



WSNetwork News

May 1, 2002

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

Click to jump to news on these WSN priority issues:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration Combined!](#)
- [Factory Farming](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation *New!*](#)
- [Groundwater Protection](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland/Wetland Protection](#)

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

Arrowhead contractors criticized for rough-shod practices

Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) was recently made aware of disturbing information that confirms SOUL's belief that the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line will result in severe environmental impacts if constructed. Throughout informational meetings and the hearing process, the public and various state agencies have been assured that the utilities involved in this project, Minnesota Power and Wisconsin Public Service, would do their best to mitigate any potential environmental issues and follow the "Wisconsin Construction Site Best Management Practice Handbook" if they move forward on this project. It has not taken long for the utilities to exhibit the quality of work that they consider "adequate" and "environmentally acceptable" during recent soil borings in Douglas County. The documented results are truly disturbing.

But the biggest area of concern centers around the borings themselves. Despite the fact that some of these test sights were bored two months ago, the forty foot deep, six inch diameter holes have been left open after completion of the borings with no precautions taken to prevent a small child, hikers, biker or horsemen from discovering these borings in an unfortunate way. One hole in particular was found over a quarter mile from the right of way area to be used, left open in the center of a well used horse trail. Again, here is the larger problem. For the most part the utilities are on an honor system with the state to do the job right. The sheer size and magnitude of this construction project leaves the agencies entrusted with enforcement wondering who and where enforcement lies. After numerous phone calls, locally, out of county and reaching to Madison, land owners may finally be receiving needed answers, but are still hoping for local level enforcement

for these environmental atrocities, which they fear are only the beginning of damage to our fragile ecosystem.

SOURCE: Mark Liebaert, (715) 398-5234 and Tom Kreager (715) 693-3143.

WPS going to court to gain access to private lands

Frustrated with the refusal of Marathon County landowners to grant access to their property for surveying and soil borings, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) has resorted to lawsuits against individuals to gain access. When the Public Service Commission granted WPS a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line, their final written order stated that the CPCN only takes effect when WPS acquires all needed permits from the Wisconsin DNR. Without a valid CPCN, WPS could only *request* permission for access.

Out of frustration, WPS has chosen to “bully” five landowners into granting the desired access or make an example of them. These landowners were served with a summons on Friday, April 19. This summons ordered them to appear before the Honorable Judge James Mohr a week later and show just cause why a restraining order should not be issued against them. If they failed to address the court, or cannot develop an adequate case in less than a week, WPS will be given unlimited access to their private property.

SOURCE: SOUL.

Academy forum on May 8 examines private property rights

The right to own and control land lies at the heart of what it means to be an American. But tension has been growing between private property rights on the one hand and the public’s “right” to use land for the public good on the other. The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters is holding a public forum on May 8 from 7-9 p.m. at the Red Gym’s On Wisconsin room, 716 Langdon Street in Madison to explore these questions. Co-sponsors include the UW-Madison Land Tenure Center, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, 1922 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705 (608) 263-1692, www.wisconsinacademy.org.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

PIO/DNR Conservation Congress floor resolutions pass convincingly

The Brown County Conservation Alliance received notice today from Al Phelan of the WDNR that two resolutions introduced by the Brown County Conservation Alliance at the April 8 Spring Fish and Game Hearings held throughout the state passed almost unanimously in 70 of the 72

Wisconsin Counties. Only Oneida County and Juneau County did not pass the resolutions. The first resolution was a motion that the legislature restore the selection of the Secretary of the DNR to the Natural Resources Board as it was mandated in 1967. The second resolution was a motion that the Legislature reinstate the Office of the Public Intervenor to its former status within the Justice Department, with all its former funding and powers.

| 2002 WI CONSERVATION CONGRESS | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| DNR INDEPENDENCE / PUBLIC INTERVENOR VOTES | | |
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| Restore board-appointed DNR secretary | 6,448 | 238 |
| Restore public intervenor office | 5,717 | 376 |

These resolutions are supported by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the State Council for Trout Unlimited, the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, the Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sports Fisherman, the Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Society, Dr. Nina Leopold Bradley of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, Mr. George Meyer, former Secretary to the DNR, and numerous other organizations, clubs, and conservationists throughout Wisconsin.

The Brown County Conservation Alliance will be using this information to collect position statements from all candidates running for public office and distribute the results to all outdoors people and organizations so they can make an informed election decision in the fall elections.

SOURCE: Paul J. Mongin, Brown County Conservation Alliance, 1151 Delray Drive, Green Bay, WI 54304 (920) 499-0999, Paul.J.Mongin@aexp.com.

Factory Farming

Suit against livestock operation challenges right to farm law

[This story has been removed from the web version of this newsletter. -Ed.]

Indiana and Ohio NPDES permits for CAFOs

Indiana and Ohio have public noticed their first-ever NPDES permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Indiana's draft permit for McGrady Hog Farm may be viewed at http://www.state.in.us/idem/water/npdes/public_notice/index.html*mcgrady. Ohio's draft permit for Nine Mornings Dairy is not yet available for viewing on the internet. When it is posted, you can view it at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/map/Paulding.html>. On a related matter, last month Indiana promulgated, for the first time, administrative rules under the Indiana Confined Feeding Control Law. The rules appear in Title 327 of the Indiana Admin. Code, Article 16. They, too, can be viewed on the internet.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-24-02.

Michigan groups call for CAFO moratorium pending safeguards

Michigan coalition calls for moratorium on factory farms Family farmers, the Sierra Club, and faith groups gathered at the State Capitol to demand a moratorium on any new or expanding animal factories in Michigan until adequate safeguards are in place to protect the public health and environment. The members of about half a dozen community groups gave testimonials on the devastating impact these operations are having on their communities, then picketed the new headquarters for the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture. While Michigan agreed in January to follow federal law by implementing a water permit, the permit is months from completion but new and expanded animal factories are being built today without regulatory oversight. The Sierra Club also launched radio ads around the State calling for no new or expanded animal factories in Michigan until adequate regulations are in place.

SOURCE: Sierra Club.

Groups upset with voluntary MI manure program From the April 23

Booth Newspapers/Lansing (MI) Bureau: Some rural groups are upset with a newly unveiled voluntary Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), which helps farmers develop the most environmentally sensitive way to handle manure. So far, 2 farms have completed the program. The Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, as well as rural residents and other farmers who say they have been harmed by large-scale farm operations, are saying the voluntary nature of MAEAP doesn't address the problems generated by such operations. Under an agreement Michigan has with the U.S. EPA, CAFOs that haven't been cited for pollution problems can either apply for a CAFO permit or go through MAEAP. While such operations have been inspected by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality within the next 3 years, no one is sure of the number of CAFOs or where they are located. More at http://www.mlive.com/news/statewide/index.ssf/?xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xml?base/news/1019517001269560.xml.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-24-02.

MEA files to sue Marathon County farm responsible for manure spill

Last month we saw major manure spills around the state, as large livestock facilities dumped millions of gallons of liquid manure on frozen fields. On April 12, 2002, Midwest Environmental Advocates filed a 60 day notice of our intent to sue Maple Ridge Dairy for these manure dumping practices. We are representing the Sierra Club in this effort to clean up the Big Eau Pleine River in Marathon County, Wisconsin.

SOURCE: Melissa Scanlan, scanlan@chorus.net.

Iowa fecal bacteria-infested beaches won't be closed

The 4/17 Des Moines *Register* reported that the DNR has announced state beaches will remain open this year, regardless of how much fecal bacteria is in the water. "These are great recreation places, and we don't have data that they are a risk to public health," DNR Director Jeff Vonk said. Richard Kelley, a longtime water quality scientist at the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, said the state should be more aggressive about closing beaches, not less. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines the state has followed in the past are based on studies showing that when fecal bacteria rise to certain levels, disease-causing organisms probably are present. Many of Iowa's beaches are contaminated by bacteria because the large number of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the state. To read about what other states are doing to deal with CAFOs, visit SERC's CAFO State Info page.

SOURCE: Jud Lounsbury, jud@serconline.org.

Forest Fragmentation

UW scientists call for commercial logging ban in state forests

Dr. Bill Willers, Dr. Ken Parejko, and Dr. Tom Rooney of the University of Wisconsin are three of more than 200 conservation-minded scientists from across the nation who signed a letter to President Bush today urging him to end commercial logging of our National Forests and renew the original vision of forest protection. The letter, released by Sierra Club, National Forest Protection Alliance, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group, addresses the benefits of forest protection to the economy, water quality, wildlife, and recreation. "Dr. Willers, Dr. Parejko, Dr. Rooney and over 200 other scientists recognize the need to protect and restore Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and other National Forests. We hope the President listens," said Billy Stern of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. To read a copy of the letter and a complete list of scientists signers, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/logging/letter>.

SOURCE: Sierra Club.

Groundwater Protection

May 7 hearing to review multiple turkey waste permit

A May 7 public hearing is set for the state's plan to bring 55 turkey farms under a single permit regulating how the operations owned by or under contract to the same company store and spread manure to avoid spills or releases to lakes, rivers or groundwater.

The proposed wastewater permit for Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc., would replace large livestock permits that now cover 17 of the facilities and have expired. It also would bring under environmental regulation for the first time 38 smaller farms that raise turkeys. Jennie-O owns some of those farms and contracts with others to raise turkeys. The formal public hearing to collect comments from the public on the proposed WPDES permit is set for 9 a.m. at May 7 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in the Barron County Courthouse, 330 East LaSalle Ave., in Barron.

ABOUT ON WPDES PERMITS

Current EPA rules require states to issue water quality permits every five years to livestock operations with more than 1,000 animal units. An animal unit reflects how much manure an animal generates.

1,000 units roughly equals:

- 1,000 beef cattle,
- 710 dairy cows,
- 55,000 turkeys,
- 200,000 broiler chickens or
- 2,500 pigs.

There are 117 livestock operations in Wisconsin with the wastewater pollution discharge permits, or WPDES permits.

SOURCE: Gordon Stevenson, WDNR, (608) 267-9306.

Phosphorus levels in Wisconsin waters reviewed in WISPIRG report

According to a new WISPIRG report, Wisconsin streams and rivers exceeded acceptable phosphorus levels in 93 percent of tests in the past decade, while Wisconsin lakes exceeded acceptable phosphorus levels 80 percent of the time. The report, *Phosphorus in Runoff Pollution in Wisconsin*, highlights the environmental and public health dangers of high phosphorus levels in waterways, as well as detailing the ways in which phosphorus finds its way into Wisconsin's lakes, rivers and streams. The report is available for download at the WISPIRG web site at <http://wisp-irg.org/WI.asp?id2=6812&id3=WI&>.

SOURCE: Kerry Schumann, WISPIRG, (608) 251-1918.

Perrier Group now Nestle Waters North America

The Perrier Group of America, Inc. announced that its name will change to Nestle Waters North America, Inc. The Perrier Group has been part of Nestle SA since 1992, and reported directly to Perrier Vittel SA, the water division in Paris, France. This division has just changed its moniker to

Nestle Waters. Given the tremendous growth of its bottled water brands over the last ten years, Nestle Waters now accounts for almost nine percent of Nestle's revenues. Nestle Waters markets 72 well-known bottled water brands in 160 countries around the world. Global revenues from bottled water in 2001 totaled \$4.5 billion U.S.

SOURCE: PRNewswire.

No-flush urinals saving water

No-flush urinals are becoming a new market phenomena in the U.S. Two companies have taken the lead. Falcon Waterfree Technologies and Waterless Company manufacture no-flush urinals that operate on the same basic principle. A layer of lighter-than-water fluid floats on top of the urine in a trap, while added urine runs through this layer and down the drain.

SOURCE: The Gallon Environment Letter, 506 Victoria Ave., Montreal, Quebec H3Y 2R5, Ph. (514) 369-0230, Fax (514) 369-3282, cibe@web.net.

CCN leaders interviewed for NPR water story

Arlene and I were interviewed by Sandy Hausman who is a producer for National Public Radio. She is producing a program in Perrier and groundwater for *Marketplace* which is aired around the world. She is not certain when the show will be on the air. She will let us know.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, HiroK8@aol.com.

Manure management system available to farmers

From the April 10 *The Country Today*: Patz Sales Inc. has introduced a manure nutrient management system to help dairy producers comply with environmental regulations and implement a manure management plan for their farms. Additional information about the system can be found at the Patz Web site: <http://www.manuresolutions.com>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-17-02.

Mercury Reduction

Superior bans landfilling of fluorescent lamps

The City of Superior has banned the landfilling of fluorescent lamps [which contain mercury] from all sources and has added fluorescents to the city's mandatory recycling program. This builds upon the city's program with retailers of fluorescents to take them back from the general

public for recycling. For more information, contact Jane Schlichting at researcher1@ci.superior.wi.us or (715) 394-0392 ext. 136.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Dane County, WI, Reindl@co.dane.wi.us.

ALEC report rips four-pollutants bill

Power plants from 1922 are still in operation, but they are not required to meet the environmental regulations every new facility must follow. Because of this 1970 loophole in the law, dirty plants have been grandfathered in from following the Clean Air Act. Senator Jeffords' "Clean Power Act" (S.556) and Rep. Henry Waxman's "Clean Smokestack Act" (H.R. 1256) plug this loophole in the law, stopping old plants from "legally" polluting the at rates up to 13 times higher than new plants with modern emissions controls.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) released a new report this week criticizing federal four pollutant bills. ALEC's report targets federal "4P" legislation that requires substantial reductions in power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide, the principle "greenhouse" gas targeted by the Kyoto Protocol. ALEC called the reduction of fossil fuels to reduce air pollution a "false premise." ALEC also opposes integrated air quality management, and stated that four pollutant bills are "horrendously wasteful" and "totally useless." For more information, visit SERC's Power Plant's Dirty Air Loophole web page.

SOURCE: Jud Lounsbury, jud@serconline.org.

Metallic Mining

Gubernatorial candidates taking positions on mining

A number of recent stories and press releases indicate that at least three Democratic candidates for governor intend to make mining a campaign issue. See, for instance, "Candidates call for cyanide ban" at www.wausaudailyherald.com/wdhlocal/274751320849764.shtml#top.

SOURCE: Bill McClenahan, Martin Schreiber & Associates Inc., Madison WI.

Portage County passes cyanide ban resolution

Deanna Erickson called...with great news: Portage County has finally passed the cyanide resolution. There were some grumblings on the county board, but the measure passed. This shows that even when the bills are not before the legislature, we can keep up our education and our momen-

tum. The state responds to us; we don't respond to the state. Please let the UW-SP students know that their efforts are appreciated:

SOURCE: Zoltan Grossman, mtn@igc.org.

CEO says US copper mining challenged

An April 11 Reuters story by Zach Howard quotes an official with the national's leading copper producer, Phelps Dodge, that "the U.S. copper industry is losing mining share to overseas producers due to a diminishing U.S. supply of copper-rich ore, high labor costs, and stringent environmental regulations."

SOURCE: Reuters.

Shoreland/Wetlands

NR Board gets last chance to address stream buffers

The Senate Environmental Resources committee sent the DNR's polluted runoff rules back to the DNR so that they would do something about buffers. We need to let the Natural Resources Board know, possibly one last time, that buffers are the most effective conservation practice, and a 35-foot buffer requirement should be phased into the rules.

SOURCE: Steph Adams, cleanwater@wisconsinrivers.org.

Ashley process blasted in Green Bay editorial

The Green Bay *Press-Gazette* on April 24 editorialized, "The conference committee reconciling the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget-repair bill should throw out the Ashley amendment. That would be a vote of support for the state's wetlands rules and a rejection of the pay-to-play mentality that has taken control of the State Capitol."

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*.

Boaters to see DNR staffers at landings May 4 regarding invasives

Some people launching their boats from some popular boat landings for the May 4 opening of the state general inland fishing season will be enlisted into Wisconsin's latest effort to control the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, and other invasive aquatic species. State inspectors will be posted at boat launches along some popular Wisconsin waters statewide to talk to boaters about invasive aquatic species and a new law aimed at keeping the invaders out of new waters. They'll

give boaters “watch cards” depicting different invasive species, and information on how they can prevent the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive species.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Researcher presenting results of volunteer water monitoring program

The Castle Rock Creek data [detailing how volunteer monitors can help provide important water quality information for regulators] will be presented this Friday, May 3, in Madison at the Water Science and Engineering lab seminar at 12 Noon in room 102. The lab is located at the north end of Park Street, 660 N. Park St. I would expect to produce other versions of the talk for fishing clubs, etc.

This version has some social advocacy, but is mostly a chance for other water chemists and biologists to comment on the data and suggest other interpretations, correlations, and uses for the data set. After all, I am just a volunteer, and it is up to the agency people, local citizens, and politicians to take the information and “fix the creek.”

SOURCE: Phil Emmling, Environmental Chemistry & Technology Program, 660 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706 (608) 262-2899, emmling@engr.wisc.edu.

Supreme Court upholds local government ability to protect waters

The Supreme Court on April 23 refused to allow unacceptable challenges to the ability of a community to regulate and protect environmental quality within their jurisdictions. In a 6-3 decision, the majority ruled against landowners who sought to develop parcels within the Lake Tahoe watershed but were prevented from doing so by strong land use protections enacted by local governments. Lake Tahoe was once one of the clearest lakes in the world but decades of development have added pollutants and caused eutrophication to accelerate. Read the majority and minority opinions in the case, Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council Inc. v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, No. 00-1167, on the Supreme Court web site at www.supremecourt.gov and see also www.nytimes.com/2002/04/23/national/23CND-PROP.html.

SOURCE: David Zaber.

Earth Day crowd warned of Bush swing away from clean water

At a Madison rally on April 22 celebrating the 32nd anniversary of Earth Day, the Sierra Club and local leaders warned that the Bush administration and state Republican Assembly leaders are trying to weaken Wisconsin clean water protections that protect our waterways from pollution. Agriculture Secretary Veneman and EPA Administrator Christine Whitman will be in Wisconsin this week to try to defend the Bush’s bad environmental record.

“The Bush administration and Assembly Republicans have launched an unprecedented attack on the Clean Water Act, our rivers and lakes at the request of big polluters and irresponsible developers,” said Dane County Supervisor Brett Hulsey, member of the Lakes and Watersheds Commission. “If the administration and state Assembly Republicans succeed, it will turn back the clock to a time to when polluters dumped toxic waste into our rivers and lakes at will. It will undo much of the progress we have made since the 1970s, when lakes stunk and rivers caught fire.”

SOURCE: Sierra Club.

Minnesota passes phosphorus lawn fertilizer bill

Minnesota’s Governor Ventura has signed bill SF 1555, the state bill that regulates use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer. Most of the bill’s provisions go into effect January 1, 2004. The bill is not a “ban” on phosphorus lawn fertilizers, but places restrictions on when it can be used. The seven-county Twin City metro area is restricted to 0% phosphorus lawn fertilizer unless used on a newly seeded or sodded lawn or a soil test or tissue test shows a need for phosphorus. Soil test records show that 75% of lawns tested in the seven county Twin Cities metro area are “very high” in phosphorus content level. This season, Menards, a large regional home improvement store is offering 0% phosphorus lawn fertilizer products.

SOURCE: Steph Adams, Clean Water Coalition Coordinator River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Partners lobbying Congress for Great Lakes study funds

Some Great Lakes members of Congress are interested in introducing legislation to appropriate about \$5 million this year and \$21 million through 2007 to improve knowledge about Great Lakes water functioning. The work would address a range of information gaps, from general basin climate change research to specifics on connecting channel flows and groundwater movement. The effort is being sold (and would function) as support for the governors/premiers’ Annex 2001 water withdrawal initiative. But the work would be a fantastic supplement to knowledge of the system and a very important ingredient of improved ecosystem protection whether or not the annex initiative goes anywhere.

[Contact GLU to review] a draft support letter, the (rather long) funding proposal, and a shorter document of just the proposal’s funding tables for faster evaluation. Please get back to me by the end of Wednesday, May 1, if you are interested in signing on.

SOURCE: Reg Gilbert, Great Lakes United, reg@glu.org.

Dane County considering concrete plant next to Black Earth Creek

At the Thursday, May 2, evening meeting of the Dane County Board, supervisors will consider a proposal to construct a concrete plant less than 400 feet from Black Earth Creek. With the new

Board, there is a good chance to defeat the proposal. To do so will require that people contact their Supervisors or attend the meeting.

The property is entirely within the Ice Age Trail Corridor. A storm water system has been proposed that is designed to handle a 50-year flood, but not a 100-year flood. A cow barn now on the property discharges to a swale leading to the Creek. Black Earth Creek has been threatened in recent years by development and agricultural pollution. Developments have cumulative impacts, especially project of this scale.

SOURCE: River Alliance of Wisconsin.

MMSD plan to address sewage upgrades

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has approved a \$14 million planning contract that will lay the groundwork for additional work intended to address continuing sewage dumping and stormwater runoff problems, according to an April 23 Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* story. There is no price tag as yet, and the specific projects that would be included in MMSD's 2020 plan have yet to be determined. But the 2020 work would be on top of the district's \$1 billion in spending planned through 2010. "Everything's on the table right now" for consideration in the 2020 plan, according to MMSD Executive Director Kevin Schafer. Projects being considered include separating the old combined sewers that serve downtown Milwaukee and older neighborhoods, treatment plant upgrades, and ways to prevent runoff pollution from urban streets and rural farms from reaching local waterways and Lake Michigan. See http://proquest.umi.com/pqd-web?Did=000000115456551&Fmt=3&Deli=1&Mtd=2&Idx=21&SK=3&ScQ=000033026|0000001653779|*&RQT=309.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-24-02.

Ashland microfiltration plan to help clear water

Ashland's new membrane microfiltration water treatment plant, which went online last summer, is addressing runoff problems that affected Ashland's drinking water in 2001, according to an April 18 article in the Ashland *Daily Press*. Melting snow and rains have caused streams to run high, which erodes stream banks, sending red clay soils into Chequamegon Bay and other area streams. The fine clay particles can take weeks to settle out, according to City Water and Waste-water Superintendent Craig Nordgren. But the new water treatment plan removes particles 100 times smaller than the old system and means Ashland residents probably will not have to boil their drinking water.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-24-02.

Racine campaign targets fecal remains on beaches

From the April 15 Racine *Journal Times*: The group Keep Our Beaches Open are placing orange utility flags next to each pile of dog feces found near North Beach on May 11. And in a take-off of

the “Got Milk?” advertising campaign, the group will also be posting signs asking, “Your Dog?” The effort is a way to raise awareness about a seldom-considered source of Lake Michigan pollution. “If people don’t clean up after their pets, it washes into the storm drains and into the lakes,” contributing to high fecal coliform bacteria levels, according to Dave White, coordinator of KOBO and director of the YWCA’s River Bend Nature Center. More at <http://www.journal-times.com/archives/index.inn?loc=detail&doc=/2002/April/15-1320-796dogs.txt>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 4-24-02.

Combined storm/sanitary sewers need billions to fix

From the April 17 Minneapolis (MN) *Star Tribune*: Every day it rains or snows, 772 of the nation’s older cities and towns face environmental and health threats from their outdated combined sewer overflows. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates it will take about \$45 billion in new construction to address the problem over the coming years. More at <http://www.startribune.com/stories/670/2236789.html>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 4-17-02.

New regulation of aquatic plant harvesters in effect

Communities and lake organizations that operate harvesting machines to remove aquatic plants from their lakes or rivers are required to obtain a permit under new regulations approved Wednesday by the Natural Resources Board. Individuals are exempt if they pull or rake plants by hand in a limited area along their shoreline. The regulations are created as a result of legislation passed in 2001 to protect the habitat native aquatic plants provide for fish and other aquatic life, while reducing the spread of exotic invasive plant species such as Eurasian water milfoil. For more information contact Frank Koshere (715) 392-0807 or Jeff Bode (608) 266-0502.

SOURCE: WDNR.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign annual meeting May 2

The WDC annual meeting is this Thursday, May 2, at the Inn on the Park in Madison. Registration and refreshments begin at 3:00 p.m. The general meeting will run from 3:30- 5:30 with a brief business meeting from 5:30-6:00. The general meeting agenda is as follows:

- Fighting for Campaign Finance Reform in Wisconsin, State Senator Mike Ellis (R-Neenah),
- Uncovering Wisconsin’s Legislative Caucus Scandal, Dee Hall and Phil Brinkman, *Wisconsin State Journal* reporters, and

- After McCain-Feingold: The Case for Free Air Time, Paul Taylor, Executive Director, Alliance for Better Campaigns.

The meeting is open to the public. Plan on attending and feel free to invite others. If you have any questions, or to RSVP please reply to this e-mail or call 255-4260. See you on Thursday.

SOURCE: Paul Uebelher, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, (608) 255-4260, www.wisd.org.

Sustainable agriculture training event May 11

This is to announce and invite you to a one-day Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Institute on “How to Help Lead the Sustainable Agriculture Movement (And Pay the Rent).” It will be held on Saturday, May 11, from 8:45 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Madison Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, Madison, WI. For more information about the Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Institute, contact Margaret Krome, MFAI’s Agricultural Policy Coordinator at (608) 238-1440.

SOURCE: Margaret Krome, mkrome@inpress.net.

AFJ has info on McCain-Feingold’s impact on nonprofits

The Alliance for Justice is pleased to make available information on the impact that the recently enacted campaign finance law will have on nonprofit advocates. A comprehensive memo on the subject is now available on the Alliance for Justice web site at www.afj.org/news/bcrabriefingfinal.html.

SOURCE: advocacy@afj.org.

WSNetworkNews is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, and environmental groups.

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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