



WSNetwork News

January 15, 2003

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](#)
- [Factory Farming](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Groundwater Protection](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland/Wetland Protection](#)

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Baumgart confirmed for “How to speak with your legislator” WSN session

The WSN annual conference Feb. 15 will include a session featuring former Senator Jim Baumgart. The session — being presented by the WI League of Conservation Voters — is



Former Sen. Jim Baumgart

entitled “How to speak with and influence your legislator on conservation and environmental issues.” Other legislators are expected and will be announced in coming days.

Visit WSN's conference web page for registration forms

The WSN's 2003 conference web page is now up and running at www.wsn.org/WSNconference/wsn_2003_annual_conference.html.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

PSC calls for public comment on Arrowhead-Weston line

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) issued notice that they will re-examine the 240-mile transmission line across northern Wisconsin now that its cost estimate has nearly tripled to \$400 million. The PSC is calling for public comments on whether the PSC should reconsider the entire project, including a review of alternative lines, renewable, conservation, and new generation that may make this highly contested project obsolete.

Public comments must be received by noon, Friday, Jan. 31, or if filing by fax one day earlier. The words “05-CE-113 Comments Regarding Revised Project Costs” must be clearly indicated on the first page of each filing. The public should address comments to Lynda L. Dorr, Secretary to the Commission, Public Service Commission, PO Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854 or FAX (608) 266-3957.

Tom Kreager, president of SOUL, a group of citizens who formed in opposition to this project seeking an integrated energy policy for Wisconsin, said that he welcomes a reopening of the

Arrowhead-Weston docket, “During the initial comment period over 10,000 public comments were made in opposition to this project. We encourage the public to comment again, and hope that they will be listened to this time.”

“When the project was approved in 2001, the PSC Commission and the utilities said there were no other alternatives to meeting the state’s increasing energy needs. For the past four years, SOUL along with counties, towns and numerous other groups have been working to stop the line in favor of alternatives that are economically and environmentally sound,” Kreager added.

Burnie Bridges appointed PSC chair

A profile of new Public Service Commission chair Burnie Bridge is available at <http://www.json-line.com/bym/news/jan03/108101.asp>.

To p.1

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett introduces himself to staff

WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett introduced himself in an internal DNR memo this past week. Click [here](#) to read about the new secretary and his upcoming schedule of visits across Wisconsin. Hassett has been invited to address attendees of the WSN’s annual conference Saturday, Feb. 15, at UW-Stevens Point, but his appearance has not yet been confirmed.

SOURCE: WSN.

Factory Farming

Forest Fragmentation

Open house meetings to focus on Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines

A new forestry management guidelines publication that provides a comprehensive summary of sustainable forestry techniques for foresters and other resource specialists will be the topic of several open house meetings around the state this month. The public will have opportunities to learn about, review, and comment on a draft DNR publication, titled *Wisconsin Voluntary Site-level Forest Management Guidelines*. Professional resource managers will probably use the guidelines most, but landowners and loggers should also find them helpful for managing the types of forests found in Wisconsin.

To p.1

To insure that the principles outlined in the guidelines are accepted and followed, DNR forestry staff are hosting a series of open house meetings around the state to gather input from public and private foresters, landowners, and others interested in forest management. The first of these meetings was held in December in Green Bay, and the remaining four will all be held this month:

- **Spoooner, January 15** — Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70 (1/2 mile west of the intersection of Highways 53 and 70), Spooner,
- **Rhineland, January 16** — Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin, 6343 Highway 8 West, Rhineland,
- **Black River Falls, January 29** — Holiday Inn Express, Black River Falls Conference Center, W10170 Highway 54 East (intersection of I-94 & Highway 54 East, exit 116), Black River Falls, and
- **Fitchburg, January 30** — Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 E. Lacy Road, Fitchburg.

More information is at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Private/FMG/index.htm>.

SOURCE: Paul Pingrey, DNR Forestry Specialist, (608) 267-7595.

To p.1

Groundwater Protection

Dombeck water protection piece in *New York Times*

An opinion piece by UW-Stevens Point professor and former USDA Forest Service head Mike Dombeck entitled *The Forgotten Forest Product: Water* appeared in the Jan. 3 *New York Times*.

Dombeck concluded, “New national-forest planning regulations should now specify that the remaining old-growth public forests should not be harvested, since these wild lands provide the cleanest water in the country. Rather than wasting energy on the rancorous, tired debates about road building in the wilderness and old-growth forest management, the focus should be on how to let our forests do their job of producing high-quality water. Given our water supply problems, this should be the highest priority of forest management.”

SOURCE: *New York Times* via Hiroshi Kanno.

To p.1

S.U.R.E. suits against DOT targets groundwater ills

On July 3, 2002, the Highway J Citizens Group, U.A., (also known as S.U.R.E. Stop Unnecessary Road Expansion) filed a lawsuit in federal court (the Eastern District of Wisconsin) against the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) to stop both the Highway J/164 four-lane expansion project (in Waukesha and Washington Counties) and the Ackerville Bridge/Lovers Lane Reconstruction Project (the first-phase of this four-lane expansion).

This federal lawsuit raises many concerns about these unnecessary, fiscally irresponsible and environmentally damaging road and bridge projects, the most serious of which is the ever-wors-

ening groundwater contamination problems along Highway 164 in Ackerville where the WDOT is now constructing its massive, multi-million dollar bridge project.

The cancer-causing contaminants recently found in the groundwater of this area are trichloroethylene (TCE) and arsenic. According to the latest quarterly test results, all six of the groundwater monitoring wells near the bridge construction zone are now contaminated with arsenic. Prior to construction, none of these six monitoring wells contained arsenic. Just as our state-certified hydrogeologist and registered professional soil scientist, John Thresher predicted almost two years ago, the WDOT's construction activities in the Ackerville area (especially the driving of pilings up to 80 feet into the ground) have made the groundwater contamination problems there much worse. Now, because of the WDOT's reckless behavior, the groundwater quality throughout the Ackerville area has been put at great risk.

We are now "on the one-yard line" of this legal battle and we need your immediate help to win! Please help us pay our legal expenses for this very worthwhile effort by making your checks payable to: Highway J citizens group, U.A. and mailing them to us at: PO Box 152, Hubertus, WI 53033. If you have any questions, please call Jeff Gonyo at (262) 644-8334.

SOURCE: Jeff Gonyo, jmgonyo@execpc.com.

Dry cleaning chemical alternative growing in popularity

From the December 23 St. Paul (MN) *Pioneer Press*: GreenEarth, a silicone-based process that has been used for more than 50 years, is growing in popularity as an alternative to perchloroethylene (commonly known as perc), the substance widely used by dry cleaners. Perc is a persistent groundwater contaminant and is a suspected human carcinogen.

The U.S. EPA has been testing GreenEarth, and short-term results are promising, according to Cindy Stroup, program manager for the federal agency's Design for the Environment garment and textiles care program. But additional study is needed to determine any effects from prolonged exposure. Nearly 300 dry cleaning operations have switched to GreenEarth nationally. There's no odor to GreenEarth, it cleans clothes well, and its costs are comparable to perc.

SOURCE: WNDR "Basin Briefs."

West Virginia AG approves corporate water takeover

The Charleston *Gazette* of Jan. 3 reports that West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw said "yes" to a German conglomerate's takeover of West Virginia-American Water Co. All of the other 26 states in which American Water Works operates already have approved the takeover. WV was the last state to clear the \$4.6 billion buyout by Germany's RWE and its British subsidiary, Thames Water. The new agreement, which must be approved by the state Public Service Commission, addresses the worries McGraw had about handing over 25 percent of W. Virginians' water supply to a foreign mega-corporation.

RWE/Thames won't be able to export massive amounts of WV's water, Hughes said, because under the new agreement, RWE/Thames and AWW agree that they don't own or control the

To p.1

To p.1

water, and they never will. Also, AWW can't export any more water from WV than it already does without PSC approval, according to the agreement. RWE/Thames gives up its right to use international trade laws to challenge the authority of state and local regulators, under the new agreement. International law experts said trade agreements such as GATS and NAFTA could override state and even federal rules — water-purity standards, for example, or rate caps. If the PSC adopts it, the WV agreement would be the stiffest one in the nation for RWE/Thames.

SERC *Wildlines Report*, January 6, 2003, Trevor@serconline.org.

Cowboys and tree huggers unite in the Rockies

To p.1

In the wilds of the western Rockies a new phenomenon is developing. Environmentalists and ranchers, seldom the best of friends, are coming together in opposition to the Bush administration's aggressive new energy policy. "Ranchers have never truly thought much of tree-hugging environmentalists," said John Dewey, 76, who owns a small cattle ranch outside Sheridan, WY. "But with these methane boys on our land, we are starting to see these environmentalists as conservationists who want to help us preserve land for our kids." Throughout the Rockies the Bush administration is ramping up energy production, much of it involving what is called coal-bed methane extraction. The effects of this can lay waste to private property, sour water sources, and turn sprawling ranches and prairie into industrial wastelands. In its aggressive push to increase domestic energy production, the administration is on the brink of approving the largest-ever gas drilling project on federal land. At the heart of this battle is the Wyoming Powder River Basin, where the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) says it will give final approval early next year to the drilling of 39,000 wells on 8 million acres. See the *New York Times* article on this at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/134604772_ene rgy29.html.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

***Water Follies* author Glennon at Feb. 13 Madison book signing**

University of Arizona law professor and *Water Follies* author Robert Glennon will be signing books in Madison the day before his appearance at the WSN's "Wisconsin 2003 Year of Water Forum" at UW-Stevens Point. Glennon will be at the Madison Barnes & Noble book store at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. The water forum will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

To p.1

SOURCE: WSN.

Mercury Reduction

Reps Plouff and Robson re-introduce mercury thermometer bill

State Senator Judy Robson (D-Beloit) and State Representative Joe Plouff (D-Menomonie) announced plans to re-introduce legislation to ban the sale and distribution of mercury thermometers in Wisconsin. During the last legislative session, the measure passed the Senate, but died in the Assembly.

“Mercury is a highly toxic substance that poses serious health and environmental risks,” stated Plouff. “Improper disposal of mercury products such as fever thermometers can contaminate our waters and, aquatic life and cause neurological illness in humans.”

Improper disposal of thermometers is a contributing factor to the release of mercury in rivers and lakes. Once in the water, the element is transformed into the highly poisonous methylmercury, which then works its way up the food chain and into the fish that we eat. All of Wisconsin’s inland lakes have been included in DNR mercury advisories. If enacted, Wisconsin would join several other states that have already banned the toxic thermometers, including Minnesota, Maine, Rhode Island, Oregon and, most recently, Massachusetts. Several communities in Wisconsin and the United States have passed ordinances to stop the sale of mercury thermometers including Douglas County, Dane County, San Francisco, and Ann Arbor, Mich.

SOURCE: Reps. Plouff 888-529-0029 and Robson 800-334-1468.

WED mercury video wins award

I’m pleased to announce that our mercury video, *Alex in Wonderland: Mercury Poisoning in Wisconsin’s Lakes*, won the Award of Distinction in three categories at The Communicator Awards, an international competition honoring excellence in visual communication. This will help us market the video to larger audiences. The Wisconsin Stewardship Network is sponsoring distribution of the video; we’re developing an exciting distribution plan for schools, organizations, and community groups. I’ll have a number of copies available at the conference.

SOURCE: Marc Looze, Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade.

Metallic Mining

Black to again push cyanide ban bill

Rep. Spencer Black’s office has announced he will be offering a bill to ban cyanide in metallic mining in the next legislative session. He says he is looking for legislators to sign on as co-sponsors. A Black press release notes, “Cyanide use in mining has caused major environmental disas-

To p.1

To p.1

ters in the U.S. and around the world. Montana has experienced more than 60 leaks or spills of cyanide in mines and, as a result, the Montana Legislature has banned the use of cyanide in mining. In Wisconsin, Nicolet Minerals Company had planned to use as much as 20 tons of cyanide per month at its proposed Crandon mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River.

“With the Crandon mine project in abeyance, now is the right time for Wisconsin to strengthen our environmental laws and protect our water by banning cyanide in mining. Although its owners have all but given up on the Crandon mine, the DNR’s mine permit review process continues. With a cyanide ban in place, any new mining company that might take over the Crandon project would know the rules in advance and would be required to use alternatives to cyanide.”

SOURCE: Rep. Black’s office, 266-7521.

To p.1

Colorado targeting cyanide in mining

The Jan. 10 Denver *Post* reports that farmers, business interests, local governments and environmentalists want to ban cyanide in gold-mining operations in Colorado because they believe it poisons streams, wildlife and people. But others stand behind the practice for the sake of future gold-mining jobs, they say. Sen. Ken Gordon, D-Denver, introduced a bill this week to ban open-pit cyanide mining in Colorado. Heap leaching, as it’s called, douses ore with cyanide to flush out the last remaining bits of gold from the rocks. For more on cyanide mining bans, visit <http://www.serconline.org/mining/index.html>.

SERC *Wildlines Report*, January 13, 2003.

Doyle speaks on Crandon Mine in WisPolitics.com interview

I expect some have already seen this nugget from an interview Doyle did with Jeff Mayers of Wispolitics.com at <http://www.wispolitics.com/freeser/features/f0212/f02123001i.html>. The key portions include the following:

“Mayers: Is the Crandon Mine mineral-right buy still alive in your mind?

Doyle: Yes it is. Because I’m quite confident the previous administration never got to a bottom-line dollar figure. In fact, I know they didn’t. I’d like to find out what that bottom line is. We know what they said it was. But it was clear that the company didn’t believe that to be the final number. And I think the only way you can ever make this decision is to finally get what the dollar figure is, and make a decision....

Mayers: Well, DOA did go out and get an appraisal, did they not? So you’re saying go out and get another appraisal?

Doyle: No, I’m saying go bargain and see what you arrive at.

Mayers: You mean go to the company and say how much is it worth to you?

Doyle: Yeah, and then you got a dollar figure. If that figure’s too high, you don’t do it. I’ve certainly not made my decision on whether to do it. I know there’s also another way to fund this without any taxpayer money that has not been looked at by this administration at all, which is the board of public lands, which I’m a member of as attorney general. I won’t be as governor, but has significant amount of money that they could invest in this, if the board chose to do it — it’d be up to the board, which is the attorney general, secretary of state, and treasurer. No, it isn’t taxpayer money at all. So I think there are some options here that were never explored, and I’d be interested in exploring them. Maybe the deal doesn’t work in the end. That’s fine. Then we’ll go from there. But if it does, then I’ll do it.”

SOURCE: Burroak15@aol.com.

To p.1

Mining activist Sturnot to work for Forest County Potawatomi

A story in the Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel* reports that Franklin, WI, environmentalist Linda Sturnot has resigned from the Franklin Environmental Commission to take a position with the Forest County Potawatomi. The complete story, which includes a profile of Sturnot and her work on mining, wetlands, and other concerns, can be found at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/jan03/110650.asp>.

SOURCE: Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel*.

To p.1

Crandon Mine's parent chief steps down

The January 7 New York Times reports, "The chief executive of BHP Billiton, the world's biggest mining company, has quit after just six months on the job. 'Irreconcilable differences' and difficulties concerning 'style and approach' between the chief executive, Brian Gilbertson, and the board of BHP Billiton were cited in a brief statement issued by the company today."

SOURCE: *New York Times* via Tom Wilson.

Shoreland/Wetlands

Record of Decision issued for Fox River PCB cleanup

The Record of Decision (ROD) on the plan for cleaning up polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated sediment from a 26-mile portion of the Lower Fox River has been released to the public by the WDNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This ROD represents the final decision by the DNR and EPA on the remedial plan for sediment cleanup of two sections of the Fox River from Little Lake Butte des Morts to Little Rapids. The river sections covered by this ROD are designated as Operable Units 1 and 2. These reaches represent approximately 26 miles of the 39-mile distance between Lake Winnebago and the mouth of the Lower Fox River at Green Bay. A decision for OU-3, from Little Rapids to De Pere, OU-4, from De Pere to Green Bay and OU-5, Green Bay is scheduled to be completed by June of this year.

Both the DNR and EPA believe the remedy of dredging selected for OU-1 and the monitored natural recovery for OU-2 will be effective. The signing of this record of decision means that DNR and EPA have worked through a range of choices and combinations of options to reach a technical decision to clean up OU-1 and OU-2. This ROD does, however, provide for flexibility and allows for modifications to the remedy for OU-1. During the design phase of this project, more detailed, site-specific information will be collected. Depending on the information collected, the agencies may consider changes to the scope and design of the remedy that could affect the amount of dredging to be done or other potential techniques.

To p.1

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett noted, "I consider cleaning up the Fox River to be one of the top three priorities for the DNR right now. It's important we get started on the actual cleanup now and in a way that enhances the environment for the people of our state. I am confident this decision opens the way for us to do just that."

The Administrative Record file for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay, including the ROD and all documents that formed the basis for the DNR/EPA's selection, is available for public review at the WDNR at 101 S. Webster St. in Madison and at other sites across the state. For more information, contact the WDNR's Bruce Baker at (608) 266-1902, Ed Lunch, DNR Fox River Project Manager at (608) 266-3084, or EPA Remedial Project Manager Mick Hans at (312) 353-5050.

SOURCE: WDNR.

MEA to conduct interactive Clean Water Act workshop at WSN conference

As part of the Year of Water 2003, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. (MEA) will hold a **Special Clean Water Act Workshop** on how to reduce and prevent water pollution by shaping the permits that allow industries and municipalities to discharge pollution into your community's streams and rivers.

If you would like to attend this workshop, contact Jonelle Dilley before Friday, February 7, at (608) 251-5047 ext. 0, or advocate@midwestadvocates.org. Tell us about your nearby streams and rivers, and MEA will find out what water pollution permits the DNR has proposed in that area.

Be ready to take action at this MEA workshop! By the end of the session, you will have outlined comments that you can submit on an actual, proposed water pollution permit in your community.

To p.1

Lake Winnebago group wants help on Army Corps water level plan

For the past 20 years or so, the Army Corps of Engineers has operated the [Lake Winnebago] system under something called the Linde Plan. DNR biologist Arlen Linde authored this document, and while it was well intentioned, it has proven to be a disaster for the Lake Winnebago ecosystem. This is primarily due to the fact that, while the plan was designed to be modified as necessary to make it compatible with the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem, the Corps has steadfastly refused to make all but the slightest changes to the plan, citing objections from local boating, riparian and power generation interests. This refusal has come in the face of an ever-growing body of hard evidence that the plant life in the system is disappearing at an ever-increasing rate.

We are asking your group to review this plan, and to formally endorse it. If the Lake Poygan Sportsman's Club presents it to the Corps without any other endorsements, we will speak with the voice of only 300 or so members. In all probability, we may be heard but will certainly not be listened to. On the other hand, if we can present the Corps with a document endorsed by a number of groups like yours, we will speak with a much louder voice. The Corps will have to give our request serious consideration. Won't you please review the attached proposal and discuss it among the members of your group? If you so desire, we would be happy to send someone to discuss it with your membership.

To sign on with your group's endorsement of this position, please call or e-mail Dan Rudebeck at (920) 836-3643 or rudebeck@centurytel.net or Art Techlow at (920) 424-3001 or

To p.1

techla@dnr.state.wi.us. We would like to send the letter by January 17, so your response is needed right away.

SOURCE: The Lake Poygan Sportsman's Club, (920) 836-3643.

River Alliance's Ambs leaves to head WDNR Water Division

River Alliance of WI (RAW) Executive Director Todd Ambs will leave RAW in early February to serve as the Administrator for the Division of Water in the Wisconsin DNR.

“Governor Doyle spoke yesterday about a new day for our state,” said Ambs. “I plan to bring that same commitment to my work at the DNR. We must approach our challenges, which are many, by bringing people together in an open and inclusive way to take a fresh look at how we protect and restore our most precious natural resource our water. At the same time we must recognize the great work already being done by the tremendous staff at the Division of Water and build on those successes.”

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI.

Bush administration Clean Water Act rollbacks expected

We have word that the EPA may soon announce a proposal to roll back the Clean Water Act, probably within the next few days. Read the rest of this e-mail and the attached documents for more information about this proposal and how we can respond. The administration is proposing changes to the definition of “navigable waters” covered under the Clean Water Act. It is not clear what the scope of these changes will be, but at the worst they could exempt many wetlands, man-made and intermittent streams from the Clean Water Act.

SOURCE: U.S. PIRG via WISPIRG.

MMSD purchases flood prevention lands

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has just closed on the purchase of 85 acres of land that will remain undeveloped for the foreseeable future, reducing the risk of flooding in the Milwaukee area. Located along the Little Menomonee River near 124th Street and County Line Road in the City of Milwaukee, the entire property will remain open space with potential for future hiking trails.

SOURCE: MMSD.

To p.1

To p.1

Townships refuse to participate in CREP

From the December 20 Wisconsin *Ag Connection* web site: Farmers in Kenosha, Outagamie, and Trempealeau Counties are no longer eligible to participate in the CREP program because the counties' Land Conservation Departments have refused to participate in the program.

But a number of townships have been **added** to the program:

- Bear Lake in Barron County,
- Wilton and Tomah in Monroe County,
- Mequon in Ozaukee County,
- Geneva, Lyons, Walworth, Linn, and Bloomfield in Walworth County,
- Germantown in Washington County,
- Muskego, Genesee, Waukesha, Mukwonago, Vernon, Pewaukee, Menomonee Falls, and New Berlin in Waukesha County,
- Rudolph in Wood County,
- Freeman, Seneca, Eastman, Prairie du Chien, and Bridgeport in Crawford County,
- Sterling, Jefferson, Coon, Hamburg, Harmony, Bergen, Genoa, and Wheatland in Vernon County,
- Shelby, Greenfield, and Washington in La Crosse County,
- Buenna Vista, Orion, Eagle, Richwood, Akan, Dayton, Marshall, and Bloom in Richland County,
- Washington, Lincoln, Otter Creek, and Clear Creek in Eau Claire County, and
- Sumpter, Prairie du Sac, Troy Franklin, Honey Creek, Bear Creek, and Spring Green in Sauk County.

More at <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1497>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs."

Ag filter strips shown to catch 90% of runoff pollutants

From the December 27 *Agri-View*: Properly designed and maintained filter strips can remove 90 percent or more of pollutants from runoff, according to Dick Wolkowski, UW-Madison soil scientist. But he cautioned that a number of factors can affect the filter strip's effectiveness, including soil porosity, vegetation, the age of the filter strip, runoff volume, slope, and management of the strip. Citing an Arkansas study, Wolkowski said even a fairly small filter strip can do a lot of good. A 20-foot strip was successful in removing nearly 90 percent of sediment. In comparison, a 20-foot filter strip removed just over 90 percent of sediment. A 30-foot strip removed about 95 percent of sediment, and 40- and 50-foot strips removed 98 percent of sediments. More at http://www.agriview.com/display/inn_crop_news/producer03.txt.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs."

River Falls Wal-Mart draws storm water concerns

From the December 20 *River Falls Journal*: Wal-Mart's efforts to locate a superstore near the corner of Highways 65 and 35 appear to have faded because of concerns about storm water runoff and the effect of the project on a wetlands. The City of River Falls has a moratorium on new large-scale retail stores in place until the end of January. The River Falls City Council will be voting on new "big-box" rules that would govern building and parking designs for stores 25,000

To p.1

To p.1

square feet or larger and would require special-use permits for stores larger than 50,000 square feet, the kinds of restrictions a Wal-Mart representative said they've always been able to work with.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs."

Foundation has money for 'boating environment' grants

The Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water has an annual program to award grants up to \$2,000 to local, nonprofit, volunteer-based organizations to support education and hands-on efforts aimed at cleaning up our boating environment. Emphasis will be placed upon funding innovative ways to reach boaters and anglers with positive messages about preventing pollution before it starts. One proposal per organization will be considered each year, and proposals that include in-kind donations are encouraged.

You are eligible for funds if you are a volunteer-based organization, or a local nonprofit or tax-exempt organization, including a chapter of a national organization. You are not eligible if you are a government agency, a national or international organization, or a for-profit business or individual. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadrons are eligible.

The grant application deadline is February 1, 2003. For more information, please visit www.boatus.com/cleanwater/grants.

SOURCE: Margaret Podlich Assistant Vice President Environmental Director, Boat U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, (410) 897-1060.

Web site for local WAV coordinators debuts

In response to a request for information sharing between local volunteer stream monitoring coordinators, a special section of the Water Action Volunteers' website has been put together specifically with local coordinators in mind. See <http://cleanwater.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/resources/index.htm> where you'll find information about:

- Planning your local training event, including sample agendas, checklists to help you stay organized, liability waivers, press releases and more,
- Equipment lists for monitoring streams using WAV protocols and some links to companies that sell stream monitoring equipment,
- Funding opportunities that are available to help fund your project,
- Information about Watershed Education Resource Centers across the state,
- Methods, data sheets, or other educational materials (printable or order printed materials), and
- Links to volunteer stream monitoring programs in Wisconsin, or other volunteer water quality monitoring programs across the nation.

More information can be given by Kris Stepenuck Water Action Volunteers/ Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator at (608) 265-3887,

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-8-03.

To p.1

To p.1

New source water cooperative agreement

The Prevention Branch of the Office of Water has completed a cooperative agreement with various environmental groups (Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Network, and the Campaign for Safe and Affordable Drinking Water) designed to promote greater local involvement with source water protection. The three coalition groups will help local stakeholders, many of whom are already engaged in Clean Water Act-related activities within their communities, to recognize the connection between clean source water and healthy natural ecosystems. For more information, please contact Debra Gutenson at (202) 564-3882.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-8-03.

To p.1

Estuarine habitat conference April 13-16

Join us for the first national gathering of the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. The conference, hosted by Restore America's Estuaries, will be held April 13-16, 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference hopes to advance the practice, knowledge, pace and success of habitat restoration. We invite you to participate in this seminal gathering. More at <http://www.estuaries.org/nationalconference.php>.

SOURCE: hbradley@estuaries.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rechargeable battery recycling costs picked up

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) has announced that they will cover all costs for municipal programs for recycling rechargeable batteries. A story on this announcement is on the Internet at <http://www.recyclingtoday.com/News/news.asp?Id=3392>, and more details can be obtained by calling the RBRC at (678) 419-9990. This program may also be a good model for other materials, such as used oil filters, computers and TVs, mercury-containing products, propane tanks, and other items.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Reindl@co.dane.wi.us.

To p.1

Stormwater compliance conference March 5-6 in Green Bay

Don't let your community drown in new regulations! Join us for our fifth annual stormwater conference entitled *Stormwater 2003 Complying with New Stormwater Regulations* to be held March 5-6 at the K.I. Center in Green Bay.

Get an up-to-date report on the application process, learn what you will be required to implement, hear from communities that have already begun the process and ask questions from researchers,

regulators, consultants and vendors about the latest management practices. These and a boatload of other questions will be answered so your community is better prepared to comply with these important regulations! New this year will be a daylong workshop on using GIS to model storm-water needs (CEU available) and vendor displays. See www.fwwa.org

SOURCE: Linda Stoll, Executive Director, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Inc. PO Box 1861 Appleton, WI 54912-1861, (920) 738-7025 foxwolf@athenet.net

Feingold aide in Madison Jan. 21

Senator Russ Feingold's chief Environmental aide, Mary Frances Repko, will be in Madison on January 21. As she has in the past, Mary Frances has set aside an hour to meet with all of us to hear what we have to tell her and to update us on the key issues in Washington. The meeting will be in Room 517 in the GEF II DNR building on Webster Street from 10:15 to 11:15. She will need to leave promptly at 11:15 to get to a speech in Milwaukee. There is no need to RSVP. Just come if you can.

SOURCE: Paul Heinen, WDNR.

Living Green Conference Feb. 8 in Duluth

We are now in the planning stages of our 11th Annual Living Green Conference. It will be held Saturday, February 8, at Peace Church in Duluth, and will run from 12-5 p.m. This year we're expecting a larger turnout than ever before, with more than 200 citizens and over 40 local environmental groups participating. Tabling spaces for organizations are 4' across. The cost for a space is \$10 for nonprofits and \$25 for businesses.

Our keynote speaker is John Jackson, former president of Great Lakes United, who will be speaking on issues of water privatization. There will also be nine environmental workshops held throughout the day.

SOURCE: Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education (EAGLE), (877) 264-4440, Craig@Earthology.net.

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

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Concerned Citizens of Newport, 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 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.

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To p.1

To p.1

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett introduces himself to WDNR employees

The WSN received a copy of the following internal WDNR communication from new Secretary Scott Hassett to agency employees:

“This is my first real communication with all of you, and I’m not sure where to start, but here goes.... I want you to know how excited I am to be leading this agency. As you might guess, I went through a variety of interviews for this position, and in each, the obvious question was, “Why do you want this job?” My answer then in the interviews, at my appointment press conference and now again to you is, quite simply, working at DNR gives me the opportunity to come to work and deal every day with issues for which I have a passion.

I imagine many of you have heard of my lifelong involvement some would say obsession with fishing and hunting. [I had to be called off a musky lake up north because my wife was in labor in Madison still a sore point at home.] Hunting and fishing are part of me. I’m a hunter safety instructor. But it’s important that I assure you that I understand that DNR is much more than that. Your work touches every facet of our lives in Wisconsin: the clean water we drink, the air we breathe, the sustainable management of our valuable forests, the preservation of our wild places.

I have dealt with many aspects of natural resources and environmental issues as part of my legal career and in my service with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. I’ve worked on lawsuits related to asbestos, toxics, pesticides and herbicides. I’ve done a considerable amount of criminal law work involving clients cited by DNR, and I’ve defended people charged in shooting accidents as well as represented the victims of accidents. And in every case I have respected the way DNR staff have conducted themselves and looked out for the natural resources, the environment and the public’s interests.

And while I recognize that I am now at the top of the management ladder at DNR, I am proud of the more than 20 years I have spent representing the DNR employees in the Wisconsin State Employee Union and state bargaining units, including the last seven years as the WSEU lead counsel. I have grown very fond of the state law enforcement officers I’ve represented, including state conservation wardens, the State Patrol, Capital Police, and more.

I believe and I hope I will pleasantly surprise some of you with my knowledge of your work, your accomplishments and the challenges you face. But by the same token, some of you will identify huge gaps of knowledge in me. I willingly admit I have some. I need your help to fill those gaps.

I will rely heavily on your professional expertise, experience and judgment to get me prepared to present and promote and if necessary defend needed natural resources and environmental policies and actions.

Well, how am I going to get started? For the first month or two I want to spend a considerable amount of time on the road, meeting you, talking with you and visiting facilities. We are working on setting up a central office “meet and greet.” Some field visits have already been scheduled. Today, Thursday, (Jan. 9), I am visiting in South Central Region; on Jan. 17 in Southeast Region; on Jan. 27-28 in Northern Region; on Jan. 29-30 in Northeast Region; and on Feb. 3-4 in West Central Region. I’m kind of leaving it up to regional directors and local managers how the visits will go. Just look for a tall guy (with a beard) being led around by a manager you already know.

Introduce yourself. I look forward to talking with you. At the same time, I am already beginning to meet with representatives from business, industry, conservation and environmental groups. I will also begin meeting with lawmakers.

All this means I will have to absorb a large quantity of information fast.

But I am up to the task, and I will rely on staff in the field and here in central office to help me sort out priorities. I expect it will be something of a marathon, and I am thankful that Bill Smith has come aboard for a time to help with the transition.

I will continue to work on making permanent appointments to the division administrator jobs and to the deputy secretary and executive assistant positions. Already we have Jay Hochmuth as administrator for Air and Waste and Todd Ambs as administrator for Water. I know settling these leadership appointments is critically important to you. But I want to take whatever time is necessary to make a smooth, comfortable transition.

Those of you I have already talked to have asked what priorities “marching orders” Gov. Doyle has set for me. Obviously, all secretaries have been asked to begin working on budget issues. That’s a given. But DNR is fortunate in that our funding sources are diverse and relatively stable. So what Gov. Doyle said to me was to expect three key issues to hit my desk right away: Budget, the Fox River cleanup, and Chronic Wasting Disease. And he was right. I signed off on the Record of Decision news release for the Fox River and attended a Natural Resources Board meeting on CWD on my first full morning in the office at DNR.

I will work with the management team to identify, communicate and make progress on a manageable number of worthy priorities. Wisconsin DNR has a reputation of being one of the best natural resources agencies in the country my aim is to make it the undisputed best. But, and this is important, I want us all to feel fulfilled and have fun doing it. If you like diverse issues, DNR is the place to be, and there are many other passions and issues I expect to be dealing with soon. Like my predecessors, I have a keen interest in land use. I have an emotional attachment to the ‘North Country’ I lived in Menomonie until I was ten, and built a cabin in Forest County in 1975. It is very important to me that we preserve the landscape that makes Wisconsin, Wisconsin, so expect me to be involved in issues like lakeshore development up north, and hilltop development in the Kickapoo Valley.

I bet you didn’t know I used to work for DNR. My first job out of high school, 34 years ago, was at the DNR in the mail and supply section at Hill Farms State Office Building. I knew the names of every DNR employee, because I had to sort and deliver their mail. I wanted to get outdoors, though, so I transferred to what is now the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette where I helped build the nature trails, gave tours to school groups, hosed out the animal cages, and even trapped gophers to feed the snakes. A nineteen-year-old kid couldn’t have asked for a better job! After nearly two years, I went to college, became a journalist, and then went to law school and became an attorney. Now I’m back at DNR, and I feel like I’ve come home.

I want to thank all of you who have offered help and made me feel welcome. I very much look forward to working with you, and I am very proud to be here and to be part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Hope to meet you soon.”