



WSN Network News

January 1, 2004

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

Click on these WSN priority issue section links or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation](#)
- [Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
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It's time to register for the WSN's annual conference! Highlights below. Registration forms at www.wsn.org.



Reserve the date and find several of your group members to attend...

WSN 2004 Annual Conference Feb. 6-7, 2004

University Center, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI



Michael Furtman keynote speaker at conference

Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited have each given Michael Furtman their top awards for outdoor writing. Michael sees the value in sporting, conservation, and environmental groups working together for their increased effectiveness. His nationwide reporting gives him a unique perspective on the current state of conservation and the environment. Hear Michael at both our Friday forum and the Saturday conference.

Tribal thank-you

Join a ceremony with Gov. Doyle honoring the Mole Lake Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi for their heroic purchase of the Crandon Mine.



Presidential candidate visits?

We have invited all the major party presidential candidates to speak. Who might drop by just days before the WI primary?



Friday forum looks at environmental rollbacks

Our Friday night forum addresses the growing trend toward environmental and conservation rollbacks and retrenchments in conservation and the environment at the state and federal levels. Panelists include *George Meyer* of the WI Wildlife Federation, *Steve Hiniker* of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, *Melissa Scanlan* of Midwest Environmental Advocates, and writer *Michael Furtman*.

Just added to forum line-up: WI Sec. of State *Doug La Follette*.



to afford to keep the lights and business will flee our State in droves because they simply cannot afford to conduct business here.

SOURCE: SOUL, Tom Kreager, (715) 581-9665.

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AG files suit against Sheboygan farm for runoff

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager's office has filed a civil complaint in Sheboygan County against a Sheboygan County man, Robert Huibregtse, for his failure to comply with the provisions of a wastewater discharge permit that was issued to him on February 15, 2000. The wastewater discharge permit regulates manure management on Huibregtse's farm. According to the Department of Justice's complaint, Mr.

Huibregtse allegedly allowed manure from his farm to directly enter the waters of a tributary of the Mullet River in March of 1996. From March of 1996 through December of 1999, both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff worked with Mr. Huibregtse and offered financial aid and technical assistance to help him to update his facilities so that the farm would not discharge manure into waters of the state. The complaint alleges that despite these efforts by the state to assist him, Mr. Huibregtse failed to update his f

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is a threat to national security and the Packers were the greatest football team that ever graced Lambeau Field. The problem with the survey questions is that they ask people to make too many false assumptions. The questions assume that these ‘state and federal regulations’ adequately control air pollution, odors, noise, road damage, and potential well contamination. They don’t. The questions also assume that the DNR’s regulations of animal waste will actually protect and restore our public waterways, and that the DNR has the funding to enforce those regulations. It doesn’t.”

Read the rest of Andrew Hanson’s critique of the Farm Bureau survey at <http://www.thewheeler-report.com/releases/Dec03/Dec9/1209midwestzoningcontrol.PDF>.

SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., Madison, WI.

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Forest Fragmentation WSN issue chair: John Schwarzmann, ECCOLA eccola@newnorth.net

USDA’s CREP program seeking to replace 500,000 acres

USDA is taking applications for its Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), designed to plant 500,000 acres of floodplains in hardwood trees. Eligible land must be located within 100-year floodplains, comprised primarily of wetland soils and be adjacent to permanent rivers or streams. Participants will receive 50 percent of tree-establishment costs and rental fees for land planted for 14 or 15 years. The goal is to reduce river sediment, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, reduce flood impact and restore wildlife habitat. More at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm.

Mercury Reduction WSN issue chair: Marc Looze, Clean Wisconsin, mlooze@chorus.net

Metallic Mining WSN issue chairs: Jim Wise, ECCOLA ecowise@newnorth.net and Claire Schmidt, Clean Wisconsin, schmidtc@cleanwiscon-

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Groups, individuals can contribute to tribal awards

A highlight of this year’s Wisconsin Stewardship Network annual conference Feb. 6-7 at UW-Stevens Point will be a very special thank-you ceremony honoring the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi for their purchase of the Crandon Mine. Minnesota Native American artist Jeff Savage is making two tabletop statues that will be presented to Mole Lake Chair Sandra Rachal and Forest County Potawatomi Chair Gus Frank at our conference either Friday night, Feb. 6, or Saturday Noon, Feb. 7. These sculptures will have added significance in that the artist will be incorporating into his works pieces of the core samples drilled years

ago to verify the site's mineral potential. Now, over 25 years later, the core samples that began something divisive will end in something healing.

The WSN is holding *both* Friday night and Saturday Noon open in hopes Gov. Jim Doyle will be free during one of them to make these presentations on behalf of the state of Wisconsin, individuals, and organizations. We won't know until several weeks before the conference whether the Governor will be able to make these presentations. But if the Governor cannot attend, the awards will be presented Saturday Noon by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton and Secretary of State Doug La Follette. *Stay tuned to the WSN web site for late developments on which of our two days this ceremony will take place.*

If your group would like to contribute to the purchase of these statues, please contact the WSN for details. The WSN is asking groups and individuals to contribute toward their cost. Those groups that contribute will have their names appear in *three places* — engraved on the bases of both statues and also on a tile in the Mole Lake tribe's new administration building now under construction. We hope to receive your contribution before the WSN conference so your group can be thanked at the ceremony. This will be a memorable event — be sure you are a part of history by contributing toward the tribal statues or attending the awards presentation...or both! This is a ceremony that will make you feel great!

SOURCE: WSN.

Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection

WSN issue chairs: Jim Wise, ECCOLA ecowise@newnorth.net
and Donna Sefton, WI Assn. of Lakes, dfsefton@charter.net

Job Creation Act compromise reached

A compromise has apparently been reached on the Job Creation Act of 2003, the bill roundly criticized by the conservation and environmental community for its lowering of state air and water standards. A revised bill is being drafted. Republican leaders have said they expect the bill to be taken up by the Legislature during the second week in January. It is not clear whether the revised bill will be given additional public hearings.

SOURCE: WSN.

Groundwater quantity legislation moving forward

On December 19 a meeting was held of the Groundwater Protection Act Advisory Committee to discuss the proposed draft legislation and gain stakeholder input. The preliminary drafts, stakeholders list, and meeting minutes can be viewed at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen11/news/Groundwater/Meetings.htm>.

SOURCE: Shaili Pfeiffer, smpfeiffer@wisc.edu.

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Responsible development web site online

In the last issue of *WSNetwork News*, we reported on a new web site from the Milwaukee River Basin Partnership that provides local governments, developers and citizens with a planning guide that encourages sensible land-use decisions to protect the Milwaukee River Basin Resources. We neglected to include the web address. You can find the site at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/plan>.

WI still leads nation in dam removals

The removal earlier this month of the deteriorating White River Dam on the Fox River in Green Lake County brought to eight the number of dams removed from Wisconsin waters in 2003, with four removals already on tap for 2004. The projects have cemented Wisconsin's status as the nation's leader in removing unsafe, obsolete dams, and highlighted the improvement in water quality, fisheries, and habitat that can be gained from restoring rivers to a free-flowing condition.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Bush administration decides not to remove wetlands from CWA protection

Great news about the Clean Water Act! The Bush administration (on Dec. 16) announced not to issue a new rule to remove millions of acres of wetlands and millions of miles of streams from protection under the Clean Water Act. This decision is the direct result of activists like you sending a strong message to the Administration that weakening clean water protections is not an option. More than 133,000 Americans submitted written comments to the Environmental Protection Agency. Tens of thousands of you made contact with your decision makers to oppose weakening clean water protections. Many of you enlisted your friends and co-workers to get involved. Your strong voice helped generate editorials, opeds and letters to the editor. Thanks to your activism, a significant attempt to weaken protections for our wetlands and streams was thwarted.

As a member of the river movement, please take a moment to celebrate and congratulate yourselves. And please join us in recommitting to the joint persistence and vigilance necessary to keep our waters clean and our rivers healthy. It's clear that working together, we have a much more profound impact.

SOURCE: Rebecca R. Wodder, President, American Rivers, action@action.amrivers.org.

Year of Water events continue into 2004

While this is the last day of Wisconsin's Year of Water, keep on celebrating Wisconsin's waters in 2004 and beyond. Thank you to all of you who organized Year of Water events, attended YOW events and otherwise celebrated Wisconsin's Year of Water. We are still working on ways to continue Waters of Wisconsin into the new year. Here are two updates:

1. The state water policy database, a product of UW-Madison Professor Steve Born's water policy and institutions course, is currently being reviewed for content and function. It should be available online for public use by this Spring.

2. The Minnesota Environmental Initiative has been facilitating a process to improve water quality in Minnesota lakes and streams. The following weblinks provide more information on the Impaired Waters Stakeholder process:

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/local/7426138.htm>.

<http://www.mn-ei.org/policy/impairedwaters.html>.

SOURCE: Shaili Pfeiffer, smpfeiffer@wisc.edu.

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Conservation Security Program proposed rule announced

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman on Dec. 17 announced the release of a proposed rule for the new Conservation Security Program (CSP) designed to reward the best conservation stewards of the most environmentally sensitive areas in targeted watersheds. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* with a 60-day public comment period. As part of the comment process, listening sessions will be held across the country to gain additional input-locations, times, and additional information will be available soon.

Wisconsin will be one of the 10 states hosting a national listening session on the CSP. The session is tentatively set for Feb. 26 at the Marriott Hotel in Madison. More information will be available soon. Check the NRCS Wisconsin at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov> website for posted updates.

SOURCE: Renae Anderson, renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov, NRCS, Madison.

Attorney General settles Waukesha water pollution case

Peg Lautenschlager announced that her office has settled an environmental protection enforcement lawsuit filed in Waukesha County against a Waukesha County stone quarry for violations of its water pollution control permit. Lautenschlager said that Halquist Stone Company, Inc., which operates a quarry on Lisbon Road in the Town of Sussex, has agreed to pay \$35,000 in forfeitures, penalties and costs for violating state laws that regulate discharges of pollutants into state waters, and to take remedial action to restore the damaged portions of Spring Creek, a stream adjacent to the Halquist property.

SOURCE: Brian Rieselman, (608) 266-7876, RieselmanBJ@DOJ.STATE.WI.US.

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WSN Member Groups

Get connected...join the WSN

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society
 Aldo Leopold Foundation
 Anishinaabe Nijiji/ Protect the Earth
 Badger Fly Fishers, Inc.
 Brown County Conservation Alliance
 Central WI Chapter of SOUL
 Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin
 Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
 Clean Wisconsin
 Concerned Citizens of Newport
 Coulee Region Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Door County Environmental Council
 Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland
 Areas
 Families and Friends for Social Responsibility
 Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Friends of the Jump River
 Friends of Milwaukee's River
 Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
 Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Groundwater Guardians
 Habitat Education Center
 Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Inland Sea Society
 Izaak Walton League of America - WI Division
 John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club
 Lake Superior Alliance
 Lake Superior Greens
 Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Madison Audubon Society
 Menomonee Valley Partners
 Midwest Environmental Advocates
 Mining Impact Coalition of WI, Inc.
 Neighbors Standing United
 Northern Thunder
 Pheasants Forever - Sugar River Valley Chapter
 Plover River Alliance
 Random Lake Association
 River Alliance of Wisconsin

Save Our Unique Lands
 Shaw-Paca Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Smallmouth Alliance Southern WI Chapter
 SOUL of Kennan/Catawba
 SOUL of Lake Superior
 SOUL of Rusk County
 SOUL of Sawyer County
 Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 The Muskellunge Club of WI
 Twin Lakes Conservancy
 Waterkeepers of Wisconsin
 WI Association of Lakes
 WI Conservation Voters Institute
 Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association
 WI Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG)
 WI Resources Protection Council
 WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
 WI State B.A.S.S Federation
 WI State Council of Trout Unlimited
 WI Wetlands Association
 Winnebago Audubon Society
 Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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WSN Network News is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups interested in protecting and preserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Brown County Conservation Alliance, Clean Wisconsin, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., Musky Club of WI, 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, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, plus individuals who serve as at-large members.

The WSN's mission is to build a cooperative network that 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 WSN Exec. Director Todd Hanson at wsn@chorus.net.

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