



# WSNetwork News

May 15, 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](#)

## DNR starts new chronic wasting disease website

For those following the state's CWD outbreak, the WDNR has started the following web site:  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/index.htm>.

---

---

## Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

---

---

## DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

### Congress "floor resolutions" tallied: broad DNR/PIO restoration support

People attending the annual Conservation Congress meetings held April 9 are allowed to introduce resolutions from the floor after voting on the resolutions in the printed booklet. The floor resolutions have now been tallied. Most of these resolutions have narrow local appeal, but the WSN organizations are inspired to find that even though more than half a decade has passed since their demise, there is still broad public support for two of the original WSN coalition issues:

- returning DNR secretary to a board-appointed position and
- restoring the Public Intervenor Office.

The list on the following page shows the county-by-county totals supporting these two issues.

SOURCE: WSN.

## 2002 Conservation Congress DNR/PIO restoration votes

### RESTORE THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTERVENOR

Yes 5,717 — No 376

Adams 39-0, Ashland 40-0, Barron 55-0, Bayfield 17-0, Brown 193-27, Buffalo 90-0, Burnett 29-3, Calumet 96-0, Chippewa 45-2, Clark 65-0, Columbia 74-1, Crawford 31-2, Dane 178-22, Dodge 173-0, Door 25-9, Douglas 35-1, Eau Claire 81-24, Florence 23-0, Fond Du Lac 147-0, Forest 20-1, Grant 69-0, Green 76-0, Green Lake 92-0, Iowa 37-7, Iron 29-0, Jackson 28-3, Jefferson 92-4, Kenosha 66-8, Kewaunee 66-0, La Crosse 85-0, Lafayette 65-0, Landglade 56-3, Lincoln 65-23, Manitowoc 52-2, Marathon 132-2, Marinette 126-0, Marquette 68-5, Milwaukee 113-21, Monroe 52-8, Oconto 87-0, Outagamie 142-7, Ozaukee 103-24, Pepin 18-1, Pierce 39-0, Polk 94-0, Portage 90-0, Price 1-42, Racine 118-6, Richland 39-2, Rock 138-0, Rusk 78-0, St Croix 55-0, Sauk 84-10, Sawyer 49-0, Shawano 116-0, Sheboygan 218-4, Taylor 83-1, Trempealeau 66-0, Vernon 64-0, Vilas 100-5, Walworth 85-0, Washburn 37-0, Washington 164-14, Waukesha 195-49, Waupaca 119-4, Waushara 42-1, Winnebago 207-23, Wood 165-5.

### DNR SECRETARY APPOINTED BY NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Yes 6,448 — No 238

Adams 60-0, Ashland 39-0, Barron 44-0, Bayfield 23-1, Brown 198-23, Buffalo 103-6, Burnett 40-0, Calumet 102-0, Chippewa 94-3, Clark 77-0, Columbia 79-4, Crawford 36-0, Dane 177-22, Dodge 171-0, Door 62-1, Douglas 41-1, Dunn 98-1, Eau Claire 96-6, Florence 25-0, Fond Du Lac 153-0, Forest 20-1, Grant 95-0, Green 74-0, Green Lake 93-0, Iowa 62-3, Iron 26-0, Jackson 44-3, Jefferson 96-2, Juneau 54-2, Kenosha 70-3, Kewaunee 68-0, La Crosse 89-1, Lafayette 52-0, Landglade 62-0, Lincoln 117-1, Manitowoc 128-0, Marathon 166-0, Marinette 136-1, Marquette 88-1, Menominee 7-0, Milwaukee 100-5, Monroe 73-3, Oconto 78-0, Oneida 91-2, Outagamie 147-11, Ozaukee 126-18, Pepin 31-1, Pierce 44-0, Polk 81-1, Portage 100-0, Price 59-1, Racine 105-15, Richland 34-5, Rock 143-0, Rusk 84-0, St. Croix 55-1, Sauk 90-11, Sawyer 41-1, Shawano 121-0, Sheboygan 215-5, Taylor 91-1, Trempealeau 66-0, Vernon 66-0, Vilas 100-1, Walworth 88-0, Washburn 39-0, Washington 164-7, Waukesha 239-27, Waupaca 108-9, Waushara 51-1, Winnebago 230-15, Wood 123-11.

---

---

## Factory Farming

### Concerned over multiple permits for turkey operation

I'm writing to you because Wisconsin's waters face a new threat from large-scale agriculture. Livestock waste, already a major source of water pollution in Wisconsin, could get much worse if the Department of Natural Resources approves a plan that would allow 55 huge turkey facilities to store and spread manure in an unsafe way. The DNR is currently holding a public comment period on this issue, and we need to let the DNR know that Wisconsin's groundwater and lakes, rivers and streams must be protected from agriculture pollution. Follow the link below to go to a web page where you can e-mail comments to the DNR at <http://pirg.org/alerts/route.asp?id=96&id4=ES>.

SOURCE: WISPIRG, [wispirg@mail.chorus.net](mailto:wispirg@mail.chorus.net).

## DNR proposes “multiple” waste permit to Midwest’s largest turkey producer

The DNR held an informational hearing May 7 on its proposed issuance of a waste permit for the largest integrated turkey raising firm in the Midwest. The permit will regulate the waste disposal of 55 turkey livestock factories either owned or controlled by Hormel Foods, an Austin, Minnesota-based corporation that recently purchased the Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc., of Barron, WI. The 55 turkey factories raise a total of 4.7 million turkeys, and all are located in northwestern and central Wisconsin.

According to the permit, the DNR proposes to allow Hormel Foods to place as much as 130,000 tons of turkey manure per year in piles known as “stacks” on the edges of crop fields in Barron County and other surrounding counties. The stacks can remain on the fields for up to a year, until Hormel is required to spread the manure on the fields as fertilizer. The process is referred to as “headland stacking,” and may be a source of runoff into groundwater and surface water during rainfall and spring snowmelt.

“By allowing headland stacking, the DNR is permitting a practice that no one fully understands,” said Andrew Hanson, an attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., a nonprofit environmental law center. “The DNR should be required to study the groundwater and surface water pollution caused by headland stacking, and then decide whether to allow the practice. The agency is putting the cart before the horse.” Despite the budget crisis facing the DNR, the agency has committed \$10,000 to help Hormel conduct the study on headland stacking. “This is corporate welfare at its worst,” according to Andrew Hanson. He questioned, “Why is the state subsidizing a corporation that had more than \$4 billion in sales last year?”

*[NOTE: The WSN has the 13-page “Final Comments” MEA produced on behalf of Northern Thunder on the Jennie-O Hormel permit. Contact us at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net) to get a copy.]*

SOURCE: Midwest Environmental Advocates.

## Congress passes Farm Bill

The National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture thanks you for taking action during the farm bill debate. Your willingness to make your voice heard by the policy makers in Washington made a BIG difference as you will see in the farm bill summary below. We also want to thank you for your patience, understanding and sheer endurance as deliberation on the farm bill seemed to be never ending. We know that often when you sign up to take action on important policy issues you are asked to make a few calls in support of an entire bill. Because the farm bill is comprised of so many important “pieces,” we had to ask you to act in support of myriad issues that can make a very real difference in our food and agriculture system. You never wavered in your support, and an otherwise troubling farm bill has many, many good things because of your action.

Now we begin the process of farm bill implementation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We will make sure that those programs we supported are implemented as intended, and we will try to make bad provisions less bad. We will also continue to fight for the issues we lost in the farm bill

struggle. We will fight for hearings and solutions on issues such as real payment limitations, real contract agriculture reforms, the prohibition against large meatpacker ownership of livestock and the use of “captive supplies,” restoration of the integrity of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that has become a major subsidy for the biggest factory farms, and other important issues. We will also be moving on to other important work.

*[This WSN has a lengthy summary of the Farm Bill’s “wins and losses” from a conservation standpoint. Contact us if you’d like to see the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture’s take on the Farm Bill.]*

SOURCE: National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, [www.sustainableagriculture.net](http://www.sustainableagriculture.net) via Sam Gieryn.

## **Farm Bill and related documents on-line**

Documents for the Farm Bill can be accessed directly from <http://agriculture.house.gov/fbconfprt.htm>. Both the 250 page “Statement of Managers” and 421 page “Text of the Statutory Language” are large .pdf files. The managers statement is easier to read and most informative. To understand much of the actual bill you need to compare it to the existing law.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 5-1-02.

## **Illinois bill prohibits photographing factory farms**

In February the Illinois House passed HB 5793 which would prohibit the photographing of factory animal farms, According to the *Chicago Tribune* (4/30/2002), the bill specifically, “makes it a crime to be on a farm (or other “animal facility”) and photograph or videotape pigs or any other animals without the consent of the owner if one’s intent is to ‘damage the enterprise.’” While animal rights advocates and factory farm critics say the bill is intended to take away the “visuals” that graphically capture the violence and pollution of factory farming, the bill is supported by the Illinois Farm Bureau who says the bill is intended to prevent “animal espionage.” While the bill is stalled in the Illinois Senate, tourists should be aware and shutterbug at their own risk.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, [defenders.returns@reply.net](mailto:defenders.returns@reply.net).

## **ALEC’s “Right to Farm” act criticized**

The American Legislative Exchange Council’s (ALEC) “Right to Farm Act” would make harmful CAFO factory farming operations immune from attempts by neighbors to protect themselves from sickening fumes and other environmental damage. The legislation uses such language as “generally accepted agriculture management practices” to describe these harmful operations. The “model bill” claims a farm cannot be found a nuisance as a result of a change in size (factorization) or use of new technology (genetic modification, excessive use of hormones for livestock, manure disposal). This legislation ties the hands of state agricultural agencies when they try to protect neighboring homes, towns, and farms. The most insidious aspect of the bill is that any per-

son who loses a nuisance complaint (which they would as a result of this legislation) must pay for court costs and lawyer fees. If a person complains unsuccessfully more than three times in three years, he must also pay the state for the costs of any new investigations. This bill gives corporate farm operations a free pass to abuse and harm their neighbors, and allows them to impoverish these people when they complain.

SOURCE: Jud Lounsbury, [jud@serconline.org](mailto:jud@serconline.org).

## **Kewaunee town will not restrict large farms**

Members of the Zoning Committee for the Town of Lincoln in Kewaunee County indicated they won't recommend a moratorium on large-scale farming operations, according to a May 6 article in the *Green Bay News-Chronicle*. The majority of people attending the standing-room-only meeting of the Zoning committee supported the expansion of Dairy Dreams LLC, which wants to expand from 383 animal units to 1,300 this summer. A hearing on the operation's WPDES permit is scheduled for May 9. Mick Sagrillo, a vocal supporter of a moratorium, urged the Zoning Committee to back a proposed ordinance calling for a 12-month pause in granting permission to dairy operations to expand so the town could set in place restrictions to protect natural resources, particularly groundwater. More at <http://www.greenbaynewschron.com/page.html?article=113879>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-8-02.

## **Pesticide-containing water may be allowed for "non-crop" irrigation**

Water from a pond or lake that has been treated with an aquatic pesticide could be used to irrigate non-food crop areas, under a special pesticide registration proposed by DATCP. According to a May 7 press release from the agency, the registration would allow water treated with Aquathol K Aquatic Herbicide, Aquathol Super K Granular Aquatic Herbicide, Hydrothol 191 Aquatic Algicide, and Herbicide, and Hydrothol 191 Granular Aquatic Algicide and Herbicide to be used to irrigate such non-food areas as golf courses, parks, and other turf sites. The deadline for comments on this proposed change is May 21. More at <http://datcp.state.wi.us/servlet/press.release.ResultServlet?id=1064>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-8-02.

---

---

## **Forest Fragmentation**

### **Federal funds approved to combat forest diseases in Wisconsin**

Private forest landowners in 17 Wisconsin counties will be eligible for federal cost-sharing funds to help protect their trees from oak wilt and future gypsy moth attacks. The WDNR will receive a \$300,000 grant from the federal Stewardship Incentive Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ture Forest Service has announced The program is part the Forest Service’s effort to assist states with forest health problems on private lands.

“This financial commitment indicates the recognition of the importance private forest lands to the nation’s health and productivity of our natural resources and will go a long way towards insuring the sustainability of Wisconsin’s forests for future generations,” said Gene Francisco, DNR Division of Forestry administrator and chief state forester. Wisconsin competed with 19 other states in the northeastern United States for a total of \$1 million. The \$300,000 award will be used to assist landowners of: Marinette, Oconto, Menominee, Shawano, Marathon, Waupaca, Wood, Portage, Waushara, Marquette, Adams, Juneau, Dane, Sauk, Richland, Iowa, and Grant counties.

SOURCE: Linda DePaul, WDNR, (608) 266-2388.

### **Minnesota: DNR reverses course on ATV forest “special areas”**

The 5/11 Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* reported that in a policy reversal, Minnesota state forests no longer will offer special areas for ATV drivers to churn circles in mud and scramble up hillsides, two of the most environmentally damaging activities. The policy, described in a memorandum from the DNR, is part of a broader state effort to keep ATVs on trails, but it represents an about-face for the department. In an interview, DNR Deputy Commissioner Steve Morse said officials changed the policies after realizing that mudholes, hill climbs, and scramble areas — even if used by only a small percentage of off-road drivers — cause too much environmental damage. Furthermore, said Morse, the rough driving transforms pockets of state forests into single-use areas where no other recreation can occur.

SOURCE: Jud Lounsbury, [jud@serconline.org](mailto:jud@serconline.org).

### **Woodland management workshops scheduled for landowners**

Three workshops on managing woodlands for multiple benefits are scheduled at locations around the state on how private landowners can actively manage their land while ensuring the protection of water quality. The workshops will review such topics as:

- the affects of timber harvest on water quality and brook trout,
- soil stabilization to prevent erosion,
- protecting habitat along waterways, and
- wildlife management issues.

The workshops will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the dates listed at the following locations:

- May 18 in Menomonie — Bjornson Education-Recreation Center at the Menomonie School Forest
- June 1 in Wisconsin Rapids - at the Hotel Mead 451 East Grand Ave.
- June 22 in Rhinelander — Timber Producers Association, 6343 Hwy. 8 West.

The workshops are sponsored by the WDNR, UW Extension, Lumberjack RC&D, Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council, and Forest Industry and Safety Training Alliance.

SOURCE: Jolene Willert, WDNR, (608) 267-7677.

---

---

## **Groundwater Protection**

### **CCN will not appeal Perrier decision**

Concerned Citizens of Newport will not appeal a ruling by Marquette County Circuit Judge Richard Wright letting stand the WDNR's approval Perrier's high-capacity well permit. Instead, the group will see if Perrier and the DNR comply with a new environmental assessment called for in the ruling, according to Hiroshi Kanno of CCN.

SOURCE: CCN.

### **Groups meet in Madison for Water Summit**

Representatives from about 30 environmental, conservation, and sporting groups met in Madison May 13-14 to share their ongoing water-related activities and to discuss long-range planning on water programs.

Guests included Reg Gilbert of Great Lakes United and Tim Sullivan of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance who discussed the water programs and direction of groups in neighboring states. The summit was organized by Wisconsin's Environmental Decade and The Biodiversity Project through a grant from the Beldon Fund.

SOURCE: WSN.

### **CSWAB asks WDNR to set perchlorate groundwater standards**

A new report released by Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger calls on the WDNR to set and enforce health-based standards for perchlorate, a toxic chemical that is showing up in drinking water supplies across the country. Ammonium perchlorate dissolves as easily as table salt and the resulting anion is stable and can persist for decades in the environment; it moves easily through both groundwater and surface water.

Unlike many other states, monitoring for perchlorates has not been done at any military sites in Wisconsin including Fort McCoy, Volk Field/Hardwood Bombing Range, and Badger Army Ammunition Plant. At Badger, the Army maintains that environmental testing for perchlorates is not warranted as there are no records of its manufacture and use at the facility. Lacking affirmative evidence from the Army that perchlorates were used or disposed of at Badger, the WDNR has

not required perchlorate sampling. CSWAB's investigation documents, however, that perchlorate contamination has been found at other bases when the military was sure perchlorate had never been used. For information about how to receive a copy of the report (including postcards to the WDNR and EPA) contact CSWAB.

SOURCE: Laura Olah, Executive Director, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, (608) 643-3124, [info@cswab.com](mailto:info@cswab.com).

## **Groundwater Coordinating Council meeting May 17**

The Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) will meet from Noon-3 p.m. in room 774B of the Natural Resources building at 101 S. Webster St., Madison. In addition to regular subcommittee reports and agency updates, there will be discussion on progress made on the outcomes of the Groundwater Summit, approve release of fact sheets related to Smart Growth and groundwater, and consider improvements to the annual Joint Solicitation for Groundwater Projects. For more information, contact Tim Asplund at (608) 267-7449 or at [asplut@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:asplut@dnr.state.wi.us).

SOURCE: WDNR.

## **Disputed Michigan bottling plant opens**

An Associated Press story running May 10 reported that the Ice Mountain Spring Water Co., a Perrier subsidiary, has begun to bottle water from the Great Lakes basin via their newly sited Michigan operation. Environmental groups have gone to court to stop the plant saying there are no limits on how much water Perrier can remove from the watershed.

SOURCE: Associated Press.

## **Household tips to help minimize drinking and groundwater pollution**

A free publication can help people maintain their homes, yards, and autos in ways that help protect and conserve Wisconsin's drinking and groundwater resources, according to state environmental officials. To learn more household tips that can reduce your impact on the environment, check out *Better Homes & Groundwater*, (WR386-95). This 15-page publication contains suggestions for alternatives to harsher cleaning chemicals, and appropriate use and disposal of fertilizers, automotive fluids, and home improvement supplies. The booklet is available on the DNR Web site, by choosing *Drinking Water & Groundwater* from the drop down bureau menu on the home page to find a direct link to *Better Homes & Groundwater*. You may also order a copy through your drinking water & groundwater specialist at your regional DNR service center.

SOURCE: Becky Olson Pottratz, WDNR, (608) 266-2172.

## Center releases watershed slide program

The Center for Watershed Protection is pleased to announce the latest addition to our family of popular slideshow presentations: *Why Watersheds?* Designed to bridge the gap for people who may not understand the whys and hows of watershed protection, this introductory presentation explains what a watershed is, how development impacts watershed health, and why protecting watersheds is critical. Included are steps that planners, watershed groups, and regular citizens alike can take to protect our own water resources. You can view "Why Watersheds?" on CWP website at <http://www.cwp.org>. Watch for it to be available on CD-ROM later this month.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-8-02.

## Survey of states estimates thousands of fuel tanks leaking

A new study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) estimates that there are more than 76,000 underground storage fuel tanks across the country that are leaking and polluting the nation's groundwater. In a survey of all 50 states, the GAO found that more than 200,000 tanks are not being operated or maintained properly, increasing the chance of leaks. Even though the tanks may have leaked in the past, the contamination, which poses health risks, is often not discovered until the tank is dug up for removal. Most states do not know if all inactive tanks are empty because those tanks have not been inspected. The GAO said that the ability to block deliveries has proven to be one of the most effective tools for ensuring compliance with inspection requirements, but 27 states lack the authority to prohibit fuel deliveries to stations with problem tanks. To read the complete GAO report, go to <http://www.gao.gov>.

SOURCE: Jud Lounsbury, [jud@serconline.org](mailto:jud@serconline.org).

---

---

## Mercury Reduction

### Dane County retailers to recycle old mercury products

Just a short note to let you know that at the County Board meeting last night, Dane County adopted an ordinance to require retailers of mercury thermostats and of fluorescent lamps and bulbs to offer to take these products back from the public for recycling. We will be working with the Wisconsin Merchants Federation and the Midwest Hardware Association on the implementation of the ordinance. Please let me know if you have any questions that we might try to answer.

The ordinance will soon be available on the Internet as part of the County's solid waste ordinance at <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/ord/ord041.pdf>.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Recycling Manager, Dane County.

---

---

## Metallic Mining

### Falk opposes Crandon Mine in conservation platform

Despite years of study, the company proposing the Crandon Mine has not demonstrated they could operate the mine and reclaim the site without a substantial risk of permanent damage to natural resources. Consequently, Kathleen is opposed to the Crandon Mine. As governor, she will ban the use of cyanide mining, require mining companies to operate by the same pollution standards applicable to other industries and issue strong regulations implementing the Mining Moratorium Act, requiring mining companies prove — before getting any permits — that a sulfide ore mine can operate without polluting Wisconsin's waterways. The Falk platform is at <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/May02/0510falkconserve.pdf>.

SOURCE: Ken Walsh, Martin Schreiber & Associates, Inc., 15 N. Pinckney St., Madison, WI 53703.

### Group to rally against Flambeau Mining an “environment friend”

The Wisconsin Manufacturing and Commerce (WMC) Business Friend of the Environment Awards conference is will be held from 8:30-4:00 Wednesday, May 15, at the Milwaukee Marriott West Hotel at W23 N1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha (State Hwy 164 at I9). A citizen rally opposing WMC's nomination of the Flambeau Mining Company as an award recipient will be held from Noon-1 p.m. in front of the hotel.

SOURCE: Linda Sturnot, Mining Impact Coalition, (414) 421-9462 or [wolfriver55@wi.rr.com](mailto:wolfriver55@wi.rr.com).

### Weak copper prices hitting Billiton profits

BHP Billiton has reported a 33% slump in profits during the December to February period. The group reported a net profit of \$406 million compared to \$604 million a year earlier. Weak copper prices pushed earnings from its base metals division down by more than a half compared to the same period a year earlier.

Source: BBC, 05/01/02.

### Judge rejects easing of mine waste rules

From the *LA Times*: “A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the U.S. government to stop permitting coal companies to put tons of dirt and rock from their mountaintop mining operations into streams and valleys, a practice that has permanently changed the topography of Appalachia. The ruling, which prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from issuing new permits for piling leftover dirt and rock into streams, could greatly reduce mountaintop removal mining. The practice, in which mountaintops are sheared off to reach seams of coal, provided inexpensive, clean-burning

coal and underwrote an economic boom in southern West Virginia and parts of Kentucky over the last decade. The ruling also could complicate hard-rock mining operations in the West.”

SOURCE: Los Angeles *Times* via Tom Wilson.

---

---

## Shoreland/Wetlands

### Groups object to DNR downgrading 94 state waterways

Nineteen Wisconsin environmental and conservation groups have objected to proposed state rules downgrading protections for 94 Wisconsin rivers and streams. The WDNR rule package impacts three administrative rules and lowers water body protections across the state. The groups asked the DNR to correct all deficiencies in the rule before seeking approval from the Natural Resources Board and the Legislature. The DNR has already agreed to drop from this list any stream where the supporting files are missing or no analysis is in the file. The groups found that the rules do not meet the minimum requirements of the Clean Water Act. The groups are challenging the classification of:

- 22 streams due to lack of proof that the stream could not improve,
- 11 streams because of no data,
- 13 streams where the downgraded protections threaten to impair downstream trout streams or high quality water bodies,
- 4 streams where the DNR file memo actually recommends a higher classification than in the rule, and
- 4 permits where the DNR simply ignored what the current rule says about water quality standards.

SOURCE: Melissa Scanlan, Midwest Environmental Advocates, [scanlan@chorus.net](mailto:scanlan@chorus.net).

### Residents urged to help with state's many river cleanups

May 11-18 is National River Cleanup Week. The River Alliance of Wisconsin is urging citizens all across the state to become involved in one of the dozens of river cleanups taking place during the spring. Once again, Wisconsin is one of the leaders in the nation for river cleanups. This year there are at least 15 confirmed cleanups in Wisconsin and many others in the planning stages. Go to the River Alliance calendar to view dates and places of cleanups around you.

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI.

## Milwaukee Sewerage District acquires land to reduce flooding

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has reached agreements to make its first acquisitions under an innovative land conservation program aimed at reducing the risk of flooding to Milwaukee-area residents by keeping targeted low-lying land undeveloped. The first planned acquisitions include a 20-acre parcel in the City of Milwaukee near North 99th Street and W. Bradley Road, near the Little Menomonee River, and five sites in the City of Oak Creek: one near the Root River and four near the Oak Creek. The sites in Oak Creek total 82 acres and are located throughout the community.

### Dollar savings: flood storage vs. engineered stormwater solutions

The MMSD Conservation Fund has spent the last nine months analyzing undeveloped land in the three watersheds and identified 41 sites, totaling 7,065 acres that contained the necessary soil conditions to provide future flood-reduction benefits. In all, the group estimated the sites could provide 4.7 billion gallons of storage. The sites range in size from 30 acres to 674 acres.

National studies have indicated 8-to-1 dollar ratio savings when lands are preserved for flood storage versus engineered structural solutions after flooding is occurring. MMSD has budgeted \$5 million for each of the three watersheds.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-8-02.

## CREP ceremony marks first enrolled land in Wisconsin

Land on a Chippewa County farm will be permanently preserved to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat under Wisconsin's Conservation Reserve Enhancement program. Governor Scott McCallum and Agriculture Secretary Jim Harsdorf accepted the first permanent conservation easement from John Lane, a cash crop farmer in Bloomer, in a recent ceremony. Trees will be planted on about 15 acres of cropland to provide a buffer that will protect surface water from reduced runoff of phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. The trees will also provide habitat for wildlife. In return, Mr. Lane received a check for more than \$10,000 for the easement and as reimbursement for installing the conservation practice.

You can get more information on CREP at the DATCP Web site at <http://datcp.state.wi.us>, then enter CREP in the keyword search box.

SOURCE: DATCP, (608) 224-5005.

## Marshfield working to create storm water utility

The City of Marshfield has taken the first steps toward creating a storm water utility, according to an article in the April 24 *Marshfield News Herald*. The Marshfield City Council has given its approval for officials to apply for an Urban Nonpoint Source Grant, which would be used to create a storm water utility and for development of ordinances and a storm water management plan. According to MSA Professional Services Inc., Marshfield's annual cost for storm water management operation and maintenance from 1998 to 2002 has averaged between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually. A storm water utility would bill property owners for storm water-related ser-

VICES based on the square foot of concrete, asphalt, compacted soils, gravel, and buildings. More at <http://www.wisinfo.com/newsherald/mnhlocal/275444070851576.shtml>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-1-02.

## **Wetland restoration event has openings**

We still have room for several participants in our forthcoming Wetland Restoration Workshop scheduled for Friday, May 17 and 18 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center on the south edge of Madison and in the Lake Waubesa wetlands. The program costs \$50 per person (\$80 for couples, \$30 for students) and includes handbook, materials, maps, snacks, and lunch!

SOURCE: Charlie Luthin, [charlie@wiswetlands.org](mailto:charlie@wiswetlands.org), Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite #1, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 250-9971.

## **Colorado creates watershed protection fund**

From EPA: In a great week for Colorado's watersheds and rivers, SB-087 was passed by the House and has now moved on to the Governor's office for signing. This bill creates the Colorado Watershed Protection Fund and this Fund will now be added to the Colorado Tax Refund Check-off Program. Last year the six groups in this program raised over \$1,900,000. The bill was initiated by the Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA) which is the state and regional voice for more than 40 collaborative-based watershed protection organizations in the state of Colorado.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 5-8-02.

---

---

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**


### **Bike Fed executive director sought**

The Bicycle Federation of WI, a statewide non-profit bicycle advocacy organization, with 2500 members, seeks an Executive Director. The successful applicant will have financial, public relations, programming, fundraising, staff management, and advocacy experience. For more information, contact Jeanne Hoffman, Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, [jeanne@bfw.org](mailto:jeanne@bfw.org).

### **Group has table to share at Farm Progress Days**

If you are interested in tabling at WI Farm Progress Days, July 9, 10, and 11 in Richland County, reply to this message. We have reserved two tables. There is no charge. My experience last year was that a lot of people go through those tents. You can sign up for a half day, day or the whole shebang.

SOURCE: Sam Gieryn, WI Citizen Action, [sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.org](mailto:sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.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](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).

**Subscriptions** to *WSNetworkNews* are free. To opt in or out of this distribution list, either visit our web site at [www.wsn.org](http://www.wsn.org) or e-mail us at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).