



WSNetwork News

February 1, 2002

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

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The WSN has revised its statewide priority issues. Click on these two issue headings for an update.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

WSN combines DNR and PIO issues

The restoration of an independent, board-controlled DNR was one of the issues upon which the WSN was founded. At the Jan. 25 WSN annual meeting, the WSN Steering Committee voted to combine the DNR independence issue with restoration of the Public Intervenor Office, thereby opening a priority issue slot for our new forest fragmentation issue.

WLCV hires lobbyist to track budget cuts

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has hired a lobbyist to keep track of possible budget cuts affecting conservation and environmental programs in the DNR and other state agencies. Click [here](#) for details and to offer your suggestions for what to keep track of in this process.

Factory Farming

Half of state's mega-livestock operations mismanaging manure

Information released by the DNR revealed that several mega-livestock operations in the state had failed to properly manage their manure and caused or increased the risk of water pollution. From

September, 2000, to September, 2001, 18 mega-livestock operations caused water pollution or increased the risk of that pollution through mismanagement of manure. Water quality problems ranged from multiple manure spills to failing to establish a plan for managing manure.

Of the 18 facilities, nine of them had manure spills or had disposed of too much manure on crop fields. Some of the government documents revealed multiple manure spills at individual facilities over the course of several days. “The number of problems is very high given the fact that, as of last September, there were only 100 mega-livestock operations in the state at that time,” observed Andrew Hanson, attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc.

“Clearly, factory farms are not safer and more efficient than their smaller, more sustainable counterparts,” said John Kinsman, family dairy producer and President of Family Farm Defenders.

DNR records indicated that no civil penalties had been paid by any of the operations that had manure spills or had otherwise violated state law. “The DNR has failed to enforce the law and recover revenue to offset the costs of the pollution,” Hanson says.

SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Attorney, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., (608) 251-5047.

Kind to speak on Farm Bill Feb. 17

U.S. Congressman Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) will speak about the impact of the various federal farm bill proposals on Wisconsin’s farm families at the “Keep Family Farms in the Picture” pancake breakfast scheduled for Sunday, February 17, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Alma, WI. After Congressman Kind’s presentation, there will be an open microphone for comments and questions.

SOURCE: Sam Gieryn, sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.org.

Farm Bill to be considered in early February

With Congress back in session, the Senate could take up the Farm Bill as early as February 4th or 11th. With pressure mounting to pass a bill in time to help farmers making planting decisions, the risk now is that Senate leaders might compromise away the victories won thus far by an unprecedented coalition of farm advocates, environmentalists, sportsmen and rural activists. These victories include:

- the Conservation Security Program,
- the packer ownership ban, and
- greater investment in local marketing, rural development and renewable energy.

Please call your senators and tell them to move forward with passage of the bill, but not to deal away the aspects that help family farmers, the environment and rural economies. The Capitol Switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, defenders.returns@reply.net.

Taylor County looking for help with animal waste ordinance

The Taylor County Land Conservation Department is setting up a committee to develop an animal waste ordinance or guidelines for the county. The committee will be made up of people representing a variety of interests. We hope to have agriculture, agriculture-related businesses, and environmental interests represented. I am contacting several environmental organizations for suggestions of people who might be willing to serve on the committee. Members do not have to be residents of Taylor County. If you know of someone, please send me contact information or pass my e-mail address on to them.

SOURCE: Cathy Mauer, Conservation Assistant, (715) 748-1469.

New book highlights risks and rewards of genetically modified foods

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters has just published a book on the subject designed for the general reader. *Of Frankenfoods and Golden Rice: Risks, Rewards, and Realities of Genetically Modified Foods* arose from a Wisconsin Academy public forum on genetically modified foods. In addition to a general overview, topics include world hunger; problems in food labeling; ethical dilemmas; patent disputes; and organic alternatives. The book sells for \$8 plus postage and handling, and may be ordered directly from the Wisconsin Academy by contacting Chris Marsh at (608) 263-1692 ext. 10, or cmarsh2@facstaff.wisc.edu.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Academy.

Article tracks hormone use in livestock

There is an interesting and disturbing article about hormone use in livestock and the effect on water quality in *Science News*. If there are folks in WSN interested in such subjects, the article, with graphics, is available at <http://www.sciencenews.org/20020105/toc.asp>. So far, almost all concern about this practice has focused on whether trace residues of these hormones in the meat have human-health consequences. But there's another way that these powerful agents can find their way into people and other animals. A substantial portion of the hormones literally passes through the cattle into their feces and ends up in the environment, where it can get into other food and drinking water.

SOURCE: John Coleman, colemanj@calshp.cals.wisc.edu.

ACLU sues factory farm for property value damages

Two years ago when the Iowa state legislature expanded legal protections for factory-style hog farms, giving them virtually complete immunity from any lawsuits, the Iowa American Civil Liberties Union announced that it would provide legal assistance to people around the state. They felt the law was unconstitutional and were concerned that citizens who had valid legal disputes could be prevented from rightfully suing neighboring hog factories. After two years, the effort has begun to pay off. According to the Associated Press, a Des Moines judge has ruled that a Sioux County, Iowa couple's homestead dropped \$50,000 in value after a corporate hog farm was built in their area. The judge ordered that Pork Xtra, a 4,000 head factory farm style operation, pay \$100,000 to the couple for "compensatory and punitive damages." Though the ACLU court case sought an injunction to halt the operation, this motion was denied by the judge who maintained their award duly covered damages.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, defenders.returns@reply.net.

South Carolina delays tougher CAFO regs

From the (South Carolina) *State*: The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Board has delayed sending tougher hog CAFO regulations to the Legislature, following a complaint from a legislator. The rules generally increase distances between large hog farms and creeks, rivers, and wells, ban open waste lagoons, and require hog operations to explain their future business plans. A key concern is a proposal that would require a 25-mile distance between hog CAFOs. The legislator, who is a candidate for South Carolina agriculture commissioner, said only farms with more than 7,000 hogs should be regulated strictly. As proposed, the rules affect farms with 3,500 or more hogs. More at <http://www.thestate.com/mld/state/news/local/2490137.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 2-23-02.

Michigan requiring large livestock operations to get clean water permits

From the Jan. 17 *Detroit News*: Under pressure from environmental activists and the federal government, Michigan has agreed to require some large livestock farms to obtain clean-water permits. State officials and the Michigan Farm Bureau had resisted a permit system, saying the existing program (based on voluntary compliance with anti-pollution standards) was working well. The Sierra Club, which had asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take over enforcement of clean water laws in Michigan because of the voluntary approach., applauded the decision to go to a permit system. More at <http://detnews.com/2002/metro/0201/17/d11w-392577.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 2-23-02.

Study to help EPA weigh controls on emissions from livestock operations

The National Academy of Sciences has initiated a study at the request of the EPA to assist the agency in deciding whether to regulate air emissions from animal feeding operations. The agency will decide by December whether such regulations are needed, or whether a nonregulatory approach is sufficient to deal with the issue, EPA said at a meeting of the academy's Committee on Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations. EPA will use information collected by the committee conducting the study, to make its decision.

The EPA air office's interest in the issue was spurred by a proposed rule published Jan. 12, 2001, by EPA's Office of Water to expand the regulation of water discharges from CAFOs. The air office asked for the study to eliminate potential contradictory requirements between the air and water regulations for CAFOs.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-16-02.

Iowa CAFO opponents seeking tighter controls

From the Jan. 16 Des Moines (IA) *Register*: A string of victories in courts of law and public opinion have encouraged opponents of large hog operations in Iowa to push the Legislature for additional limits on hog CAFOs. Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack noted a shifting balance of power away from large hog producers: "No issue generates more discussion about the environment than hog confinements. A Jan. 8 court decision assessed \$100,000 in damages against a 4,000-head operation, while residents of another rural community "persuaded" a businessman to look elsewhere for a site for a 5,600-hog confinement. More at <http://www.dmregister.com/news/stories/c4780934/17044854.html>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-16-02.

Forest Fragmentation

The WSN adopted one new statewide priority issue at its annual meeting in Stevens Point Jan. 25 — concern over forest fragmentation in Wisconsin. By adopting this as a new WSN issue, the WSN hopes to draw attention to this change in the landscape and identify people who are interested in learning how this trend is affecting the state's flora and fauna. If you would like to work on this issue, contact either John Schwarzmann of ECCOLA at (715) 356-4206 or Chris Nehrass of the Sierra Club at (715) 848-0971.

Groups and individuals are also encouraged to forward the dialogue on this issue by sending news and information on the subject to the WSN for inclusion in this newsletter.

SOURCE: WSN.

Groundwater Protection

Jan. 30 Perrier ruling calls for improved DNR review

Our case was heard [Wednesday] before Judge Wright in Columbia County District Court. Although we did not get everything we asked for, the judge did rule in our favor in one crucial area. On the negative (for CCN) he did throw out the HoChunk suit. He also did not rule on the public trust doctrine. He also left the permits issued to Perrier by the DNR in place.

But he was very critical of the agreement between the DNR and Perrier. He noted that in this agreement there was no public input and that it states in the agreement that there is not sufficient environmental data on the impact of the water extraction. Therefore he ruled that further environmental studies must be done with public input and that the study must follow WEPA rules and guidelines. His ruling will be drafted by our attorneys for his signature. He will probably sign it in two weeks after which the DNR has 45 days to appeal. We will probably not appeal his decisions on the public trust doctrine and the Ho Chunk suit. The permits cannot be used until a thorough environmental study is done so they are useless to Perrier at this time.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, Concerned Citizens of Newport (CCN).

Falk offers well protection blueprint

Gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Falk was quoted in the Stevens Point *Journal* as favoring the following protections for Wisconsin's groundwater:

- Develop new technologies to reduce the amount of water Wisconsin wastes.
- Reform laws for high-capacity wells.
- Accurately assess state's water supply.
- Update and improve Groundwater Act of 1984.
- Make state better trustee of water resources.
- State water-resource policy should include sustainability.

Ohio EPA stripped of ability to require groundwater tests

From the Jan. 14 Columbus (OH) *Dispatch*: Although complaints about large livestock feedlots polluting Ohio streams nearly tripled last year, a state rule-making panel has stripped the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to require groundwater tests. What that means is that manure lagoons could be built as close as 300 feet from a water well or stream; storage lagoons for the largest feedlots would have to be at least 600 feet away from streams. Critics of the change say groundwater tests would help prevent manure spills and other sources of pollution.

More at <http://www.dispatch.com/news-story.php?story=dispatch/news/news02/jan02/1031626.html>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-16-02.

Mercury Reduction

UW presenting lecture on methyl mercury in Lake Superior

The Environmental Chemistry and Technology program at UW-Madison is presenting the program "Nearshore Accumulation of MeHg in Lake Superior" Friday, Feb. 1, at 12:05 p.m. in Room 102 of the Water Science and Engineering Lab. The program is being given by Helen Manolopoulos, Postdoctoral Researcher, Environmental Chemistry and Technology Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison. For more information contact Lindsey Chamberlain (608) 262-2470.

SOURCE: Phil Emmling, Federation of Flyfishers.

DNR Board moves on new mercury testing method

Natural Resources Board members on Jan. 23 advanced efforts to decrease water pollution from industrial and municipal wastewater treatment plants. The new strategy — developed with an advisory committee of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials and representatives from the dental association, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plant operators, environmental groups, and laboratories — requires plants to start using the newly approved testing method, which will allow DNR to assess whether they meet the mercury standard.

SOURCE: Tom Muga, WDNR, (608) 266-7420.

Writer concerned about mercury emission rules

I presently serve on the DNR's Citizen's Advisory Committee for Proposed Mercury Emission Rules. In the DNR's "Summary of the Rule" there are several parts that seriously bother me:

COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVES — Compliance with requirements in the proposed rule can be achieved through the application of control technology and by securing certified emission reduction credits created by a pollution reduction project or mercury-containing products reduction project. A combination of both approaches is also acceptable. The creation and use of certified emission reduction credits is outline in the proposed rule.

Major utilities may achieve compliance with the emissions ceiling, emissions offset or phased mercury reduction requirements proposed in the rule through a corporate emission averaging approach. This means that a major utility or facility can aggregate mercury emissions from all sta-

tionary sources under common ownership or control to demonstrate compliance with requirements proposed in the rule.

CERTIFIED EMISSION REDUCTIONS — The proposed rule establishes requirements that govern the creation and use of Department certified emission reductions. These mercury emission reductions would be available to achieve compliance with the emissions ceiling, emissions offset or phased reduction requirements in the proposed rule.

A fundamental requirement for Department certification of emission reductions is that the reduction must be created through either a pollution reduction project or mercury-containing products reduction project, as defined in the rule. Certification of emission reductions from pollution reduction projects will not be considered if the emission reductions are not the result of a specific action, such as the installation of modification of a pollution control system, process change, or product reformulation. The Department would also not certify mercury emission reductions that are already required by another local, state or federal law or regulation.

MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS REDUCTION PROJECTS — The proposed rule encourages the establishment of mercury-containing products reduction projects. Emission reductions from these projects may be certified and made available for compliance with rule requirements. The proposed rule recognizes that there is uncertainty in determining the effectiveness of these projects. Provisions have been set that will establish the expected mercury reduction level from these projects, so that there is certainty in the amount of certified emissions that are available. There will also be requirements to insure that mercury recovered from these projects is properly handled, stored and disposed of to prevent re-emission.

It appears to me that perhaps WSN should beat the utilities to the punch. Perhaps we should set up a program to collect all fever thermometers in the state from households, hospitals, and drugstores or places where they are sold. I would certainly be very disappointed if the utilities were able to set up collection boxes and claim this as a reduction for their utility.

SOURCE: Wayne Stroessner.

Robson, Plouff introducing bill to ban mercury thermometer sales

Senator Judy Robson and Representative Joe Plouff are releasing bills LRB 4712/1 and LRB 4329/2 relating to sales of mercury thermometers. The legislation is modeled after a recently enacted Minnesota law. Co-sponsors are being sought through Feb. 1.

SOURCE: Sen. Robson, (608) 266-2253.

Metallic Mining

Appeals court upholds Nashville local agreement ruling

The State Court of Appeals on Jan. 29 turned down the Town of Nashville's ability to reopen and modify its local agreement with Nicolet Minerals. The court said, "Wisconsin Stat. §293.41 unambiguously authorizes local governments to make mining development agreements with towns. The agreement between the Town and Nicolet properly resolved all zoning and permit issues between the parties. It is valid and enforceable. As a result, the Town's resolution to rescind the local agreement was invalid." The complete ruling is at <http://www.wisbar.org/res/capp/2002/01-1339.htm>.

SOURCE: Zoltan Grossman, mtn@igc.org.

Potawatomi say Northern WI train derailment forewarns of cyanide risks

"The message is inescapable. The recent train derailment near the Wolf River shows the great risk from transporting cyanide in Northern Wisconsin," Chairman Gus Frank of the Forest County Potawatomi Community said today.

"Twenty-five rail cars of iron ore went off the tracks in Forest County two weeks ago. I'm told that the accident occurred within a quarter-mile from where the tracks cross the headwaters of the Wolf River at Pine Lake," Chairman Frank said about the January 9 accident.

"This derailment is a chilling reminder that accidents happen, including in the Northwoods," he said. "A transportation accident could just as easily happen with a truckload or a railroad car of cyanide headed to the proposed mine near Crandon." He called on state Assembly leaders to pass a bill — already passed by the Senate — that would ban the use of cyanide in mining.

Nicolet Minerals Company, a subsidiary of BHP Billiton, has proposed using up to 200 tons per year of cyanide per year to process ore at the proposed mine south of Crandon. The proposed mine is located in an area of wetlands, streams and lakes that feed the Wolf River.

SOURCE: Bill McClenahan, (608) 259-1212.

Potawatomi begin media campaign on cyanide ban bill

The Forest County Potawatomi Community have started a TV, radio, and billboard campaign on the bills to ban the use of cyanide in mining (SB 160) and to end special treatment for mining (SB 271). *[NOTE: The WSN has electronic copies of the Potawatomi radio ads in audio .jpg format if you're interested in receiving them.]*

Shoreland/Wetlands

Natural Resources Board passes runoff rules without buffer requirement

Natural Resources Board members approved on Jan. 29 what are regarded as the nation's most comprehensive rules designed to tackle polluted runoff from rural and urban areas, now the biggest remaining pollution threat to Wisconsin lakes, rivers, and groundwater. Board members unanimously adopted the package of eight rules — including five resolutions fine-tuning those rules — that require farmers, municipalities, developers, road builders, and others to reduce the polluted runoff flowing off their land and into Wisconsin waters. The rules are expected to be implemented over 10 years at a cost of \$65 million annually. Most of that cost will be covered largely by federal money, with state, local and private funds also involved.

Board members discussed, but did not act, on a proposal from a coalition of 33 groups to phase in requirements that farmers install buffer strips between their farm fields and a stream or lake. But they did leave open the possibility of revisiting that and other issues once they see how effectively the rules, which now advance to lawmakers for their review, work on the ground and how many farmers voluntarily install the buffers under a federal conservation program. That program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, known as CREP, is expected to pour \$200 million federal dollars into Wisconsin in those 51 counties where runoff pollution is documented as one of the main causes lakes and rivers fail to meet water quality standards.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Runoff rules now go to DATCP Board

All seven separate rules [passed by the Natural Resources Board went] to the Assembly and Senate Chief Clerks Wed 1-30-02. They have 10 days to assign them to committees. Under s.13.565, Wis Stats, any administrative rule dealing with livestock MUST go to the Agriculture standing committees. So we are definitely dealing with two committees per house. ATCP 50, the agricultural implementation rule, will go before the DATCP board on February 12 at the Department of Agriculture in Madison.

SOURCE: Steph Adams, cleanwater@wisconsinrivers.org.

WSN to work for motorboat gas tax adjustment in 2002

Instead of adopting motorboat gas tax revision as a separate WSN statewide priority issue at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network in Stevens Point Jan. 25, the WSN Steering Committee voted to incorporate efforts on behalf of adjusting the gas tax into the WSN's shoreland/wetland issue in that most of the funds from the motorboat gas tax go toward DNR water programs.

This Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) will be spearheading efforts for the WSN on revising the motorboat gas tax formula for the first time since it was enacted in 1985. If your group would like to be part of these efforts, contact WAL's Jo Seiser at (800) 542-5253 or Donna Sefton at (608) 662-0923.

SOURCE: WSN.

Ashley Furniture mentioned in WIN campaign finance alert

The Ashley Furniture wetland exemption has been cited in a recent Wisconsin InterNetwork (WIN) alert. According to the alert, "No wetland is safe when Wisconsin's 'Pay to Play' Legislature sells wetlands for campaign contributions. This is just one reason why Wisconsin needs comprehensive campaign finance reform. Ashley Furniture, for instance, is fighting for legislation that would let the company bypass DNR regulations and destroy a wetland to expand its Arcadia plant. Ashley Furniture has contributed over \$56,000 to key candidate campaigns since 1993." To respond to the alert, visit http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/campaign_finance_reform.

SOURCE: WIN.

MEA: Millions in state revenues lost due to lack of enforcement of water laws

Wisconsin lost between 14 and 284 million dollars in 1998 alone by failing to prosecute facilities that significantly violated state water pollution laws, according to a report released by Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. *Who Is Guarding Our Waters? A Report on the Wisconsin DNR's Enforcement of Water Pollution Laws* analyzes water pollution violations and enforcement during the 1990s. The primary findings of the report include the following:

- From 1990 to 1998, between 28% and 46% of major industrial facilities were in Significant Non-Compliance with their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits. During the same time period, between 31% and 55% of major municipal facilities were in Significant Non-Compliance with their WPDES permits.
- From 1990 to 1998, on average, the DNR sent Notices of Violation to only 10% of all municipal and industrial facilities that were in Significant Non-Compliance with their permits.
- During that same time period, the DNR only referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution 2.5% of all industrial and municipal facilities that were in Significant Non-Compliance with their WPDES permits.
- In 1999, the DNR failed to inspect 53% of all major industrial facilities with WPDES permits.
- In 2000, only four industrial and municipal facilities were prosecuted for water pollution violations. Of these four, they paid only \$212,217 dollars to the state in penalties.

The report is available at the MEA website.

SOURCE: Melissa K. Scanlan, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates, (608) 251-5047, www.midwest-e-advocates.org.

Website, booklet offer guidance on small dams

As small dams built long ago on Wisconsin rivers and streams deteriorate with age, communities across the state are grappling with what to do about them. To help people in these communities, the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has produced a web site and companion booklet, entitled *Dam Repair or Removal: A Decision-Making Guide*.

The web site and booklet offer a checklist of relevant issues; a description of dam and river ecosystem basics; summaries of legal, economic, and related considerations; and a review of the decision-making process. The web site can be found at <http://www.ies.wisc.edu/research/wrm00>, and the booklet (a 15-page summary) is available free at the Institute for Environmental Studies Library in 15 Science Hall on the UW-Madison campus or by sending a stamped, self-addressed 9-by-12-inch envelope with \$1.26 postage to: *Dam Decision-Making Guide*, Institute for Environmental Studies, Public Information Office, 550 North Park Street, 15 Science Hall, Madison, WI 53706-1491

SOURCE: Sam Schultz, Institute for Environmental Studies, (608) 263-3064, sjschul2@facstaff.wisc.edu.

TU report: water laws are conspiring to dry streams

Trout Unlimited released report that describes how outdated water laws and over consumption are drying up Colorado's streams and rivers, killing fish, degrading water quality, and damaging their recreational and aesthetic value. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.cotrout.org/Dry%20Legacy/Dry%20Legacy%20Home%20Page.htm> or for a hard copy contact Melinda Kassen at (303) 440-2937.

SOURCE: TU via Tom Wilson.

Wetland projects qualify under lake grant program

Municipalities, lake associations and other governmental units can now receive state grants to help restore or enhance wetlands that affect water quality in nearby lakes and are identified in their comprehensive land use plans, state lakes officials say. A provision in the 2001-2003 budget bill created a special wetland restoration grant opportunity within the Lake Protection Grant Program. The provision requires the DNR to fund up to 25 grants each year for the next two years for \$10,000 each for wetland restoration or enhancement activities that alter quality of a lake or enhance its ecosystem.

SOURCE: Carroll Schaal, (608) 261-6423.

New Berlin stormwater ordinance under fire

From the Jan. 23 Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*: A new New Berlin ordinance establishing a city-wide storm water utility is coming under fire from an alderman who says the fee structure is

unfair to his constituents, who live on the city's largely rural west side. "Many of my constituents...do not believe that they will realize benefits that can justify the aggravation of paying this non-deductible quarterly bill," according to Ald. Paul Scheuble. New Berlin officials say the utility is necessary not only to head off flooding problems but also to comply with state and federal mandates to reduce the discharge of nonpoint source pollution carried by storm water runoff. Scheuble said a more equitable fee schedule should be adopted and that the local ordinance does not sufficiently include water quality control measures required by the DNR as ways to prioritize projects that will be funded by the utility. More at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wauk/jan02/14805.asp>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 2-23-02.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WLCV tracking conservation program budget cuts

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) has hired a lobbyist in an attempt to prevent lawmakers from making drastic cuts to conservation programs in the next two months as they search for ways to cover a \$1.2 billion budget deficit.

It won't be easy to escape this budget adjustment process unscathed. We need your input to determine which specific environmental programs are in the greatest danger of being slashed. Currently, we believe the Public Benefits and Stewardship Funds will be targeted for deep cuts. In addition, the Parks Department and Division of Water Quality at DNR may also be in jeopardy. Please e-mail me your comments and suggestions on this important matter. Please help us identify which funding sources should be protected most vigorously by our lobbyist, and call your legislators personally to ask them not to cut conservation programs.

SOURCE: Barry Ashenfelter, Executive Director, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, PO Box 636, Watertown, WI 53094-0636, (920) 285-0402, info@wlc.org.

Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation now "Land Trust"

The Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, a local area land trust since 1983, has amended its name and is now the Natural Heritage Land Trust. The Natural Heritage Land Trust is still dedicated to the conservation of natural areas and open space in Dane and the surrounding counties. The Natural Heritage Land Trust has kept the best portion of their name — natural heritage — while adding land trust to better explain who they are and what they do. See the Natural Heritage Land Trust website www.nhlt.org for more information.

SOURCE: Laurie Lewis Robertson, laurie@nhlt.org.

Arboretum seeks eco restoration award nominations

The Friends of the Arboretum is pleased to announce a new awards program to recognize excellence in ecological restoration in Wisconsin. We hope to make this an annual event! This year, we will accept nominations for each of the three categories of awards through April 1, and will be giving the awards out at the first Leopold Restoration Awards event scheduled for October 10, 2002. This is a great way to get recognition for a project or an individual, and we are offering cash awards! Detailed information about these awards and the nomination process is on our website at <http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/>.

SOURCE: Sara Minkoff, Manager, Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison WI 53711 (608) 263-7760.

Deer management Assembly Subcommittee hearings announced

Two meetings of interest to deer hunters by the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Deer Management:

- 1 p.m., Tue, Feb 19, Town of Norway Town Hall, 6419 Heg Park Rd., Wind Lake.
- 11 a.m., Wed, Feb. 20, Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay.

Executive Director training workshop announced

We've decided to begin our first ever "Advocacy Executive Director Program" with a kick-off workshop from Saturday, June 1 through Wednesday, June 5, at a yet-to-be-decided (but convenient) location in the Great Lakes region. This is a special version of our year-long "Executive Director Development Program," which we've been offering to executive directors (ED's) of environmental and conservation organizations for a decade now. The "Advocacy ED Program" is specially tailored to meet the needs of those ED's who work under the special pressures of advocacy and lobbying work.

SOURCE: Paula Carrell, Paula.Carrell@sierraclub.org.

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: 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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