



WSNetwork News

February 1, 2003

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

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Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Black introduces PIO restoration bill

Representative Spencer Black announced Jan. 16 he will introduce legislation to restore the Public Intervenor Office eliminated in 1995. The office was established in 1969 under Governor Warren Knowles. It consisted of two lawyers in the Department of Justice whose job was to protect the public interest in Wisconsin's water resources. The office monitored state agency compliance with state environmental laws and responded to citizen's complaints about activities that affected water resources.

"The Public Intervenor acted as the citizen's voice in legal disputes," said Black. "They were the people's lawyers. In facing a well-funded corporation or public agency, a citizen might not face

Barlow on WPR program in advance of WSN appearance

Council of Canadians Volunteer Chair Maude Barlow will be the guest on the Tom Clark show on Wisconsin Public Radio



Thursday, Feb. 6, starting at 7:00 a.m. Barlow's radio appearance comes in advance of her headlining the WSN's "Wisconsin 2003 Year of Water Forum" at UW-Stevens Point Friday, Feb. 14. The forum kicks off the WSN annual conference. To register, visit

www.wsn.org/WSNconference/wsn_2003_annual_conference.html.

Hurry, registration deadline is Feb. 11.

Click
link to
register

much of chance. Having the Public Intervenor on their side gave the average citizen a fighting chance.”

SOURCE: Rep. Black’s office.

DNR independence bill capturing bipartisan support

A bill introduced by Rep. Spencer Black to let the Natural Resources Board pick the DNR Secretary is drawing bipartisan support, with 30 Assembly and Senate legislators cosponsoring the legislation.

“With the support of a growing number of Republicans and of our new Democratic governor, I am more hopeful than ever that we will restore both the DNR’s independence and our state’s long tradition of nonpartisan stewardship of our natural resources,” Black said. Black’s proposal would ensure the DNR’s independence by giving a seven-member citizen board the power to hire and fire the department’s secretary. This would restore the department’s nonpartisan status that existed before 1995, when the DNR secretary was made a cabinet position subject to hiring and firing by the Governor. This is the fifth time Black has introduced the DNR independence proposal since 1995, and he said his chances of winning are better than ever.

“We have progressed from no Republican cosponsors and no support from the Governor’s office last session, to Republican supporters in both houses this session and a new Governor who is on record in favor of an independent DNR secretary. The momentum is building to get partisan politics out of the DNR and return to the Aldo Leopold system of conservation that served our state so well for almost 70 years,” Black said.

SOURCE: Rep. Black’s office.

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Factory Farming

KY CAFO operators upset over having to get pollution permits

From the January 7 Louisville (KY) *Courier-Journal*: Environmentalists and large-scale animal farm operators in Kentucky and Indiana all seem unhappy that the CAFO operations will now be required to obtain water-pollution permits under U.S. EPA rules that were approved last month. Kentucky and Indiana have spent much of the past 5 years wrestling with controversies surrounding factory-scale farms. Regulators say they can pollute rivers and lakes with nutrient-rich waste when it is spread on cropland for fertilizer or not properly managed near bars or animal houses. Farming interests are complaining the new rules are unnecessary and will be potentially costly for them. More at <http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2003/01/07/ke010703s344512.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 1-15-03.

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EPA to Indiana: issue pollution permits or lose regulation authority

From the January 15 Indianapolis (IN) *Star*: A federal judge has given Indiana an extra 4 months to begin issuing federal permits to factory-style animal feeding operations that discharge pollutants into waterways. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management now has until May 14 to issue permits to about 550 federally regulated operations. If the state fails to comply, the U.S. EPA must act to rescind the state's authority to oversee federal clean water rules. More at <http://www.indystar.com/print/articles/1/015720-3441-092.html>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-15-03.

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Forest Fragmentation

Wisconsin forest management open houses set

The DNR Forestry Division, in cooperation with partners, is developing a book called *Wisconsin Voluntary, Site-level Forest Management Guidelines* (FMG). The guide is being written primarily to encourage high standards in the delivery of forest management and harvest assistance to private landowners. It provides a comprehensive summary of sustainable forestry techniques widely held as valid or sound for the state's forest types. While DNR, consulting and industrial foresters may use it most, woodland owners, timber producers and other resource managers will also find the guide full of practical information.

The five FMG open house sessions will provide a brief overview of the guidelines and why they are being developed. Participants will have the opportunity to talk to DNR forestry staff working on the project. Comments can be left with the DNR foresters at the meetings. A request form and more information are also available on the DNR Forestry web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/>. Comments concerning the FMG will be accepted through March 31, 2003. For more information, contact Paul Pingrey at (608) 267-7595.

The remaining FMG open house meetings are scheduled from 3 to 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- January 29, Black River Falls – Holiday Inn Express Black River Falls Conference Center
Intersection of I-94 & Highway 54 East-Exit 116 W 10170 Highway 54-East
- January 30, Fitchburg – Fitchburg Community Center 5510 E. Lacy Rd.

SOURCE: WDNR.

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Woodland owners workshop April 26

A Northwest Wisconsin Woodland Owners Cooperation Workshop will be held Saturday, April 26, at the Marvin Schwan Conference Center near Trego, WI. The workshop is sponsored by the

Cooperative Development Services (CDS), Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, UW-Extension, WDNR, and WWOA.

SOURCE: Matthew R. Davis, UW-Extension, Basin Educator for Natural Resources, Upper Chippewa River Basin, Ladysmith DNR Service Center, (715) 532-6322, matthew.davis@ces.uwex.edu.

Groundwater Protection

Robert Glennon giving two groundwater presentations in Madison

Before traveling to UW-Stevens Point to appear with Maude Barlow at the WSN's "2003 WI Year of Water Forum" on Feb. 14, University of Arizona law professor Robert Glennon will be speaking at two Madison events:

- Thursday, Feb. 13 book signing at Barnes & Noble, 7433 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 7:00 p.m. For information call (608) 827-0472.
- UW-Madison lecture at 1610 Engineering Hall, Noon.

SOURCE: WSN.

WI coalition building a better potato farm

The Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers' Association has teamed with the University of Wisconsin and the World Wildlife Fund to build a better way of growing potatoes. Traditional methods of growing potatoes in the state have relied heavily on toxic pesticides such as the insecticide aldicarb. Recognizing that these pesticides posed risks to farmer health, drinking water, trout streams, and endangered wildlife, the groups began to collaborate to find a better way to manage pests on potatoes.

The group initially developed better pesticide management and application tools, and has moved toward a more biointensive "Integrated Pest Management" approach. The group is also developing market incentives to promote the sale of low-pesticide potatoes. In 2001 a new ecolabel, Protected Harvest, owned by an independent non-profit organization was introduced. Wisconsin potatoes are the first product certified under the Protected Harvest label and are marketed under the brand "Healthy Grown." For more information about the collaborative effort, visit <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/bioIPM/>.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Liquid waste recycler seeks Monroe County spreading permit

From the January 9 *The Country Today*: United Liquid Waste Recycling, a Clyman-based firm, is seeing permission to landspread municipal and industrial waste in Monroe County. Initially, the company was interested in landspreading wastes in Vernon County, but the Vernon County Board

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adopted a sludge/bio-solid disposal ordinance with slope and cost-per-parcel spread restrictions. United Liquid Waste applied for a WPDES permit in November. The permit would cover operation of a 3.75 million gallon waste storage facility on the David Thurin farm near Viroqua. United Liquid already contracts work in Crawford County and near Readstown in Vernon County.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-15-03.

WA Governor offers water legislation

A story in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports Gov. Gary Locke has released new water legislation, saying it will help secure long-term water supplies while protecting the environment. The package of bills would give municipal water suppliers incentives to conserve water and help utilities make changes to existing water rights, among other things. His bills are more focused around cities' water rights than in years past. Two of the measures address unresolved issues surrounding the management and use of water rights by municipal water suppliers. Another bill would allow for the creation of watershed or regional water banks. It would also simplify the process of transferring a water right to a state trust. Locke has proposed a \$16 million package in the state capital budget to provide safe drinking water and water storage. The money also would be used to resolve conflicts over the municipal and agricultural use of water versus the need to preserve fish habitat, he said.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center, info@seronline.org.

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Mercury Reduction

Mercury legislation introduced in State Senate

As the first solid waste related legislation introduced this session, Senate Bill 10, which would prohibit the sale of mercury fever thermometers, was introduced yesterday in the State Senate and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. It is co-sponsored by 6 State Senators and 12 State Representatives. The legislation is not yet posted on the Internet, but a link to the history of the bill is at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB10hst.html>.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Chair, Legislative Committee, AROW.

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Virginia lawmaker proposes bills on disposal of computers

A story in the *Virginian-Pilot* says that this session the Virginia state General Assembly will consider bills HB 2375 and HB 2376, which ban the disposal of old computers, TVs, and other electronic equipment in landfills starting in July 2004. The biggest concerns are cathode ray tubes, or CRTs, which help convey images on computer monitors and TV screens, but are made with toxic mercury, lead and other heavy metals that can contaminate groundwater and soil. In the U.S., 315

million computers will soon become obsolete, and 40 percent of lead found in landfills comes from thrown-away electronics. Congress and many states have begun considering ways to safely handle unwanted computers and other devices that contain CRTs; Massachusetts and California have barred CRTs from their landfills. For more information on how states are dealing with electronic waste, please see <http://www.serconline.org/ewaste.html>.

SOURCE: SERC “Wildlines Report,” wildlines@serconline.org.

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Metallic Mining

Activists call for Land Legacy list to include Crandon Mine site

The Wisconsin Land Legacy Report will be a major basis for future land acquisitions by the State. It will be difficult for any site to be purchased and protected with state funds without first being included in the Land Legacy report. You need to write or call with only a few sentences on the sites you wish to be protected!

Please write the DNR to mention the 4,800-acre Crandon mine site in the Report as an area of special conservation and recreational value in Forest County, in the headwaters of the Wolf River and upstream from sensitive wetlands, species, and wild rice beds. Please also write to include the Patrick Marsh site in Sun Prairie (Dane County), which is endangered by real estate development. The site is around ancient village that contains numerous burial and mound sites. Local residents in the Patrick Marsh Conservancy and the Ho-Chunk Nation have been working together to protest the Marsh.

For more on the Crandon mine site’s conservation value visit <http://www.alphacdc.com/treaty/buyout.html#conservation>. If you are interested in reviewing and commenting on the draft report, you can request a copy at Land.Legacy@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling (608) 266-0823.

SOURCE: Midwest Treaty Network.

Colorada mining company appeals no cyanide ban

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The Associated Press reports, “A Colorado mining company...asked the Montana Supreme Court to throw out a district judge’s ruling that upheld the state’s ban on the use of cyanide in gold mining. Canyon Resources Corp. contends the ban, which voters enacted in 1998, illegally crippled its plans for an open-pit mine near Lincoln.”

SOURCE: via Zoltan Grossman.

Shoreland/Wetlands

WI Association of Lakes files notice in Oneida zoning dispute

The state's largest lake protection group has filed a legal notice with Oneida County concerning a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance amendment enacted by the County Board last October. The filing takes a preliminary step toward a possible legal challenge to the amendment, which the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) believes violates the State's Navigable Waters Protection Law.

WAL President Roger Walsh said the group's action is based on provisions of the amended ordinance that fall short of minimum standards for County Shoreland Zoning Ordinances that have been in place for decades. State rules require that buildings generally be set back at least 75 feet from the water. The County's amendment badly weakened two provisions restricting construction close to the water's edge. One eliminated curbs on the expansion and repair of some 'grandfathered' structures built at least 40 feet from the water. Another would expand circumstances where new buildings can be built closer than 75 feet from the water by broadly defining an 'existing pattern of development.'

SOURCE: WI Assn. of Lakes.

Committee working on NR-115 shoreland protection options

After a series of introductory meetings, work has begun to update 35-year-old state shoreland protection rules intended to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and natural scenic beauty along lakes and rivers. The citizen advisory committee helping revise the rules will meet at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point to debate alternatives for how far structures need to be set back from the water's

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.

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BACKGROUND: Wisconsin shoreline setback and buffer standards are on-line

You can find a list of the current setback and buffer standards, as well as alternatives that will be presented to the committee, on the DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us> and visiting the "shoreland management" section.

edge and what kind of activities and uses structures, lawns, mowing, brush or tree clearing will be allowed in the resulting buffer area.

“The issues the committee discusses Jan. 30 building setbacks and buffers are the core of Wisconsin’s shoreland protection rules,” says Al Shea, who directs the Department of Natural Resources Watershed Management Bureau and chairs the advisory committee. “They’re where we can provide the most benefit to the shoreland system: to wildlife, to fish, to water quality and to scenic beauty.”

Citizens can submit written or e-mail comments to Toni.Herkert@dnr.state.wi.us, or Toni Herkert, DNR, WT2, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, on which alternatives they favor, and are encouraged to share their remarks on buffers and other shoreland standards at the public listening sessions tentatively planned statewide for later this year.

SOURCE: Carmen Wagner, WDNR, (608) 266-0061 and Toni Herkert, WDNR, (608) 266-0161.

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Last NR-115 meeting includes shouting match over committee seating

(Here is an edited report on the Jan. 30 NR-115 meeting in Stevens Point from one of the attendees. Shoreland zoning is a hot button item in Wisconsin’s north woods, as this report shows. -Ed.)

“The third meeting was the first ‘issue’ meeting of the committee and focused on shoreland setbacks and buffers, and related mitigation issues. The meeting was amicable (except at the beginning, see below) and very worthwhile, with a lot of good ideas and useful comments.

“As Shea was about to start with first issue discussion, mitigation, Glenn Schiffmann interrupted and raised two issues. First, he asserted that the committee at it’s last meeting ‘voted’ to allow public input at this and subsequent meetings, that Shea agreed, and there were persons in the audience who expected to be able to speak to the committee. Shea said that there was no such vote, and he’d merely agreed to consider it as a suggestion, but subsequently thought better of it. He described the numerous opportunities the public would have to provide comment before any revised NR115 becomes final. My personal recollection agrees with Shea’s, and several other committee members spoke up to agree with Shea. No one agreed with Schiffmann.

“Schiffmann then launched into something of a tirade and personal attack on Shea for failing to

do some unexplained thing that he (Schiffmann) asserted Shea had agreed to. That issue was never explained but seemingly was an agreement Schiffmann thought he had with Shea and Trigg that someone specifically identified as representing the “Taxpayers For Fair Zoning” (TFZ) would be appointed to the committee. Schiffmann in effect demanded that such a person be seated. Shea refused to do so and denied there was any such agreement. Schiffmann stood up, picked up his papers, and motioned to someone in the audience to take his place at the committee table. Kendall did come up to Schiffman’s seat at the table. Shea emphatically ordered him off the table. When he didn’t move, Shea ordered that a campus police officer be called to remove him, then recessed the meeting. No police appeared.

“The meeting was recalled to order by Dick Wedepohl about 15 minutes later. Herkert began discussion of the mitigation item on the agenda. Shea did not return nor resume the chair until later that morning. Schiffmann’s chair remained empty for the remainder of the day. Evidently Schiffmann, Shea, and probably Ambs, met outside the meeting room. No further information on that altercation was offered to the committee.”

SOURCE: Elmer Goetsch, Three Lakes, WI.

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State rules will continue to protect isolated wetlands

Recent federal announcements related to isolated wetlands will have limited impact in Wisconsin, state officials say, because a 2001 Wisconsin law authorizes the state to step in to protect isolated wetlands that federal officials determine they have no jurisdiction to protect from being filled in or dredged. Wisconsin has an estimated one million acres of isolated wetlands, which are wetlands not connected to waterways.

That state law should limit the impact on Wisconsin wetlands of the recent federal announcements. EPA announced it would review the Clean Water Act to consider whether the 2001 Supreme Court decision required any other changes in how isolated wetlands receive protection in addition to eliminating habitat for migratory birds as a reason for protection. That agency will be publishing a notice of its intent to create rules, opening a 45-day public comment period to solicit data and information on what should be the extent of the Clean Water Act in light of the SWANCC decision, according to EPA press releases.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Fox River settlement: no mediation, says DNR

A Jan. 22 *Green Bay Press-Gazette* story quotes a letter by WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett saying a request for mediation by several WI legislators is unnecessary and inappropriate.”

According to the story, “In December, the legislators — state Senators Robert Cowles, R-Allouez, and Carol Roessler, R-Oshkosh, and Rep. Al Ott, R-Forest Junction — asked regulators to bring in a mediator before issuing the official Record of Decision that will make final all or parts of a proposed \$308 million cleanup plan issued by the DNR and the federal Environmental Protection Agency in October 2001.”

SOURCE: *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

WAL encourages call to Governor on motorboat gas tax

Governor Doyle is preparing his 2004-2005 budget now. He has declared “Protecting Wisconsin’s incredible environment our rivers, our lakes, and our streams” as one of the seven major priorities for his Administration. It is a crucial time to let him know that he has an excellent opportunity to show that priority in his budget. Let him know that tax monies collected on motorboat gas should go toward protecting and managing water resources, not to building and maintaining roads.

Estimated taxes attributed to gas purchased for motorboats go into a special water resources account that supports many of the conservation programs that protect water quality, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty in Wisconsin. These include grants for local lake, river, and wetlands conservation efforts and state technical and educational assistance programs (if you have been at recipient of lake grant funds tell how the funds helped your lake and built your organization’s ability to protect and manage the lake).

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The formula to determine the amount of gas tax funds transferred is based on an estimate of 50 gallons of gasoline/motorboat/year and has not been updated for over 15 years. Since then, the size, type, and fuel consumption of boats and motors has increased dramatically. Many boats use 50 gallons in a weekend.

This current estimate of motorboat gas tax used annually is 100 gallons/boat/year and should be updated accordingly. This is not a new tax, but a reallocation of existing gas taxes collected. The change reflects less than 1% of the total gasoline taxes collected in 2002 - the equivalent of converting a mile of 2 lane highway into 4 lanes. He will need to decide these funds are better used to construct more roads or protect our water resources as pledged in his inaugural address. Write to: Governor James Doyle, 115 East State Capital, Madison, WI 53702; (608) 266-1212, fax (608) 267-8983, wisgov@gov.state.wi.us.

SOURCE: WI Assn. of Lakes.

Conservationists thank Sen. Kohl for farm efforts

Conservation leaders have praised U.S. Senator Herb Kohl for his leadership in funding a range of Wisconsin agricultural research, management, and conservation projects as part of the FY2003 omnibus budget bill, passed by the U.S. Senate on January 23. Senator Kohl is ranking member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and had identified the Wisconsin projects as priorities for funding.

“We’re grateful to Senator Kohl for financing farmers’ conservation of productive soils and protection of precious water resources,” said Caryl Terrell, Wisconsin Sierra Club spokesperson. “Senator Kohl was very responsive to our request to focus federal research dollars to build on existing knowledge about vegetative buffers, nutrient management, and reduced reliance on high-risk pesticides to help implement Wisconsin’s new polluted runoff rules, the strongest in the nation.” To see the full list of programs and a press release by US Senator Kohl, please go to <http://kohl.senate.gov/press/012403b.html>.

SOURCE: Sierra Club and WLCV.

State sets precedent with strict permit conditions on We Energies

Following extensive negotiations between We Energies (formerly Wisconsin Gas Co.), the WDNR, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Waukesha County Environmental Action League, Neighbors Standing United, as well as individual affected area citizens, agreement has been reached that allows the controversial 35-mile “lateral” gas pipeline to proceed. The negotiations resulted from the threat of a contested case hearing requested by WEAL, NSU and affected citizens challenging the permit request by the company. The strict permit conditions established by the DNR for the lateral pipeline have set a new precedent for environmental protection that can be applied to all future pipeline projects in the state.

SOURCE: Charlie Luthin, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, <http://www.wiscwetlands.org>.

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Beach monitoring open houses set

Proposals to improve water quality monitoring at Wisconsin's public beaches along the Great Lakes will be the topic of a series of open houses. The proposals recommend how frequently beaches should be monitored, the level used for detecting possible health risks, and requirements for public notification. For more information contact Ben Vail (608) 266-0152 or Toni Glymph (608) 264-8954. The remaining open houses are scheduled from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Jan 22 Manitowoc** — Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, and
- **Jan 23 Port Washington** — Ozaukee County Administration Building (basement auditorium), 121 W. Main St.

SOURCE: WDNR.

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Missouri DNR swaps water veto power for cash

From the January 9 St. Louis (MO) *Post-Dispatch*: The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has turned over its power to veto projects that affect wetlands, rivers, and streams, in order to cut \$99,000 a year from its budget. The action comes at a time when the Bush Administration is narrowing the definition of protected wetlands, an action viewed as making it easier to develop such areas. More at <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/news/895DFCE52FF9A3A286256CA900354C33?OpenDocument&highlight=2%2CWater&headline=State+scraps+water+certification+program>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 1-15-03.

9th Circuit says FERC licenses not subject to Clean Water Act

On December 16, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that FERC issuance of an annual hydro-power license does not trigger the Clean Water Act water quality certification requirements. But despite an unfavorable ruling, the court's opinion cautions FERC against abusing annual licenses and provides other instances where water quality certification must be required.

California Trout, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting trout and their waters, filed a lawsuit appealing FERC's issuance of an annual license to for the Santa Ana River Hydroelectric Project. The Santa Ana Project, located on the Santa Ana River and its tributaries in San Bernardino County, is owned and operated by Southern California Edison. The Project license expired in 1996, but annual licenses have allowed it to continue to operate with conditions established in 1947. Cal Trout argued that FERC should not have issued the annual license without first requiring Edison to obtain water quality certification from the California State Water Resources Board.

The court disagreed with FERC by holding that it had jurisdiction to consider Cal Trout's challenge, concluding that the annual issuance of a license is the functional equivalent of an order and is subject to review from year to year. However, the court went on to hold that the issuance of an annual license is a non-discretionary act, and therefore not a licensing action that triggers the

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requirements of the Clean Water Act. The court did acknowledge that FERC cannot issue a new license or license amendment without complying with State certification requirements. The court also cautioned FERC against issuing annual licenses in perpetuity, stating that annual licenses should be issued only as long as FERC is proceeding in good faith to complete the relicensing. More at <http://www.caltrout.org/consact/Hydro.html>.

SOURCE: American Rivers, hydroreform@action.amrivers.org.

Study says wetland restoration can prevent flooding

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Farmers in Dane County and throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin can protect their operations from flooding damage by restoring wetlands on their property, according to the study “Flood Damage Reduction by Ecological Means” released by the Sierra Club and the Wetlands Initiative. According to the January 8 press release, There are more than 30,000 acres of potential restorable wetlands in Dane County, which experienced very severe flooding damage in 1993. “It just makes sense to help farmers restore our wetlands rather than pay billions in flood damage, crop insurance, and moving people out of floodplains,” according to Bret Hulsey, report co-author, Sierra Club senior Midwest representative, and a Dane County supervisor. Donald Hey, senior vice president of the Wetlands Initiative in Chicago said farmers “can protect yourself(s) from flooding by restoring wetlands upstream and slowing water runoff. Our studies show that Dane County has 30,000-40,000 acres of potential for wetlands restoration for cleaner water and less severe flooding.” The press release can be accessed through The Wheeler Report web site at <http://thewheelerreport.com/releases/Jan03/0108sierrawetland.PDF>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 1-15-03.

Study examines phosphorus and nitrogen stream loading

From the January/February 2003 PDPW publication *Dairy's Bottom Line* (distributed by Agri-View): Dennis Frame provides an update on the first year of Discovery Farms’ research efforts. While emphasizing that data are preliminary, preliminary information from the Bragger Farm shows that approximately 90 percent of total phosphorus loading into streams occurred during storms, and approximately 90 percent of nitrogen loading into streams occurred during baseflow. “This information is important in deciding what management techniques will best reduce N and P entering the stream,” according to Frame. “Since N is largely a subsurface issue, buffers are not likely going to be effective at reducing N inputs to surface water. On the other hand, P is an over-land flow issue, where buffers and other edge-of-field management practices may help keep excess P (and sediment) out of our water.” More at <http://www.pdpw.org/Archive/01-03/Page11.pdf>.

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SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 1-15-03.

Oil spills into Lake Superior tributary

The Associated Press reports, “A pipeline carrying crude oil ruptured, dumping nearly 19,000 gallons onto the frozen Nemadji River, a tributary of Lake Superior. At least 100,000 gallons spilled at Enbridge Energy Terminal, about two miles from the lake, but most of it was contained within the terminal’s ditches and retention ponds, company officials said.”

SOURCE: AP.

Stream monitoring ‘train the trainer’ sessions set

Dates have been scheduled for two volunteer stream monitoring “Train the Trainer” sessions. These are designed to be attended by those people who would like to be trainers at future volunteer stream monitoring training sessions. If you are interested in attending one of the Train the Trainer sessions (more in-depth than a regular training session to provide background information about procedures used by volunteer stream monitors and to promote consistency among training sessions), let me know. There’s no charge for these events. (These could be appropriate for teachers who will instruct their classes in monitoring, but regular sessions are OK for that as well.)

- Tuesday, April 8, at Salmo Pond County Park in Cross Plains. Times TBA (will be a full day). Contact Kris Stepenuck for information at (608)265-3887 or (608) 264-8948; or kris.stepenuck@ces.uwex.edu,
- Tuesday, May 6, at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek. Times TBA (will be a full day). Contact Kris Stepenuck for information.

So far, there are five regular training sessions scheduled for volunteer stream monitoring. I’ve included current information about those, but check the “Upcoming events” portion of the WAV website at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/events.htm> for updated listings.

SOURCE: Kris Stepenuck, kris.stepenuck@ces.uwex.edu.

New Jersey issues new waterways rules

A Jan. 13 *Star Ledger* story notes Gov McGreevey has announced an expansion of rules aiming to reduce pollution in New Jersey’s waterways. This expansion will minimally affect 22 rivers proposed for the designation, and potentially more in the upcoming months. The Category 1 designation, restricting any discharge that increases a toxin’s level, is proposed to be extended to waterways used for drinking water. Traditionally Category 1 rivers were trout habitats. In a move prompting objection from various groups, the Department of Environmental Protection has proposed a ban on construction within 300ft. of a Category 1 river. Jeff Tittel, New Jersey Sierra Club Director, remarked, “Not only is this an important tool to protect drinking water, it will do more than 10 years of State Planning Commission meetings to bring smart growth to New Jersey.” For more information on how to protect your state’s waterways visit <http://www.serconline.org/waterconservation/background.html>.

SOURCE: SERC “Wildlines Report,” wildlines@serconline.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAW seeks Exec. Director to replace Todd Ambs

The River Alliance of Wisconsin is seeking an executive director to replace Todd Ambs, who has left the river organization to head the water division of the WDNR. The ideal candidate will bring enthusiasm and extensive experience in nonprofit management, policy development, and fund raising. This is a great opportunity to lead one of the fastest growing, most respected, and effective conservation groups in Wisconsin. See the River Alliance web site at www.wisconsinrivers.org for details.

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI.

Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 10-12

Three days of everything you wanted to know about lakes. See program and registration form at <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/convention/WIlakesconv03.htm>.

NHLT Exec. Director position open

NHLT seeking Exec. Director

Please circulate this job announcement for the Executive Director position at the Natural Heritage Land Trust (formerly the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation). The deadline is very soon, February 10. Natural Heritage Land Trust, a private, non-profit conservation organization based in Madison, Wisconsin, covering Dane and surrounding counties, is seeking an Executive Director to implement the mission, policies, and plans of the organization under the supervision of the Board of Directors. More at www.nhlt.org.

Conservation agency seeks technical service providers

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wisconsin is seeking sources to help them provide technical assistance to farmers in conservation programs. Private businesses, non-profit groups, individuals, agencies or other organizations are all eligible to apply to become Technical Service Providers. For more information, see Technical Service Providers on the Wisconsin NRCS website at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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

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First-ever Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book release date set

The Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book will be released March 3 at 10 a.m. in Room 400 SE of the State Capitol. The Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book details the most important conservation issues facing legislators this session and presents corresponding policy recommendations. Coordinated by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the book represents the collaborative effort of over 30 conservation and environmental groups, land trusts, government advisors, and academics. It will serve as a great resource to you and your office when dealing with conservation issues, such as:

- Restoring the Public Intervenor,
- Water quality and quantity,
- Energy generation,
- Preserving farmland,
- DNR Secretary Independence,
- Mercury reduction,
- Mining,
- Clean Air law,
- Smart Growth,
- Utilizing federal funds,
- Preserving shoreland,
- Tourism,
- Groundwater withdrawal,
- And much more.

SOURCE: Anne Sayers, Director of Communications, Wisconsin Conservation Voters Institute, Regional Program Associate, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, (608) 850-4585.

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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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