



WSNetwork News

January 1, 2002

News on issues of common interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental communities.

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CONFERENCE UPDATE:

Click [here](#) for the latest news on sessions and gubernatorial candidates scheduled at the WSN annual conference.

Announcing...

The Wisconsin Stewardship
Network's

*2002 Annual
Conference*

January 25-26, 2002

Stevens Point, WI

- **New conference location: UW-Stevens Point.**
- **Issue sessions, effectiveness workshops, and more!**
- **In these uncertain times, we get strength from healthy natural resources...attend and feel great about the impact you're making.**

Very special event...

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Friday, January 25, 2002

Hear what the candidates for Wisconsin's Governor have to say on conservation, the environment, and other topics of interest to you!

- Reception beforehand — meet the candidates.
- The forum is free and open to the public, but conference attendees are guaranteed a seat.

Registration materials are in the mail and on the web. Check www.wsn.org for late-breaking news.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

Supreme Court to stay out of power line case

The Wisconsin Supreme Court said on Dec. 20 it will not review the constitutionality of the transmission company entity created to build the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line. The lawsuit was one of several legal challenges to the 210-mile line that would run from Duluth to Wausau.

DNR Independence

Factory Farming

Farm Bureau opposition helps defeat final U.S. Senate farm bill

After three weeks of debate a Republican voting block kept the Senate farm bill from advancing in the final hours before holiday recess. Even though farmers and virtually every national farm group had been adamant about finishing the farm bill this year before time and money ran out, it became apparent in the final hours of Senate debate that the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) was opposing the final Senate version. It was disclosed during floor testimony that the AFBF national Board of Directors convened an emergency conference call the night before the final vote and composed a letter to the Senate stating their opposition. The board cited a concern about the Reid amendment — a proposal which created a water conservation program intended to help farmers such as those in the Klamath Basin whose use of water competed with tribes, fisherman and wildlife.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, National Rural Community Outreach Campaign, Defenders of Wildlife, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Groundwater Protection

Perrier still a “top 10” state story

The Wisconsin State Journal again (12/30/01) selected our fight with Perrier as one of the top ten stories of 2001. “Citizens wage legal fight against Perrier’s plans to build a water bottling plant in Adams County,” and in the text they explain our lawsuit and accompanying legislative change.

Have a happy new year and don't forget the court date January 30th at the Columbia County Courthouse in Portage, WI at 11:00 a.m. before Judge Richard Wright. Indications are that he will be making a ruling on that date. Thanks to all of you for your help this past year.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, HiroK8@aol.com.

New web site offers information on arsenic in WI drinking water

People concerned about issues related to the potential health effects, or prevalence of arsenic in drinking water supplies, can now find information on one easy to use Internet resource: Wisconsin's Arsenic in Drinking Water & Groundwater Information Page. The site features a multitude of resources for families and drinking water system operators that want to learn more about arsenic found in Wisconsin and around the globe. The site is at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/arsenic/index.htm>. Or contact your drinking water and groundwater specialist at your local DNR service center.

SOURCE: Margie Damgaard, WDNR, (608) 266-0738.

Canada passes bulk water export and diversion protections

Acting on a promise made more than two years ago, the government of Canada has finally passed Bill C-6, an attempt to prevent bulk removal of water from the Great Lakes and other "boundary" waters between the United States and Canada.

The bill bans the removal of water from designated water basins (for example, the Great Lakes water basin) and gives the minister of foreign affairs the power to license uses of water within the basin that would affect levels and flows on the U.S. side of the boundary. Unfortunately, both of these powers contain exemptions, which are as of yet unspecified.

SOURCE: Great Lakes United.

Mercury Reduction

Metallic Mining

Legislators expected at Jan. 14 Appleton mining legislation meeting

Concerned hunters, fishers, and others have organized a town hall meeting to discuss two pieces of legislation passed recently by the Wisconsin Senate — SB 160 to ban cyanide in mining and

SB 271 to eliminate special treatment for mining — with Green Bay and Fox Valley legislators at 6:30 p.m. on January 14 at the Forester Club in Appleton. An engineer, geologist and mining industry expert will also be available to help respond to any technical issues.

The forum is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Sierra Club-Fox Valley Group, Wolf Watershed Education Project, and other local hunting and fishing groups who want to see a safe Wolf River. Rep. Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah) will be attending. So will State Rep. Terri McCormick (R-Appleton) and Rep. Judy Krawczyk (R-Green Bay), the authors of the no special treatment for mining bill. For more information contact either Jim Wise at (715) 453-3676 or Tom Deer at (920) 725-6077.

SOURCE: WSN.

Group uncovers Nicolet Minerals misinformation on cyanide spills

Federal records show at least 23 transportation-related spills of cyanide in the U.S. in recent years, despite recent claims to the Wisconsin Legislature by the owner of the Crandon mine that such spills have never occurred in this country.

A citizen's group reviewed hazardous materials spills that were reported to the federal Emergency Release Notification System for the years 1987-1997. Nicolet Minerals Company (NMC), the owner of the proposed Northern Wisconsin mine, intends to use 7-18 tons of cyanide per month to process ore at the mine and to dispose of cyanide wastes on-site, near the headwaters of the Wolf River. (E-mail the WSN for a list of the spill identified.)

“NMC has repeatedly exaggerated the safety of the use of cyanide in mining during its campaign to defeat Senate Bill 160, a bill to ban the use of cyanide that has already passed the state Senate,” says David Blouin of the Mining Impact Coalition. “Now we find out that NMC hasn't told the truth about the safety of shipping cyanide on our highways and railroads.”

To support SB 160 (No Cyanide in Mining) and SB 271 (No Special Treatment for Mining Wastes), Wisconsin citizens should contact Assembly Environment Committee Chair Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) to recommend both bills for passage by the full Assembly. Call toll-free 888-534-0043 or e-mail Rep.Kedzie@legis.state.wi.us, and write Rep. Kedzie at the State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

SOURCE: Dave Blouin, Coordinator, Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, 608-233-8455, burroak15@aol.com.

Public Intervenor Office Restoration

Shoreland/Wetlands

DNR to drop mandatory buffers from nonpoint rules package

Mandatory requirements that farmers leave at least a 10-foot buffer between a stream or lake and fields have been dropped from proposed runoff control rules to avoid losing federal funds for such buffers strips and other farming conservation practices and to focus limited state dollars on more effective measures, state water quality officials say. Instead, farmers can continue to receive state funding to voluntarily install buffers strips of at least 35 feet — the minimum width research suggests is needed to effectively trap phosphorus and sediment from fields.

“We anticipate tens of thousands of acres of buffers being installed in the next five years whether the buffers are made mandatory or not,” Said DNR Watershed Management Bureau Head Al Shea. “Given the state budget picture and the availability of CREP funding for buffer strips, we think we should focus the limited state dollars available on other cost-effective ways of reducing runoff from farm fields.” For more information contact Al Shea (608) 267-2759 or Russ Rasmussen (608) 267-7651.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Source disappointed in DNR buffer position

Since DNR is so concerned about the fact that narrow buffers are not going to be good enough, why don't they revert back to their original proposal (I have it somewhere — on one of the early reports from the DNR) which was the NRCS standard. Those are scientifically based standards that are based upon a range of buffers (20-90 ft., I believe), the width of which is dependent upon adjacent land use and topography. DNR already proposed it and then ran away early on. Now they propose to run away entirely on the deceptive argument rendered even more egregious given their earlier proposal in favor of standards that would have entirely eliminated the manufactured “problem” that concerns them now.

In a nutshell, DNR weakened and weakened and weakened the buffer standards to the point where they could say the proposal is just too weak to use. Bazzell should be ashamed of himself, as should the Governor who no doubt is hearing the agribusiness lobby's whining.

SOURCE: WSN source.

Critical of DNR's water pollution criteria

I still have trouble figuring out why we should cost share to help farmers from polluting streams. I am not sympathetic to small farms. I think the core issue is setting better criteria for streams and then holding DNR to those criteria under the public trust doctrine. The current IBI, HBI, and crude habitat criteria are not adequate to promote natural reproduction and sustainable native pop-

ulations of fish, invertebrates, periphyton, vascular plants or pass bacteria limits for human contact during runoff events. We are giving DNR an out because the criteria are inadequate.

SOURCE: Phil Emmling, Environmental Chemistry & Technology Program, 660 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706, 608 262-2899, emmling@engr.wisc.edu.

Clean Water Coalition letter to NRB finished

Thanks to all those who commented on the [Clean Water Coalition letter to the DNR Natural Resources Board] on such short notice. The next step will be to discuss our proposal with DATCP and the DNR after the holiday. The Natural Resources Board meeting is January 23. DATCP's board will meet early in February...then, on to the Legislature.

(Contact the WSN at wsn@chorus.net to view a copy of the coalition letter. There is still time for your group to sign on or send your own letter.)

SOURCE: Steph Adams, cleanwater@wisconsinrivers.org.

Toxicologist criticizes Fox River PCB cleanup plan

A toxicologist has released an 18-page formal report evaluating health risk assessments used by the U.S. EPA and WDNR for planning the Fox River PCB cleanup. Dr. Jeffery Foran was hired by Clean Water Action Council on behalf of a coalition of local and regional citizen groups.

“Approximately 40,000 individuals in the Fox River and Green Bay region are faced with PCB cancer risks similar to smoking two to three packs of cigarettes a day. Other, non-cancer health risks are also extremely high. Their PCB exposure is primarily through contaminated fish and waterfowl consumption,” explained Dr. Foran. “These risks must be addressed immediately.” Foran's report will is available on-line at <http://www.foxriverwatch.com/foran/>.

SOURCE: Clean Water Action Council.

WSN CONFERENCE NOTES

Major conference sessions scheduled

Getting public records and making FOI requests — Attorneys Melissa Scanlan of Midwest Environmental Advocates and Glenn Stoddard of the Garvey and Stoddard law firm guide you through the process of using open records laws and the Freedom of Information Act to get the documents some don't want you to see.

From Teddy to Tommy and beyond: politics and conservation in Wisconsin — Barry Ashenfelter, Ex. Director of the newly formed WI League of Conservation Voters, discusses the status of conservation and the environment in Wisconsin politics...and how the WLCV plans to make a difference.

Mining groundwater modeling: predictions vs. reality — Discover what we've learned about groundwater modeling by comparing the Ladysmith Mine's groundwater plan to what actually happened. Presented by John Coleman of UW-Madison and Jim Wise of ECCOLA.

Coming revisions to Wisconsin's shoreland management rules — Since shoreland management laws went into effect in the 1960s, shoreland development has increased 200% in Wisconsin. Lynn Markham of UW-Stevens Point outlines new changes to NR115 that will benefit both shoreland habitat and landowners.

Invasive species: getting action from the state — The WDNR's Kelly Kearns and The Nature Conservancy's Nancy Braker report on the recently released recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Invasive Species. Find out what it entails and how it can be enacted.

Findings from the Groundwater Coordinating Council's "Summit" — A diverse group gathered in Waukesha this past fall for the Groundwater Coordinating Council's "Groundwater Summit." WDNR Water Resources Specialist Tim Asplund leads a discussion of the results and other groundwater activities.

Creating electronic newsletters and an effective web presence — WSN State Coordinator Todd Hanson walks you through the process of using Adobe Acrobat to create the WSN's *WSNetwork News*. Plus WSN Webmaster Will Fantle helps you increase your visibility through effective use of the web.

Candidates scheduled to appear Friday, Jan. 25

Today, Jan. 2, Ed Thompson confirmed he will be at our candidate forum. Other candidates set to attend as of today include Tom Barrett, Kathleen Falk, Gary George, and Jim Young.

WSNetworkNews is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, and environmental groups.

The WSN's **Steering Committee** consists of representatives from the following organizations: Citizens for a Better Environment, ECCOLA, Federation of Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton League of America, Lake Superior Greens, Madison Audubon Society, Muskies, Inc., Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State

B.A.S.S. Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The WSN's **mission** is to build a cooperative network that recaptures and strengthens Wisconsin's stewardship ethic for the betterment of its people and natural resources.

Editorial contributions to this e-newsletter are welcome. Send news of your group's activities relating to the WSN's priority issues to State Coordinator Todd Hanson at wsn@chorus.net.

Subscriptions to *WSNetworkNews* are available free. To opt in or out of this distribution list, either visit our web site at www.wsn.org or e-mail us at wsn@chorus.net.

Information About the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance

What does it do for the DNR?

What does Community Financial Assistance do, anyway?!

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CF) manages grant and loan programs for the Department of Natural Resources. These funds effect positive change for the citizens of Wisconsin. The CF program handles thousands of grants and loans each year, awarding around \$200 million annually. With a population of over five million people*, that means CF awards around \$37 for every Wisconsin citizen to fund things like parks, trails, recycling and protection of Wisconsin's land and water resources. CF staff reduces duplication of effort by managing grant and loan activities in one Bureau, becoming a resource for the whole Department.

What does it mean to “manage grant and loan programs?”

In the big picture it means financial management and technical assistance. Within these two areas, there are lots of activities:

Table 1: Financial Management

We ensure:

- People who get the money are legally entitled to it
- All grant applicants are treated fairly and equitably
- Program dollars are fully used
- Project work gets done
- State and federal requirements are met

We develop:

- Funding packages for a project that could include grants from a variety of sources
- Financial reports for federal and state agencies as well as the Legislature
- Budgets for individual projects, as well as grant programs, with our partners

Table 2: Technical Assistance

We work with project sponsors and partners:

- To plan and prepare for a project
- To make project applications competitive
- To design programs and projects with evaluation in mind

We make certain that projects awarded funds:

- Are in line with the DNR mission
- Are run within state and federal regulations
- Meet program requirements through hands-on site visits

Do you work with anybody I know in the DNR?

CF work touches almost every area of the DNR. Current partners within the Department include::

Table 3:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Law Enforcement | • Facilities and Lands |
| • Watershed Management | • Parks and Recreation |
| • Waste Management | • Forestry |
| • Remediation and Redevelopment | • Fisheries and Wildlife |
| • Drinking Water and Groundwater | • Endangered Resources |

*According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

What kinds of things do Community Financial Assistance grants and loans do?

For water resources, you can:

- Build a coalition of individuals interested in river and lake water quality issues
- Inform and educate the public about protecting water resources
- Gather and analyze information about lakes and rivers
- Develop plans for lake protection or rehabilitation
- Evaluate sources of pollution in lakes and rivers
- Purchase land or easements to protect river and lake quality
- Develop local ordinances
- Restore in-stream or shoreland habitat
- Restore wetlands to improve lake quality and protect lakeshore property
- Build or repair motorboat access
- Build or repair a parking lot, bathrooms, or lighting for motorboat access
- Dredge a channel for motorboat travel
- Purchase navigation buoys
- Buy land to protect water resources, streambanks, or green space
- Repair or remove a municipally owned dam
- Improve your community's wastewater treatment plant
- Reduce pollution caused by storm water runoff in urban areas
- Improve your community's drinking water system
- Clean up contaminated land that threatens to pollute groundwater
- Compensate land owners when private wells are contaminated by naturally occurring sources

For land resources, you can:

- Build, repair or maintain a recreational trail
- Buy land or easements to natural areas, wildlife habitats or local parks
- Restore wildlife habitat by planting trees and native plants, as well as restoring wetlands
- Develop recreational facilities for nature based outdoor recreation like hiking and cross country skiing
- Build trails, walkways, canoe access, nature observation centers or camping facilities
- Build parking areas, bathrooms or shelter buildings for trails, walkways, etc.
- Manage your urban forest
- Clean up household hazardous waste
- Buy equipment for your volunteer fire departments

— Distributed by the WDNR