



WSNetwork News

April 1, 2003

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

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Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

Gaylord Nelson attending Namekagon paddle May 10

I just got the word. Gaylord Nelson is coming to our Namekagon River Gathering. He is flying here from D.C. He believes very much in what we are doing. And believes in protecting the Namekagon River. He is bringing a film crew who is doing a documentary on his life. This will make the NRG a VERY big deal. He's excited about coming. This is a very happy moment for us. To find out more about Gaylord and the Namekagon visit this web site: <http://www.superiorbroadcastnet.com/Issues/GaylordNelson/GaylordNelson.htm> or Gaylord's web site <http://www.beyondearthday.com>. This event is sponsored by Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL), River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and Wisconsin's Environmental Decade.

SOURCE: Sandy Lyon, water@spacestar.net.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

TU signs George Meyer letter calling for independent DNR

For several years now, Wisconsin TU has backed proposals to return the position of DNR secretary to report to the DNR board, rather than to the governor, which is the current practice. Now,

WSN 2003 annual conference tapes available

The Maude Barlow, Robert Glennon, and George Kraft "WI 2003 Year of Water Forum" — plus selected conference break-out sessions — are now available for rental or purchase from the WSN. Click [here](#) for more information on which sessions were taped and how to get a copy. These tapes would be great to help your group flesh out one of your upcoming monthly meetings.

George Meyer, former secretary, is heading an effort on behalf of a number of state fishing, hunting, and conservation organizations to put pressure on the legislature to release the pending legislation to the floor of the senate for a debate and vote. Meyer believes he has the votes, if he can just get DuWayne Johnsrud to bring the bill out of committee.

I have signed the attached letter on behalf of the Council. Please consider signing on as chapters and send your signature block back to George. Thanks for your help.

SOURCE: Jon Christiansen, Chair, WI Council of Trout Unlimited.

Oregon Governor says economy, environment are entwined

From the March 25 *Oregonian*, "In his first major speech on the environment, Gov. Kulongoski said the recession should not be used as an excuse to weaken protections for wildlife or natural resources. He promised to veto legislation attacking Oregon's endangered species act, particularly those seeking to remove protection for wolves. The Governor also said that while natural resources departments would have to share the burden of funding cuts with other state agencies, he would oppose any moves to gut their budgets. He specifically expressed support for the Oregon pesticide reporting system, salmon habitat restoration, energy conservation and development of renewable energy systems, which he said will create jobs. "It's important that we keep Oregon's existing environmental standards in place. I will oppose any legislation that attempts to roll them back," the Governor said.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 13, March 31, 2003.

Dear Speaker Gard and Chairman Johnsrud:

The undersigned hunting, fishing and trapping organizations representing tens of thousands of hunters, anglers and trappers throughout the State of Wisconsin respectfully request that the Assembly Natural Resources Committee schedule a hearing in the very near future on Assembly Bill 30. This bill relates to the Natural Resources Board appointment authority of the DNR Secretary. Please let us know of the hearing date. Thank you very much for your help on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Christiansen

Cc: Governor James Doyle
Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer
Senator Neal Kedzie
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Secretary Scott Hassett

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Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation

Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement

State files environmental case against Baldwin dairy

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager on March 18 filed a civil environmental complaint against Baldwin Dairy in St. Croix County for allegedly violating state environmental laws in March, 2002. According to the state's complaint, Baldwin Dairy owns and operates a large dairy farm that contains more than 1,000 animal units and is subject to the terms of a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) wastewater permit issued by the DNR. The complaint alleges that Baldwin Dairy violated the terms of its permit on March 13-16, 2002, by landspreading liquid manure on a field that was frozen and snow covered and contained slopes of greater than nine percent.

"The alleged violations by Baldwin Dairy pose a serious threat to Wisconsin wetlands and our natural environment — and to the health of our citizens," Lautenschlager said. "My office will hold violators fully accountable for their failure to comply with Wisconsin's environmental laws and regulations."

SOURCE: State of Wisconsin Dept. of Justice.

Door County Board creates groundwater protection zone

The Green Bay *Press-Gazette* reported on March 26, "The Door County Board voted Tuesday to establish a new groundwater protection zone 10 miles north and south of the city. The Sturgeon Bay Wellhead Protection Zone is aimed at preventing contaminants like bacteria and fertilizer runoff from reaching the city's wells. That's a big issue in Door County because of the peninsula's shallow rocky soil. The zone will become an immediate priority for accelerated septic system inspections. Some agricultural practices will also be more closely regulated. County officials will seek new grant money to help homeowners and businesses deal the cost of complying with the new restrictions."

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*, pbrinkma@greenbaypressgazette.com via Jamie Annear, jannear@wisc.edu.

Mega-farms runoff concerns growing in Michigan

A story in the *Ann Arbor News* on March 24 states, "State regulators and environmentalists are growing increasingly more worried that the surface waters of Michigan are becoming more contaminated due to unregulated waste from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Although the farms are able to produce up to 50 lbs. of milk per cow per day, the waste from those farms is often times comparable to a large city that does not treat its municipal waste. Volunteer manure watchers and small farm owners are pressuring the MI Dept. of Environmental Quality to step up its testing and enforcement of the megafarms. Dan Wyant of the Dept. of Agriculture contends that big farms do not mean big pollution as long as they are properly placed and utilize the

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proper technology, while farmers contend that megasizing is the only way to survive. In recent weeks water samples from megafarms in two counties revealed levels of bacteria and dissolved oxygen far above government regulations. For more information on how states are dealing with CAFOs, see <http://serconline.org/cafos.html>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 13, March 31, 2003.

Forest Fragmentation

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Mercury Reduction

Mercury thermometer ban bill introduced

The first non-budget bills on solid waste issues introduced are Senate Bill 10 and Assembly Bill 23, which would ban the sale of most mercury thermometers. Senator Robson and Representative Joe Plouff are the main sponsors, but there are 6 co-sponsors in the Senate and 12 in the Assembly, with members from both parties. The bill was assigned to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. The history and text can be found on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB10hst.html> and <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/AB23hst.html>.

SOURCE: *Solid Waste Legislative Update*, March 31, 2003, John Reindl.

Looking for mercury thermometers being sold

I am doing an informal survey to find out if any stores in Wisconsin are continuing to sell mercury fever thermometers, either individually or as part of a “baby” kit that new parents might buy. Drug stores and grocery stores are both sellers of both fever and baby kit thermometers, but other stores may also carry them. It is my understanding that Walgreens has discontinued selling these thermometers, but I have been told by folks at DATCP that perhaps Osco stores and maybe some other stores are selling mercury thermometers. Thanks in advance for any information that you can provide. I would be interested in negative reports as well as reports of stores that do sell them.

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

Metallic Mining

BCPL land purchase authority sought by Doyle

The Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel* reported on March 28, “A provision in Gov. Jim Doyle’s proposed budget to broaden the powers of an obscure state board could be used as a vehicle to purchase the Crandon mine property.” However, the newspaper when on to erroneously report, “If approved, the provision could take money from a state fund that pays for improvements for schools and libraries, and use it to help bankroll a possible acquisition of the controversial northern Wisconsin mine site.” That statement is somewhat misleading. Actually, if the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands purchased the Crandon Mine, the forest property would become one of the agency’s revenue-producing timber land *assets*, generating money for schools from managed timber sales into the future. Another newspaper’s take on this story is at http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local_9509929.shtml.

SOURCE: Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel* and WSN.

Poll: Wisconsin citizens still oppose mine

Opposition to the proposed Crandon Mine in Northern Wisconsin still runs high with Wisconsin residents. According to a January, 2003, poll commissioned by the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC), citizens statewide still oppose a sulfide mine in Northern Wisconsin by almost 2 to 1. These results are consistent with a June 2001 poll where opposition to a sulfide mine in Northern Wisconsin was 2 to 1. More than 54% of those polled in January 2003 oppose a sulfide mine, while only 28% support it. The scientific and random telephone poll, by Chamberlain Research Consultants, covered 600 Wisconsin residents during the end of January, 2003. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.97 percentage points.

SOURCE: Forest County Potawatomi Community, PO Box 340, Crandon, WI 54520, Bill McClenahan (414) 405-1051.

Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection

April 1 vote in Florence County on Wild Rivers zoning

The Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA) seeks public support to protect the County’s Wild Rivers Zoning. At the upcoming Florence County Zoning Committee meeting and hearing, on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m., at the County Courthouse in Florence, the Zoning Committee will take a final, decisive vote on the issue and make a recommendation to the full County Board.

Home to the Pine and Popple Rivers, two of the state's three state-designated Wild Rivers, Florence County enacted the visionary Wild Rivers zoning in the 1970s, after the rivers were designated. The larger lot sizes and greater setbacks have helped protect the rivers and their shorelines. At a recent public meeting on March 17, county resident Carol Albers questioned why weakening of river protection was still being considered when overwhelming public opinion favored continuing protection. Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission, which had been commissioned by the county, at a cost of \$27,000, had also recommended continuing the special river corridor zoning.

Rachel Engelseer, acting chair of the Florence Business League, related her feeling that scenic, non-polluted rivers were positive influences in long-term county growth, prosperity, and quality of life. Warren "Bucko" Soderberg, legendary local fisherman, made an emotional plea for cooperation between all outdoor groups to prevent damage to the rivers, "Please allow me to pass this fishing experience on to my grandchildren."

FCLARA encourages citizens to telephone Zoning Committee members to voice their support for keeping Wild Rivers Zoning in place. It is particularly vital that Florence County residents, property owners, visitors and friends make their voices heard. FCLARA invites the public to turn out on April 1, and submit comments in support of Wild Rivers Zoning. Florence County Board members' contact information is available from the County Clerk at (715) 528-3203 or from Phil Southworth of FCLARA at (715) 528-3011, philsour@netnet.net, or online at <http://www.florencewisconsin.com/Agency/countyboard/cbm02.htm>.

SOURCE: Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association, Phil Southworth, (715) 528-3011, philsour@netnet.net.

Langlade County trout farm's water bottling proposal delayed

We had a good crowd of Trout Unlimited people at the County Board zoning committee meeting. The applicant stated that he had been trying to sell the fish hatchery since June and he has" now taken it off the market." The zoning board voted 4-1 to return the request to the town of Polar for further consideration. The Town of Polar chairman was present and he asked for it to be sent back to the town.

SOURCE: George Rock, riverrocks@dwave.net.

New legislation will protect state's groundwater

Legislation introduced March 17 will strengthen protection for our state's groundwater supplies. The proposal, introduced by Representative Spencer Black, will close a major loophole in Wisconsin's groundwater law.

Black's proposal would add a criteria to the current law that requires permits for high-capacity wells — wells that can draw more than a hundred thousand gallons of groundwater a day. Current Wisconsin law allows the state to deny a high-capacity well permit only if it threatens a public water supply. If a high-capacity well threatens to harm streams, lakes, or wetlands, the state lacks clear legal authority to deny the permit for the high capacity well.

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The loophole in current law became evident when Perrier, a subsidiary of Swiss conglomerate Nestle Foods, submitted an application to withdraw 720,000 gallons of water a day from Big Springs in Adams County. The DNR had no authority to deny the application because the well did not adversely affect a public water supply and issued the permit to Perrier even though the Perrier well threatened to affect local lake levels and wetlands. The project was eventually stopped because local zoning permission was denied for a factory to bottle the water.

“Our current groundwater law is too weak. Wisconsin needs clear legal authority to make sure that our water resources are not harmed by Perrier or anyone else if their operation is found to endanger our streams, lakes or wetlands,” Black said. “Fortunately, strong local opposition helped persuade Perrier to drop its plan. But it was a wakeup call that Wisconsin is not equipped to protect our groundwater from the next Perrier that comes along,” Black said.

“Other states have experienced major problems due to unrestrained groundwater withdrawal. Now is the time to set up a thoughtful system to prevent those problems from occurring here in Wisconsin,” Black said.

SOURCE: Rep. Black’s office, (608) 266-7521.

People invited to track shoreland zoning rewrite progress

I was forwarded your e-newsletter and wanted to see if you could include in future editions updates about current state efforts to update the shoreland protection rules and an invitation for citizens to weigh in on how the shoreland protection rules should change. As you know, this issue is very controversial but stronger protection is also very much needed to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and recreation. The issue has really only been covered closely by newspapers in Oneida and Vilas County, and we are concerned that all Wisconsin citizens get a full and fair accounting of why these shoreland protection rules are important, and also are aware of how they can get their opinions on the topic heard.

We will be issuing a press release later today about the next meeting of the advisory committee helping revise the rules. It can be found as a headline on DNR’s homepage at www.dnr.state.wi.us. Also, please feel free to direct your members to our shoreland management pages on our web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/news>. The DNR staff working on the rule revision are posting to that site all the materials they are making available to the committee, as well as current research on shoreland topics and shoreland restoration, so it’s a good resource.

We’re excited to see WSN has adopted shoreland protection as one of your key topics. We appreciate any help in increasing awareness and understanding of the critical role shoreland areas play, and in revising rules so they best protect those areas while allowing waterfront property owners a little more flexibility.

SOURCE: Lisa Gaumnitz, WDNR Public Affairs, Lisa.Gaumnitz@dnr.state.wi.us.

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UW-SP student ‘Spirit of Water’ event April 22

A water celebration called *Nibi: The Spirit of Water* will take place in the Laird Room of the UW-Stevens Point University Center April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, and lunch is \$10:00. Concerned students and the public will be hearing from many speakers on water problems they and their communities are facing including economic, political, scientific, cultural, and health issues. Native Americans, scientists, and other professionals will be sharing their knowledge and expertise on water issues from their unique perspectives.

Ken Fish of the Menominee Nation, Arleen Kanno of the Concerned Citizens of Newport, George Kraft, and Michael Nelson of UW-SP are just four of the many outstanding speakers we will be hearing from. Contact evoll664@uwsp.edu with any questions.

SOURCE: L&S Development Office, CCC, 132 University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54881, Anna Rozumalski, Anna.H.Rozumalski@uwsp.edu.

FMR annual cleanup April 26

Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers Annual Cleanup will be Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. This community event brings together members and volunteers to clean up and preserve Milwaukee’s waterways, while learning the importance of watershed health and a good stewardship ethic. The River Clean-Up also promotes community service and builds community pride. If you would like to participate at one of FMR’s coordinated sites or if you would like to be a site captain and help FMR coordinate additional cleanup sites along the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers, call FMR.

SOURCE: Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers, (414) 476-6042, mrriver@ameritech.net via River Alliance’s CANOE.

Legislation to protect isolated wetlands introduced in House and Senate

On Feb. 27 Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) introduced S 473, a bill that would protect isolated wetlands by amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Three other members of the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), which has jurisdiction over the matter, co-sponsored the bill: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT), and Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT). Sen. Leahy (D-VT) is also a co-sponsor of the bill. The House companion bill, HR 962, was introduced by Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) and is co-sponsored by 23 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

Federal jurisdiction over isolated wetlands has become a controversial topic since the “SWANCC” decision of the Supreme Court. In that case, the Court ruled that the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers had overstepped their authority under the Clean Water Act by using the Migratory Bird Rule to assert jurisdiction over isolated intrastate non-navigable wetlands. This past January, the EPA announced a new rule that would limit assertion of federal jurisdiction over such waters, which includes prairie potholes and bogs. The EPA estimates that the new rule would affect up to 20 million acres of wetlands that were previously under federal protection.

According to Feingold the proposed legislation would

- adopt a statutory definition of “waters of the United States” based on the long-standing definition in Corps of Engineers regulations,
- delete the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act so as to “clarify that Congress’ primary concern in 1972 was to protect the nation’s waterways from pollution, rather than just to sustain the navigability of waterways,” and
- contain documentation supporting Congress’ authority over all waters and wetlands, based on grounds including the Commerce Clause, the Property Clause, the Treaty Clause and the Necessary and Proper Clause of the Constitution.

SOURCE: Aquatic Sciences, February 2003 *Policy Update*, Adrienne Froelich ASLO Director of Public Policy, afroelich@aslo.org.

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States protecting isolated wetlands amid federal gap

The Great Falls Tribune on March 10 reports, “States are taking steps to protect their isolated wetlands after federal agencies announced one month ago that federal protection of these areas was coming to an end. According to estimates made by the US EPA, 20 percent of all wetlands in the lower 48 states are isolated. Isolated wetlands are key to regional water health, as they recharge groundwater, soak up floodwaters, filter out pollutants, and provide habitat for wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that up to 43 percent of the nation’s endangered species rely on wetlands for their survival. Seventeen states have taken specific measures to protect these wetlands. Many states are, however, still unwilling to undertake new regulatory systems to protect isolated wetlands in the face of severe budget shortfalls. Instead, states are using new interpretations of existing legislation to protect these important areas. For example, Montana, Nevada, and Idaho are using laws that prohibit developers from dumping sediment or debris into state waters to protect isolated wetlands. For more on how your state can protect wetlands, see <http://serconline.org/wetlands/index.html>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 12, March 24, 2003, ildlines@serconline.org.

DNR Waste Bureau said to be eyeing increasing landfill limits

Under pressure (and semi-veiled threats) from landfill owner/operator Onyx/Superior and their counsel, the DNR’s Waste Bureau is exploring rule changes that will permit significant capacity expansion at solid waste landfills in Wisconsin. This is happening immediately on the heels of the Waste Division and NRB’s adoption of a long-term policy vision of “Moving Toward Zero Waste.” To paraphrase Albert Einstein, you can not simultaneously move toward Zero Waste and increase landfill capacity.

The so-called 1,200-foot leachate line rule regulates the size of solid waste landfills by limiting the maximum perimeter of leachate collection systems (pipes to catch the toxic juice squeezed out

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of landfilled materials). Changing the 1,200-foot rule, as Onyx/Superior seeks to do, would allow for expansion of landfill capacity.

SOURCE: David Wood, Program Director GrassRoots Recycling Network, 2203 Regent Street, Suite B Madison WI 53726 (608) 232-1830, david@grn.org or www.grn.org.

Year of Water DNR web site opens

The public can find facts, figures, and milestones regarding water in Wisconsin on new web pages that help celebrate 2003 as the “Year of Water” and highlight looming water challenges. The web pages on the DNR web site also offer teachers and other educators activities related to Wisconsin’s water resources and can be found at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/division/yow/.

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Florida developers write groundwater bill

The St. Petersburg *Times* on March 20 reported, “A freshman Florida lawmaker was so unfamiliar with his own bill last week that he couldn’t answer any questions posed by a legislative committee. So he turned to someone he said was the expert: a lobbyist for the state’s biggest developers. The lobbyist, Jim Garner of the Assoc. of Florida Community Developers, helped write the bill for Rep. Baxter Troutman. It’s not unusual for lobbyists to write legislation, but it is unusual for a lawmaker to admit that a lobbyist knew more about a bill he’s sponsoring. Troutman’s bill (HB 1005) is opposed by environmentalists and the state Dept. of Environmental Protection. It would change a state law that allows some of Florida’s groundwater to be reserved to benefit the environment. The law has been used only once in Florida history, according to the DEP. Developers worry the law might hurt them if the state decides not to grant water permits for new development where the environment is stressed. Garner is particularly concerned because he represents golf course developments. The bill passed unanimously.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 12, March 24, 2003, ildlines@serconline.org.

The New *Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program* released

On March 14, EPA released *Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program*. This guidance document recommends ten basic elements of a holistic, comprehensive monitoring program that serves all water quality management needs and addresses all water body types. The elements provide a basic framework that may be tailored to the specific needs of States or other organizations. The elements include important activities such as developing a strategy that integrates the efforts of monitoring partners, articulating monitoring objectives, designing networks and selecting indicators that serve management needs, ensuring the quality and integrity of data and analyses, managing and reporting data, conducting program evaluations and documenting resource needs to ensure effective program implementation. The final document is being sent to the printer and posted on the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/>.

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(NOTE: This report has been downloaded and will be on the WSN 2004 conference CD.)

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-19-03.

Groups asked to help in opposing Clean Water Act rulemaking

If your organization is not already involved in the Network's response to the administration's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) and guidance that would limit the jurisdictional scope of the Clean Water Act, now is the time to do so. With the public comment period open until April 16, we encourage all organizations and individual activists to voice their opposition to this unprecedented threat to the Act.

Here's how you can help. Our sample state comment template, designed to provide you with substantive comment points and provide a framework for your comments to EPA, is now available. Please email or call Ryan at rhamilton@nrdc.org to receive a copy.

SOURCE: Ryan Hamilton, cleanwaternt@igc.org.

Hydro legislation in House energy bill reverses trend of licensing reform

The House has made an early bid on a comprehensive energy bill, already marked up last Wednesday, March 19, and headed for full Committee markup next week. While the environmental and public interest communities have identified several problems with the bill, the hydropower provisions are some of the most contentious.

In short, the energy bill's hydropower title is exceptionally biased in favor of licensees at the expense of the environment, public participation, and real reform of the licensing process. The title allows license applicants — and only license applicants — to offer alternative license conditions to those proposed by the federal agencies. It places a significant burden on resource agencies to evaluate such alternatives, considering not only their effectiveness but also a range of additional factors in including air quality. The title also allows only license applicants to challenge any condition in a "trial-type" hearing. Where similar "trial-type" hearings are already an agency practice, officials tell us that the average hearing duration is two years. Another hydropower provision entitles the industry to enormous efficiency subsidies without qualifying that any upgrades must not cause additional environmental harm.

Finally, the legislation arrives at the same time that stakeholders are expected to work collaboratively in a comprehensive rulemaking at FERC. Certainly a shadow is cast over the effectiveness of this rulemaking and any collaborative spirit built there. For any background on the content of this language, fact sheets, or testimonies, send requests to coordinator@hydroreform.org.

SOURCE: Hydropower Reform Coalition, hydroreform@action.amrivers.org.

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EPA Administrator Whitman withdraws proposed TMDL rule

In an action strongly supported by agriculture, forestry, states, industry, and the U.S. Congress, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman on March 13 withdrew a controversial rule that would have revised EPA's program for cleaning up impaired waters — the July 2000 final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule. The 2000 rule was determined to be unworkable based on reasons described by more than 34,000 comments and was challenged in court by some two dozen parties. Congress stopped the rule's implementation, and the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) found numerous drawbacks with the July 2000 rule.

An overwhelming majority of comments (more than 90%) supported EPA's proposed action to withdraw the July 2000 rule. These comments came from a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including agricultural and forestry groups, business and industry entities and trade associations, state agencies, professional associations, academic groups, private citizens. More details at the web site. The Final Rule will be published in the federal register soon. For more information please visit the TMDL website at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-19-03.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LCVEF offering groups list enhancement

It's list enhancement time once more! This project, sponsored by the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, can help your organization communicate with your members more effectively and efficiently by matching your membership lists with the state voter file. We will provide enhanced information on your members such as:

- Voting history — how frequently a person votes (although not who they voted for),
- Congressional and state legislative districts,
- County and voting precinct,
- Demographic information such as age and gender, and
- Updated phone numbers.

Throughout the process your data will be kept confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than to match your names against the voter file. The more than 50 organizations that have participated in the project in the past have used the information to:

- Design Get Out the Vote programs to get high frequency voters to the polls,
- Inform lawmakers of exactly how many members of your group are voting constituents,
- Mailing out State LCV Scorecards to members of environmental groups,
- Swapping lists with groups that have similar demographics, and
- Create GIS maps showing where members live in relation to polluted areas, water bodies, etc.

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This year the cost of participating is \$50. The deadline for applications is April 23. Please call or e-mail Anne Sayers for more information at (608) 850-4585 or anne_sayers@levef.org.

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

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust seeks executive director

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust seeks a proven leader with team-building, organizational development, and land conservation skills. Send resume and cover letter to: P.O. Box 2675, Appleton, WI 54912-2675 or newlt@voyager.net. Resumes will be accepted until April 21, 2003.

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WI Conservation Power project seeks director

The Conservation Power Project is a project of a coalition of environmental and conservation organizations in Wisconsin. It aims to build environmental power by elevating the saliency of environmental and conservation issues in Wisconsin. The vision of the project is to create an atmosphere where the public expects, and demands that policy makers support basic environmental protections like clean air, clean water, and open spaces. Further, the project seeks to educate environmental voters to become more involved in the public debate.

Seeking director to increase civic activism of sporting, environmental groups. Nine month duration, extension possible. Excellent communication, fundraising, management skills. Grassroots organizing helpful. Range \$36-41K annual plus benefits. Submit resume by March 28 to River Alliance of WI, 306 East Wilson St Ste 2W, Madison WI 53703 or wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org.

Last Joint Finance Committee meetings in early April

You will have the opportunity to tell state Legislators at public hearings to protect the environment while balancing the budget. The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will hold a series of six public hearings on the biennial budget bill (SB-44) in six locations over a three-week period. All hearings will begin at 10 a.m. and run until 5 p.m.

The dates and locations of the remaining hearings are:

- **Thursday, April 3: River Falls.** River Falls High School, 818 Cemetery Road.
- **Tuesday, April 8: Platteville.** UW-Platteville Center for the Arts, 1 University Plaza.
- **Wednesday, April 9: Madison.** Room 412-E, State Capitol.

For more information on how to balance the budget while protecting the environment, please see: http://actionnetwork.org/alert-description.tcl?alert_id=2003264.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Inter-Network.

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Woodland owners' workshop April 26 in Trego

Please join us at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center near Trego, WI, on April 26, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a day-long workshop that will provide examples of how woodland owners in Northwestern Wisconsin can work together to bolster their woodland stewardship. It will also feature an opportunity for a "walk in the woods" with a Washburn County Forester. Feel free to contact either Isaac Nadeau (608) 258-4395 nadeauisaac@hotmail.com or myself if you have any questions. The registration brochure (in PDF format) for the Northwestern Wisconsin Woodland Owner Collaboration is available at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/woodland/conference/northwest.htm>.

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Wind development workshop April 11 in Janesville

A *Utility-Scale Wind Development* workshop will be held Friday, April 11, at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville. The workshop will help landowners, town and county board officials, economic development professionals, and land and water conservation representatives to understand the process for developing wind sites, know some of the options and issues for developing wind sites, and learn what their next steps should be and who to contact for assistance. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Blackhawk Hills RC&D, at (815) 625-3854 or visit www.blackhawkhills.com. This workshop is hosted by the RC&D organizations in southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

SOURCE: Diane Georgetta, diane.georgetta@wi.usda.gov.

GIS Expo April 9 in Madison

Don't miss the Spring 2003 DNR Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Expo on Wednesday, April 9. BEITA's GIS Analysis & Mapping Services and Enterprise Data Management sections will host the annual event on the eighth floor of the DNR Central Office at 101 South Webster Street in Madison (GEF2). No advance registration is required and there is no charge.

This spring's GIS Expo will feature a series of half-hour tutorials and presentations on the effective use of GIS tools to meet DNR's business needs, in room 817 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Those attending informal demonstrations running concurrently in Room 875 and the eighth floor GIS labs will have a chance to view custom applications and hands-on use of GIS tools. Descriptions of Expo presentations and demos will be posted on the GIS Expo web page. The sessions are free and there is no need to advance register.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-26-03.

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WSN 2003 CONFERENCE TAPES AVAILABLE

Tapes of selected WSN 2003 annual conference programs and breakout sessions are now available. The conference was held Feb. 21-22, and UW-Stevens Point students and others taped many of the conference events. The following VHS tapes are available, each of which contain several sessions:

TAPE 1

- Forest fragmentation issues in Wisconsin,
- Rating the WLCV legislative scorecard,
- WI motorboat gas tax revision in Wisconsin, and
- Next steps in Wisconsin's fight against CWD.

TAPE 2

- How to speak with and influence your legislator,
- Water Follies (featuring Robert Glennon), and
- WSN priority issue selection process (various issue presentations).

TAPE 3

- "WSN 2003 Year of Water Forum" featuring Maude Barlow, Robert Glennon, and George Kraft. Includes both the panel discussion and audience Q&A.

Some programs are also available on DVD courtesy of WSN board member Dave Wisnefske. The WSN has not set a fixed price structure for these tapes, but we ask member and nonmember organizations to contribute something to either buying or renting these tapes to underwrite their production and distribution. Call or e-mail WSN Member Services Director Chris Nehrbass at the WSN office at (608) 268-1218 or cnehrbass@chorus.net to discuss your needs.

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

The WSN's **Board of Directors** consists of representatives from the following organizations: Brown County Conservation Alliance, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, 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. Federa-

tion, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, plus individuals who serve as at-large members.

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

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

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