down to the Duluth Reception and at the Duluth Reception, however no interviews will be granted at this is time.

Join us at the Duluth Reception for the Mother Earth Water Walk

Tuesday, June 7th, 1pm

Lafayette Square, Park Point- parking at the beach house- shuttle to Lafayette

(parking available at Lafayette for Elders and food drop off)

Dress for the weather; bring a chair, cup and utensils for meal

Welcome the walkers from the West and North, Water Blessing and Feast, Wisdom from the walkers, Water Proclamation from Mayor Ness and more...

The Mother Earth Water Walk is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the importance of clean water and the sacred nature of water. The first walk in 2003 was inspired by the question, "What will you do for the water?" This year, women from across the continent have answered the call to journey over 10,400,000 steps walking from the 4 cardinal directions at ocean points carrying copper pails of sacred salt water, uniting in Bad River, WI on June 12th.

The lead walkers are elder women from 4 Indigenous Nations. Walkers from the West began on April 10th in Olympia, Washington. The south started on April 20th from Gulfport, Mississippi. The East departed from Machais, Maine on May 7th and the North will begin May 21st from Winnipeg.

The walkers are averaging 35 miles per day. They begin their walk at 3:30 am with ceremony and continue with their intention to raise awareness on the importance of water by carrying salt water in copper pails from the 4 directions (water from the Pacific, Atlantic, Hudson Bay and Gulf of Mexico) to the center of the continent, Lake Superior. All 4 directions will converge in Bad River, WI on June 12th for ceremony and celebration. This walk and convergence symbolizes water as the great unifier.

Water brings cultures and communities together. In the eyes of water we are all one. Please see attached water walk historical information and a Duluth reception poster.

The list of committed individuals continues to grow and has evolved to include institutions, communities and individuals: University of MN, Duluth, Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Fond du Lac Elders, Oshkii Giizhik Singers, Anishinabe Youth Chorus, American Indian Community Housing, Red Lake Urban Office, Interfaith Church, Lake Superior Magazine, WLSSD and more.

People can follow the walk at www.motherearthwaterwalk.com. If they want to know where the walkers are right now, they can go to www.emptyglassforwater.ca/map and click on the line that says, "see where the walkers are now". They have GPS on their copper pails.

If people want to join the walkers, please visit the Water Walk 2011 Facebook page and in the documents section click on "see all" and then scroll down to "Walkers Need to Know". It is important to follow these guidelines if you would like to walk. Thank you.