



WSNetwork News

August 15, 2002

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

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WSN sets 2003 annual conference

Mark your calendar for the WSN's annual conference to be held Friday night, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 15, at UW-Stevens Point. By popular demand, the conference returns to the UW-SP University Center.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

National Park Service reviewing line's impacts on scenic riverways

The Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) recently revealed that the National Park Service (NPS) will do a complete evaluation of the environmental impacts of the Duluth-Wausau (Arrowhead) 345 kV transmission line crossing of the Namekagon River, which is part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. According to the NPS, the study will likely be completed in the fall of 2003. The review will have to be completed before the NPS determines whether to permit Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS), Minnesota Power (MP), and the American Transmission Company (ATC) to construct the Arrowhead transmission line across the Namekagon River. CUB hailed the decision as a victory for the integrity of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

SOURCE: River Alliance *Canoe*, 8-1-02.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa ask PSC for line's impact on cultural resources

[C]onsultation with our tribe [on the Arrowhead-Weston line's impact on historic properties and cultural resources of special religious and cultural significance to the Ojibwa People] hasn't even gotten started. Just yesterday I received word that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Federal intervenors on historic preservation compliance issues) has requested certain information from the PSC and the federal agencies involved, so that they can evaluate and issue their comment regarding the degree to which this project should be considered a federal undertaking — which would open-up an array of federal compliance issues.

SOURCE: Will Gilmore, Tribal Archaeologist, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwa, gilmorewill@hotmail.com.

Ad blitz promoting line expected

We were told today by some of our insiders that starting soon there will be a very extensive and expensive add campaign to push the line through. Lots of \$\$\$ to be spent and some already paid. It's your money and mine, and I for one will have a letter in the paper telling people what to expect. My letter will start out saying you are about to be bombarded by a big add blitz, etc. More as we get information.

SOURCE: Robert Ringstad, wb9hwh@jrec.com.

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Pimicikamak Cree event Aug. 20 in Ashland

An event supporting the Pimicikamak Cree Nation of Manitoba will take place August 20 at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland from 11:00-12:45. Resolutions supporting the Cree will be exchanged, with a public message of support to be conveyed to the Cree delegation at that time. A good background article [on impacts to the Cree can be found in the] *City Pages* at <http://citypages.com/databank/23/1129/article10581.asp>.

SOURCE: Linda Ceylor, Save Our Unique Lands, hillsidedairyfarm@yahoo.com.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Brown County Conservation Alliance tallies DNR/PIO candidate positions

Results are in from the Brown County Conservation Alliance's (BCCA) poll of statewide candidates on restoring the Public Intervenor Office and returning to the WDNR Board the ability to appoint the WDNR secretary. The BCCA's Paul Mongin is now distributing the results to sporting, conservation, and environmental groups throughout Wisconsin with the help of the WSN.

"We cannot overstate the importance of having your members contact their own favorite candidate and communicate the importance that these issues be examined again," wrote Mongin. "Wisconsin was noted to have one of the three best Natural Resources Departments in the nation in 1995 and was noted for our forward-looking leadership. A more recent accounting suggests that we are now in the bottom half nationwide. We sincerely encourage you to talk with your candidate and help stress the importance of de-politicizing the management and protection of the natural resources all of us share."

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The results of the survey are shown below. The WSN is supporting the BCCA's efforts by:

- publishing updated candidate positions as the BCCA forwards us new information,
- forwarding the survey's results to WSN organizations and state news outlets.

Brown County Conservation Alliance PIO/DNR Candidate Poll

Results through 8-15-02

Incumbents shown with Capitol office numbers (all phone numbers listed begin with 26)
Blank=candidate refused to respond to survey.

GOVERNOR	PIO Restored	DNR Board Appointment
BARRETT, TOM	yes	yes
DOYLE, JIM	yes	yes
FALK, KATHLEEN	yes	yes
GUMZ, MARC		
LORGE, BILL		
McCALLUM, SCOTT		
POBUDA, GEORGE		
YOUNG, JIM	yes	yes
THOMPSON, ED	yes	yes
BOLLERUD, TY	no	no
EISENBERG, ALAN		
LEE, RANDY		
MANGAN, MIKE	no	yes
RASTA, ANEB JAH	no	no
REBANE, BILL		
ROPER, GARY		
TEAGUE, WILLIAM J. JR.		
LT. GOVERNOR	PIO Restored	DNR Board Appointment
DAVIDSON, GILBERT		
LAWTON, BARBARA	yes	yes
NUSBAUM, NANCY		
SHIBILISKI, KEVIN	yes	yes
FARROW, MARGARET		
PETERSON, JEFF	yes	yes
HEIDEN, DREW		
REYNOLDS, MARTY	yes	yes
HACKL, FRANK		
ASSEMBLY	PIO Restored	DNR Board Appointment
(01) BIES, Garey 125-West 6-5350	no	no
ANDRE, PETER	yes	yes
HERMANN, TOM	yes	yes
(02) LASEE, FRANK 105-West 6-9870		
KATERS, DAN	yes	yes
(03) OTT, Alvin 318-North 6-5831		
(04) MONTGOMERY, Phil 129-West 6-5840		
VINEBURG, SIDNEY	yes	yes
(05) MEYERHOFER, Lee 208-North 6-2418	yes	yes
SANDERS, TOM		
WEBER, BECKY		
(06) AINSWORTH, John 309-North 6-3097		
KOPITSKE, GLENN		
DRENGLER, JP	yes	yes
MARTZKE, RICHARD		
(07) BOCK, Peter 212-North 6-8580 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
KRUSICK, PEGGY	yes	yes
(08) COLON, Pedro 5-North 7-7669	yes	yes
(09) CARPENTER, Tim 210-N 6-1707 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
MAMALAKIS, EMMANUEL		
ZEPNICK, JOSH	yes	yes
(10) WILLIAMS, Annette Polly 113-North 6-0960		
(11) MORRIS-TATUM, Johnnie 118-North 6-3756		
(12) KRUG, Shirley 7-North 6-5813	yes	yes
CAMPBELL, VICTOR		
(13) CULLEN, David 216-North 7-9836	yes	yes
ADAMCZYK, STEVE		
NICOL, ROBERT		
WALL, MARTIN		
(14) VACANT		
BROWN, TERRY		
HERZOG, TOM		
SHELLINGER, THOMAS		
SIMI, ROBERT		
VUKMIR, LEAH		
COMEY, DAVID		
(15) STASKUNAS, Tony 124-North 6-0620	yes	yes
GREEN, WILLIAM	no	no
RUPLINGER, JIM		
(D-16) YOUNG, Leon 120-North 6-3786		
LANIER, WALTER		

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(17) COGGS, G. Spencer 214-North 6-5580 SEEFELDT, SCOTT		
(18) RILEY, Antonio 209-North 6-0645		
(19) RICHARDS, Jon 6-North 6-0650 SYNOWICZ, AL		
(20) SINICKI, Christine 412-North 6-8588 PAWLAK, CHRIS		
(21) PLALE, Jeffrey 107-North 6-0610 DEGNER, ARDEN	yes	yes
(22) WASSERMAN, Sheldon 111-North 6-7671		
(23) LA FAVE, John 220-North 6-0486 -filed notice of non-candidacy CLOUSING, LIN FICKS, JUDITH GERARD, KEVIN GIELOW, CURT	-- yes	-- yes
(24) JESKEWITZ, Suzanne 314-North 6-3796		
(25) ZIEGELBAUER, Bob 207-North 6-0315	no	yes
(26) LEIBHAM, Joseph 123-W 6-0656 -filed notice of non-candidacy VAN AKKEREN, TERRY ZAEMPEL, KURT	yes	yes
(27) KESTELL, Steve 17-West 6-8530		
(28) PETTIS, Mark 20-North 7-2365 WOLDEN, CHARLIE	yes yes	yes yes
(29) PLOUFF, Joe 306-West 6-7683 HAUSER, JON	yes	yes
(30) RHOADES, Kitty 302-North 6-1526 FEICKERT, BOB	yes	yes
(31) NASS, Stephen 12-West 6-5715 WATSON, LEROY		
(32) JENSEN, Scott 211-West 6-3387 -filed notice of non-candidacy SCHROEDER, RYAN D'ALESSANDRO FAHEY, MAUREEN LOTHIAN, THOMAS TILTON, ROBERT DeBOW, ROYCE ROLNICK, LINDA	--	--
(33) VRAKAS, Daniel 119-West 6-3007		
(34) MEYER, Dan 316-North 6-7141 MODE, BUZZY	yes	yes
(35) FRISKE, Donald 312-North 6-7694 FREDERICK, TODD		
(36) SERATTI, Lorraine 18-North 6-3780 THIELKE, TOM	no yes	yes yes
(37) WARD, David 321-East 6-3790 WALKER, DONALD	yes	yes
(38) FOTI, Steven 215-West 6-2401 HANSEN, MO MUNYON, MARVIN	yes	no
(39) FITZGERALD, Jeff 304-North 6-2540		
(40) HUNDERTMARK, Jean 8-West 6-3794 HILL, GARY		
(41) OLSEN, Luther 9-West 6-8077		
(42) HINES, J.A. 10-West 6-7746 WADE, JOAN EBSEN, KEN		
(43) KEDZIE, Neal 307-North 6-9650 -filed notice of non-candidacy LEONG, WILSON LOWRIE, JERRY McINTYRE, MATT HINRICHSEN, KURT KNUDSON, BRIAN PEER, ADAM TOWNS, DEBI DALSEY, BERNARD	--	--
(44) WOOD, Wayne 104-North 6-7503 RABAS, CAL PERRY, JOSHUA PEYER, BILL		
(45) SCHOOFF, Dan 420-North 6-9967	yes	yes
(46) HEBL, Tom 304-West 6-7678 HUTKOWSKI, HARIAH	yes	yes
(47) HAHN, Eugene 15-West 6-3404 YOST, MEAGAN		
(48) MILLER, Mark 112-North 6-5342 GRAY, TERRY	yes yes	yes yes
(49) LOEFFELHOLZ, Gabe 317-North 6-1170 SISS, ARLENE		
(50) ALBERS, Sheryl 320-East 6-8531 BUSWELL, CRAIG	yes	yes
(51) FREESE, Stephen 115-West 6-7502 WOLF, LARRY		
(52) TOWNSEND, John 22-West 6-3156		

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(53) OWENS, Carol 315-North 7-7990 DINKEL, CHUCK NAVIS, ERIC		
(54) UNDERHEIM, Gregg 11-North 6-2254 GENISIO, JAMES	yes	yes
(55) KAUFERT, Dean 324-East 6-5719		
(56) McCORMICK, Terri	yes	no
(57) WIECKERT, Steve 16-West 6-3070		
(58) LEHMAN, Michael 103-West 7-2367 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
(59) GROTHMAN, Glenn 15-N 4-8486 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
WEBER, MARK BONNETT, ANTHONY BOSMAN, AL BRUNNER, MARK DOHRWARDT, DON HEINEN, JIM KARSHNA, RICHARD JR. LeMAHIEU, DANIEL THOMPSON, THOMAS LEVANDOWSKI, RICHARD JR. LAWTON, CATHARINE	yes yes	yes yes
(60) VACANT GOTTLIEB, MARK MELOTIK, PAUL PLISKIE, BEN	no	yes no
(61) TURNER, Robert 109-North 6-0731 DICKERT, JOHN	yes	yes
(62) LEHMAN, John 303-West 6-0634 DESCHLER, KEITH	yes no	yes no
(63) LADWIG, Bonnie 113-West 6-9171		
(64) KREUSER, James 219-North 6-5504		
(65) STEINBRINK, John 307-West 6-0455		
(66) STARZYK, Samantha 109-West 6-2530		
(67) SYKORA, Tom 3-North 6-1194 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
GORDON, PAUL MORROW, JAN LOWRIE, STEVE THOMAS, TROY WOOD, JEFFREY	yes yes yes yes	yes yes yes no
(68) BALOW, Larry 409-North 6-9172 MOULTON, TERRY	yes	yes
(69) SUDER, Scott 21-North 7-0280 OSEGARD, LARRY SMALL, JOHN		
(70) LIPPERT, MaryAnn 127-W 6-8366 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
RASMUSSEN, TRENT BRUWINK, AMY SUE BANKSON, DENNIS KRUG, SCOTT LYONS, DAVE MEYER, GARY		
(71) LASSA, Julie 122-North 7-9649 HARRIS, LEO		
(72) SCHNEIDER, Marlin 204-North 6-0215 ZIEGLER, THOMAS		
(73) BOYLE, Frank 221-North 6-0640 HELENIUS, DARRYL REASBECK, CAROL	yes	yes
(74) SHERMAN, Gary 320-West 6-7690 SCHUCK, ROBERT		
(75) HUBLER, Mary 119-North 6-2519 SEEFLOTH, GAYLE	yes	yes
(76) BERCEAU, Terese 322-West 6-3784	yes	yes
(77) BLACK, Spencer 201-West 6-7521		
(78) POCAN, Mark 418-North 6-8570		
(79) SKINDRUD, Richard 18-West 6-3520 POPE-ROBERTS, SONDY BARTLETT, NANCY	yes no	yes no
(80) POWERS, Michael 310-North 6-1192 GLENN, DEBRA		
(81) TRAVIS, David 223-North 6-5340 NORTHCUTT, DAVE REEVES, JAMES	no	no
(82) STONE, Jeff 306-North 6-8590 WEIR, PAUL	no	no
(83) GUNDERSON, Scott 7-West 6-3363		
(84) GUNDRUM, Mark 19-North 7-5158 DUFF, MARC		
(85) HUBER, Gregory 218-North 6-0654		
(86) PETROWSKI, Jerry 4-West 6-1182 STARR, JEFF	yes	yes

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(87) REYNOLDS, Martin 126-N 6-7506 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
HOUDEK, PAULA	yes	yes
KEMPKES, TED	yes	yes
RACETTE, DANIEL	yes	yes
SMITH, MICHAEL	yes	yes
BRANDNER, MICHAEL	yes	yes
EDMING, ERIC		
PRESTON, BOB	yes	yes
SCHAFFER, GARY	yes	
WILLIAMS, MARY		
(88) KRAWCZYK, Judy 9-North 6-0485		
MILZ, BRYAN	yes	yes
SENGLAUB, DAN	yes	yes
(89) GARD, John 308-East 6-2343		
HAGER, ALAN		
INGALLS, JUSTIN	yes	yes
NETA, JAKE		
(90) RYBA, John 321-West 6-0616 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
DIER, ROGER		yes
STRAZISHAR, BOB		
VAN ROY, KARL		
BROKIEWICZ, BARRON	yes	yes
(91) GRONEMUS, Barbara 114-North 6-7015	yes	yes
WOLDSTAD, JAKE	yes	
MILLIREN, FRANK		
(92) MUSSER, Terry 11-West 6-7461		
TAFT, MICHAEL	yes	yes
(93) KREIBICH, Robin 107-West 6-0660		
(94) HUEBSCH, Michael 305-East 6-0631		
BURKE, VICKI		
(95) SHILLING, Jennifer 8-North 6-5780		
GUNDERSEN, JEROME		
(96) JOHNSRUD, DuWayne 323-North 6-3534		
MORGA, MIGUEL		
(97) KRUSICK, Margaret 128-N 6-1733 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
DANIELSEN, ROGER	yes	yes
CULVER, DEAN	no	no
CUMMINGS, KATHLEEN		
NISCHKE, ANN		
RETKOWSKI, DAVID		
JUDSON, SCOTT	no	no
(98) DUFF, Marc 306-East 6-1190 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
JENSEN, SCOTT		
MOKROS, DAVID		
COLLISON, ROBERT		
FEDER, DOTTIE		
(99) URBAN, Frank 13-West 6-9175 -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
LEHMAN, MICHAEL	no	yes
TROMMER, JAY		
LANDON, PATRICK	yes	
SENATE (Positions shown for 2002 races only)	PIO Restored	DNR Board Appointment
(01) LASEE, Alan 6-3512 109 S.	no	no
HILSABECK, SUSAN	yes	yes
(03) BURKE, Brian 6-8535 317 E. -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
BLENSKI, ROMAN		
CARPENTER, TIM	yes	yes
FARLEY, PAT	yes	yes
(05) ROSENZWEIG, Peggy 6-2512 126 S.		
CHRISTIANSEN, GEORGE	yes	yes
REYNOLDS, TOM		
(07) GROBSCHMIDT, Richard 6-7505 104 S.	yes	yes
CARPENTER, JIM		
(09) BAUMGART, James 6-2056 306 S.	yes	yes
LEIBHAM, JOSEPH	no	no
(11) HUELSMAN, Joanne 6-2635 5 S. -filed notice of non-candidacy	--	--
WOODS, SCOTT		
BEHREND, JIM		
HUELSMAN, JOANNE		
KEDZIE, NEAL		
RILEY, JACK		
(13) FITZGERALD, Scott 6-5660 106 S.		
CHRISTIANSEN, WALT		
(15) ROBSON, Judy 6-2253 15 S.		
BLACK, GREGORY		
(17) SCHULTZ, Dale 6-0703 310 S.		
REILLY, EMMETT		
OLSON, BEN III		
(19) ELLIS, Michael 6-0718 108 S.		
(21) PLACHE, Kimberly 6-1832 415 S.	Yes	Yes
KNUTESON, JOHN		
STEPP, CATHY	no	yes

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(23) ZIEN, David 6-7511 20 S. LARSON, EARL		
(25) JAUCH, Robert 6-3510 313 S. CONDON, GREGG		
(27) ERPENBACH, Jon 6-6670 8 S.		
(29) DECKER, Russell 6-2502 323 S. EDMING, JIMMY MATHIES, BLAKE	yes	yes
(31) MOEN, Rodney 6-8546 122 S. BROWN, ROD	yes	yes
(33) KANAVAS, Ted 6-9174 22 S.		

(NOTE: Contact the WSN for a separate .pdf file containing just the above table. The WSN will also be printing updates to this list in future issues of WSNetwork News.)

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Factory Farming

Sierra Club ‘rap sheet’ lists large meat plant violations

Just weeks after the second-largest beef recall in history, the Wisconsin Sierra Club, joined by Family Farm Defenders, Concerned Citizens of Adams County, and Midwest Environmental Advocates, released a report this week exposing hundreds of criminal and civil violations committed by America’s largest animal factories. The report, *The RapSheet on Animal Factories*, documents convictions at corporate animal factories for animal cruelty, bribery, records destruction, fraud, worker endangerment, and pollution violations.

The report includes a RapSheet for three Wisconsin plants — Brakebush Brothers in Westfield, Green Bay Dressed Beef (American Foods Group) in Green Bay, and Packerland Packing Company in Green Bay — for contaminated chicken and beef products. Neighbors of factory farms, consumers and reporters can search the database at www.sierraclub.org/rapsheets to see what’s been going on in their communities.

SOURCE: Sierra Club and Midwest Environmental Advocates.

Bush confirms Dorr against Ag Committee wishes

Last week the Senate Agriculture committee firmly rejected President Bush’s appointment of Thomas Dorr to the position of the USDA’s Undersecretary for Rural Development. The committee said that because of Dorr’s violations of farm subsidy rules as well as evidence that he was insensitive to the needs of rural areas and minorities, they could not recommend him to the position.

Nonetheless, this week as the Senate was away on vacation, President Bush surprised and angered farmers by confirming Dorr to the position. The action raised a virtual hailstorm in rural areas drawing sharp condemnation from progressive family farm organizations. In a press release by the National Family Farm Coalition and the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Iowa farmer George Naylor said, “We are outraged that President Bush appointed Thomas Dorr through this sneaky

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back door method, ignoring sixteen months of widespread grassroots opposition.” More than 165 grassroots groups have publicly opposed the Thomas Dorr nomination.

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

California farm bureau fights to retain EPA Clean Air Act exemptions

The Environmental Protection Agency moved last week to end a 25-year policy that allowed farmers in California to be exempt from the provisions of the Clean Air Act. But the California Farm Bureau has filed suit to retain the exemption, despite the fact that failure of large farms to control their emissions may be contributing to some of the air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, which is among the smoggiest areas in the country. The Farm Bureau has filed suit asking for a three-year extension of the exemption while farm emissions are studied, and has expressed fears that small farmers would face burdensome regulation. But EarthJustice Legal Defense Foundation, which last May won its lawsuit seeking to end the exemption, contends that much of the emissions are coming from large animal feeding operations that can afford to put the necessary controls in place.

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

Nominations sought for ‘Steward of the Land’ award

[The American Farmland Trust has announced] its “Steward of the Land” award. We’re looking for a few good nominees, and you could be the nominator! This is a good thing that puts cash into the pockets of deserving farm families doing the right thing. If you want to nominate someone, follow the instructions below. The process is simple and not too onerous, and gives you the chance to brag about a farm family that deserves recognition for their good stewardship and their advocacy for wise land use. Give me a call if you want to know more.

SOURCE: Denny Caneff, AFT Upper Midwest Regional Director, (608) 848-7000.

Forest Fragmentation

Public meetings set on Brule River plan

A final draft of a proposed master plan that will guide operation of the Brule River State Forest for the next 15 years and the Environmental Impact Statement on the plan are now available and will be the subject of two upcoming public hearings. The 41,000-acre Brule River State Forest is located in eastern Douglas County in northwest Wisconsin. The forest is approximately 30 miles north to south and contains the entire 44-mile long Bois Brule River, nationally known for trout fishing and whitewater paddling.

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The draft plan and EIS has been mailed to approximately 1,000 people and organizations that participated in the planning process or who expressed interest in the plan. Copies are available on the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/masterplanning/Brule/.

Two public hearings will be held to take comments on the plan and EIS. The hearings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on the following dates at the locations listed:

- **Sept. 10**, Brule Town Hall, 5820 S. Maple Street, Brule.
- **Sept. 12**, Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road, Fitchburg.

SOURCE: WDNR, Steve Petersen (715) 372-5678.

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Groundwater Protection

New groundwater standards proposed for corn herbicide, metallic element

Two new groundwater standards that aim to limit groundwater contamination from a popular corn and soybean herbicide and from a metallic element used in industrial processes are the topic of public hearings statewide in late August. One proposed standard is for Alachlor ESA, a metabolite that results from the breakdown in soil of the herbicide Alachlor. Wisconsin is believed to be the first state to set groundwater standards for the substance, which is present in an estimated 28 percent of the groundwater in Wisconsin used for private drinking water supplies, according to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

The other proposed standard is for molybdenum, which is used in manufacturing steel alloys, in aeronautical engineering, in pigments and in metal-ceramic composites. Revisions also are proposed for groundwater standards for the herbicides butylate and dacthal, and for naphthalene, which is a constituent of coal tar and petroleum and is also used as a wood preservative. The changes are proposed as amendments to Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 140.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Ontario newspaper editorial: time ripe for exporting Canada's water

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The following comes from an editorial in the August 14, 2002, Windsor *Star*: "There certainly seems to be a fair amount of profit to be made in the sale of Canada's fresh water. Any potential profits from bulk water exports by the federal government could go a long way in cutting back personal and corporate income taxes and helping our public health care system. They could even be used to remove the dirty sediments still lurking in the lower Great Lakes. Yet, our federal government has taken a decidedly protectionist stance against the proper marketing of bulk water exports. The Liberals have continually refused to allow water sales from international boundary waters. Our provincial governments, which have complete jurisdiction over fresh water sales from their own provincial sources, are also unable to export this natural resource. But this is the wrong economic strategy. Rather than concerning ourselves with finding ways to protect our fresh water from international companies, the federal government should open up the market and allow

private companies to get involved in bulk water exports.” Read the complete editorial at www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/081402_water_export.htm.

SOURCE: WSN.

Mercury Reduction

Michigan groups call for Wisconsin-type mercury reduction plan

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A Detroit *News* story by Jennifer Brooks and Jennifer Chambers on Aug. 7 reported that environmental groups are using recent tests showing high levels of mercury in Michigan rainfall to call for Wisconsin-like mercury reductions.

According to the story, “Environmentalists are asking the state to reduce mercury pollution levels 90 percent by the year 2010, either by converting coal-burning facilities to cleaner fuels — coal is a major source of mercury contamination — or installing pollution control devices on smokestacks. All five gubernatorial candidates have expressed support for the idea. Complete story at www.greatlakesdirectory.org/mi/080702_mercury_pollution.htm.

SOURCE: Craig Minowa, craig@earthology.net.

Metallic Mining

Wolf River Headwaters supporters meet with DOA Sec. Lightbourn

Proponents of the public acquisition of the Crandon mine site property recently met with WI Dept. of Administration Secretary George Lightbourn and staff to discuss issues surrounding the proposed acquisition. The Secretary heard presentations on technical, legal, and economic issues relevant to the proposed purchase. Just as Gov. McCallum had indicated in a separate meeting one month ago, Sec. Lightbourn stressed his commitment to negotiate a purchase that will be a fair deal for the state.

A sample resolution suitable for cities and county boards is also being distributed to those interested in building support for the Wolf Headwaters purchase. If you are interested in introducing such a resolution, go to www.alphaadc.com/treaty/resolution_wrhpp.html for a printable page, or contact Claire Schmidt of the Environmental Decade at (608) 251-7020 for a copy.

We remain cautiously optimistic that there is movement toward a successful acquisition and the potential for a permanent solution to the Crandon proposal. Despite the progress, we also remain committed to state mining law reform. Two bills, the Ban on Cyanide in WI Mining and the No Special Treatment for Mining will be re-introduced in January. Background information on both is available on the WSN website at www.wsn.org.

SOURCE: Mining Impact Coalition of WI, Dave Blouin, burroak15@aol.com, (608) 233-8455.

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Menominee Nation passes Wolf headwaters purchase resolution

On Aug. 8 the Menominee Nation legislature passed a resolution supporting the Wolf River Headwaters Protection Purchase. The vote was 7 for and 1 absent.

SOURCE: Deb Bowman, Mining Impacts Office, nominating@frontiernet.net.

SOUL passes headwaters purchase resolution

A resolution supporting the Wolf River Headwaters Protection Purchase was passed by Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) on July 30, 2002.

SOURCE: Logan Edinger.

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Shoreland/Wetlands

Clean Water Coalition presents nonpoint awards

An August 6 press release from the Clean Water Coalition recognizes the efforts of the DNR in promulgating the runoff rules. Secretary Bazzell and DNR staff have been awarded the coalition's "Work Horse Award" in recognition "...of the many people within the DNR who put countless hours into the nonpoint pollution rules. People like Russ Rasmussen, Al Shea, Carol Holden, and many others spent years drafting and redrafting the rules. They listened and summarized public comments and redrafted the rules based on those comments, met with DATCP and outside groups and redrafted the rules based on their input, and listened to the Natural Resources Board and redrafted yet again. The result of their hard work is something to be proud of — the strongest water quality law in the country." (The full release can be accessed via The Wheeler Report web site at <http://thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug02/0806riverkeyplayers.pdf>).

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 8-7-02.

WAL offers WI budget repair bill assessment

After months of debate, the budget repair bill has reached the Governor's desk and was signed. Some actions strengthened water protections, others did not. The Governor had the power to use a line item veto to eliminate items in the bill. The good news, which reflects efforts by WAL, its members and the Clean Water Coalition, is that the Budget Conference Committee:

- Rejected an Assembly proposal to eliminate the position of DNR attorney who assists local governments and DNR staff in shoreland zoning matters. The same proposal would have prohibited the state from bringing legal challenges to shoreland zoning variance granted by boards of adjustment.

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- Rejected some cuts to DNR Water Programs approved by the Assembly. Overall, the actions are much less drastic than “across-the-board” cuts in DNR’s general budget as proposed by the Assembly. Some substantial water program items were restored, including 6.5 positions and approximately \$450,000 for DNR’s “Water Integration Team” that is involved in nonpoint source pollution, habitat protection and related efforts.
- Approved establishment of an invasive species program as generally proposed by the Governor’s Task Force. This new program will have no new DNR staff positions and no new appropriation. Instead, it will be funded with Motorboat Gas Tax revenues.
- Maintained the current funding level for Stewardship 2000 program. Cuts proposed by the Assembly would have had no impact on the budget but would have severely reduced the bonding authority for the fund.
- Restored most recycling programs under current law.

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The other good news...is that while the budget committee approved exemptions from state wetland protection for the Ashley Furniture Company, the Governor vetoed this provision — after receiving over 1,000 opposing letters. WAL and other water resource groups were very active in encouraging supporters to write those letters. Your voice counts!

SOURCE: Lisa Conley, WAL, lconley@usa.com.

WI researcher finds drugs altering key aquatic organisms

A story in the UW-Madison’s on-line *Wisconsin Week* by Emily Carlson states, “The overuse of antibiotics not only leads to more resistant strains of infection, but, according to new research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, antibiotics also may be adversely affecting zooplankton, tiny organisms that underpin the health of all freshwater ecosystems. In the last decade, European and American researchers have found more evidence that lakes and streams are tainted by common drugs, ranging from caffeine to anticancer agents.” Complete story at www.news.wisc.edu/releases/view.html?id=7702.

Volunteer stream monitoring conference Sept. 20-21

Registrations are being accepted for the Volunteer Stream Monitoring conference Sept. 20-21 at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. Participants will learn how to design, collect, and use stream water samples. Sponsors include the UW Extension, WDNR, River Alliance of WI, UW-Stevens Point Environmental Task Force Program, and Trout Unlimited.

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SOURCE: Peggy Compton, (608) 342-1633 or Peggy.Compton@ces.uwex.edu.

EPA fines WDOT for Hwy. 29 violation

From the July 10 Chippewa Falls *Herald*: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has fined the Wisconsin Department of Transportation \$40,000 for dumping 1,100 cubic yards of limestone into the Chippewa River as part of the Highway 29 bridge construction project. Although the state could challenge the penalty, the most likely outcome is for the state to pay a lesser amount deter-

mined through negotiations, according to Gregory Carlson, an EPA Region 5 enforcement officer. He said the penalty was assessed not so much because of the amount of pollution but because the DOT should know better and has a history of similar violations. “We want to protect the integrity of the permitting process,” Carlson said. More at www.chippewa.com/archives/index.inn?loc=detail&doc=/2002/July/10-620-news1.txt.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 8-7-02.

River Alliance/UW release dam removal sediment movement study

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In partnership with scientists at UW-Madison, the River Alliance of Wisconsin has released a first-of-its kind study on sediment movement resulting from small dam removal in Wisconsin. The cutting-edge research produced a new modeling tool that can be used to help minimize the adverse impacts of sediment on rivers following the removal of a dam. These findings will be of use to dam removal efforts across Wisconsin and the nation.

The study was funded by FishAmerica Foundation, the conservation and research arm of the American Sportfishing Association, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. Copies of the study may be obtained by contacting the River Alliance of Wisconsin office or at the organization’s website at www.wisconsinrivers.org.

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI.

US EPA: “no evidence” WI sewage spills affecting IL waters

US EPA Secretary Christine Todd Whitman said on Aug. 14 there is “no direct evidence” to support the allegations of eight Illinois U.S. representatives that Milwaukee sewer overflows are the cause of Lake Michigan beach closings in Illinois.

“The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District is pleased that the EPA has come to the same conclusion on this issue as others in the scientific community,” said MMSD Commission chairman Antonio Riley, a State Representative from Milwaukee. In May, 2002, Illinois Congresswoman Janice Schakowski wrote a letter, signed by seven other lawmakers, to the EPA secretary demanding that action be taken against MMSD for sewer overflows.

SOURCE: US EPA.

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Horicon company receives Brogan award for pollution reduction efforts

From the July 22 Fond du Lac *Reporter*: John Deer Horicon Works has received the DNR’s John Brogan Environmental Achievement Award for its efforts to minimize or eliminate environmental pollution. The Horicon facility was recognized for significantly reducing its wastewater, its hazardous wastes, and its air pollutant emissions. The Horicon facility installed a new wastewater treatment system in 1999 that allowed the factory to eliminate its process wastewater discharges to the Rock River. The new system, along with its water conservation program, allowed the factory to cut its daily wastewater discharges to the local treatment plant to 21,000 gallons, for a sav-

ings of \$271,000. The wastewater system cost \$250,000. More at www.wisinfo.com/thereporter/news/archive/local_5013452.shtml.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 7-31-02.

Duluth given development ultimatum tied to sewage overflows

From the July 29 Duluth (MN) *News Tribune*: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has given the City of Duluth deadlines to fix its sewage overflow problems or, for the first time after years of threats, development will be banned in some areas of the city. If the overflows aren't stopped, the state will also impose an immediate moratorium on any new sewage capacity upstream of the overflow areas. More at www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthtribune/2002/07/28/news/local/3752215.html.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 7-31-02.

Hiring freeze affecting private environmental hiring

The state hiring freeze is having an effect on environment-related employment in the private sector, according to an August 1 story in the Eau Claire *Leader-Telegram*. In 1999, Don Johnson's riprap business was thriving; he completed 50 projects that year to preserve shoreline with rocks. This year, Johnson has completed only five projects, and it appears unlikely that he'll get a chance to do many more. The state's hiring freeze has meant unfilled vacancies in the DNR's Northern Region, slowing the permit process. Contractors working with the Northern Region office have been told to urge customers with "low priority" projects to postpone them. A total of 372 riprap permits were issued in 2001; this year, a total of 110 permits have been issued between January through July 1. Johnson said he has had to lay off eight employees. More at www.leadertelegram.com/story.asp?id=12708. An additional report on this story can be found at *The Daily Reporter*: dailyreporter.com/news/2_214/construction/6447-1.html.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 8-7-02.

Beach Clean Sweep Sept. 21

Did you know September is Wisconsin Coastal Awareness Month? Did you know that there is an awesome event to celebrate Wisconsin's beautiful coasts through cleaning-up area beaches? Mark your calendar for September 21, 2002, for the 2002 Wisconsin Beach Sweep. Wisconsin Coastal Management (WCM) is coordinating this event in Wisconsin and will partner with your group or organization to make your local event easy and enjoyable

This beach cleanup is part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), a worldwide event coordinated each year in September by the Ocean Conservancy. The ICC has been collecting data from the debris collected on beaches and waterways since 1986. Although last year's event took place three days after September 11th, the turn-out worldwide hit an all time high of 2 million people who collected over nine million pounds of trash! Wisconsin has been participating in the Great

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Lakes portion of the ICC since 1989. In the past, the focus has been mainly on Milwaukee beaches and underwater sites, with satellite efforts in Cable, Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin. But this year WCM plans to take Wisconsin's event to a higher level by involving a greater number of Wisconsin beaches. You can contact Michael at WCM at (608) 267.7982 or Kae DonLevy at (414) 443.1494 for more information. We look forward to helping you organize a beach cleanup on your local beaches!

SOURCE: Michael Friis, michael.friis@doa.state.wi.us.

Urges objections to WE Energies' Guardian Pipeline plan

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I would call your attention to a DNR "call for objections" to granting a permit to WE Energies' (Wisconsin Gas Company) for the Wisconsin Lateral of the Guardian Pipeline (Docket Number 3-SE-2001-1369 through 3-SE-2001-1438). For some reason the cover letter inviting comments originates from WE Energies (rather than the DNR). Moreover, in my local newspaper the call for public comment appeared in the Sports section rather than in the Public notices section of the paper.

The proposed pipeline (whose PSC approval is being contested in several circuit court cases whose oral arguments will be heard October 4) will cross four water bodies in the WDNR's South Central District and 29 in the Southeast District. Much of the wetlands crossed by the Lateral Line Project has yet to be field delineated. WE Energies is attempting to get an expedited review of its permits.

I would urge that all environmentally concerned individuals contact Ms. Karen Van Atta, Waukesha Service Center, 407 Pilot Court, Suite 100, Waukesha WI 53188, (262) 574-2126 and object to the grantings of these permits and in addition call for a public hearing.

SOURCE: David Simpson, dsimpsonnorthlake@msn.com.

Franklin wetland setback meeting rescheduled

The previous hearing date (Aug 22) on the City of Franklin's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) has been postponed. A new hearing format would be used and in order to accomplish this, staff would need more time to prepare. The new hearing process according to the City Engineer, would take the form of a "DOT hearing." As further described, the hearing would now take place at the City's new library and booths would be set up staffed by Plan Commission and Environmental Commission members to provide data to those in attendance. Comments would be taken in written form then submitted to staff. Staff would compile the comments for inclusion into Plan Commission packets approx. one month later when the Commission would then take action. It is my understanding that the usual hearing process used by the City (at a microphone) will not take place. The date as I understood from the meeting is now is scheduled for Sept. 25.

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SOURCE: Kristen Wilhelm, Vice Chairman, City of Franklin Environmental Commission, (414) 421-3087, dwilhelm@execpc.com.

New report: EPA failing to prosecute water polluters

Nearly 30 percent of the nation's largest industrial, municipal, and federal facilities were in serious violation of the Clean Water Act at least once during a recent 15-month period, according to a report released by U.S. PIRG at uspig.org/uspignewsroom.asp?id2=7553&id3=USPIRG-Newsroom&.

SOURCE: American Rivers *RiverCurrents*, riverscurrents@action.amrivers.org.

Bush seeks OK to place mine “fill” into streams

The White House is attempting one of the most significant attacks on the Clean Water Act in its history, proposing to change a key definition of “fill material” that would be broadened to allow mining waste to be legally dumped into streams and rivers without regard to environmental impact. While a judge recently ruled that the move was a violation of the Clean Water Act, the Bush administration continues to press forward. Congress is now stepping in, acting to clarify that the Act never intended for waste material to be dumped into rivers and streams. Please take a moment and follow the link below to go to a web page where you can ask your representative to cosponsor legislation that would clarify and strengthen the Clean Water Act. More at <http://uspig.org/alerts/route.asp?id=329&id4=ES>.

SOURCE: U.S. PIRG, 8-04-02.

Bush wants to ‘trust states’ to administer Clean Water Act

According to the July 13th edition of the *Washington Post*, the Bush administration is considering a plan to reduce federal oversight of a key Clean Water Act anti-pollution program and instead “trust states” to clean up more than 20,000 dirty rivers, lakes and estuaries, internal Environmental Protection Agency documents show. The proposal would reverse a July 2000 Clinton administration rule requiring EPA approval of states’ efforts to restore “impaired water bodies,” a designation applying to about 300,000 miles of rivers and shorelines and 5 million acres of lakes. EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman has not decided whether to adopt the “watershed protection strategy.” Her spokesman said she hoped to decide within a few weeks. Still, Whitman has vowed to change the Clinton rule, and her staff’s presentation reflects her emphasis on flexibility and environmental results over command-and-control federal regulation and strict enforcement.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 7-31-02.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fighting Bob Fest program expanding

Former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon will headline the first ever “Fighting Bob Fest,” a day-long celebration of progressive politics in Wisconsin, which will take place Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo.

The free event, sponsored by The Capital Times, the Progressive Magazine and Milwaukee’s Shepherd Express, is being billed as a “Wisconsin Chautauqua” after the series of summer educational lectures and concerts that Robert M. “Fighting Bob” La Follette participated in as Wisconsin’s governor and later U.S. senator.

Simon, who retired from the U.S. Senate in 1997, was one of the leaders in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party while serving in Congress, first as a representative and then as a senator from Illinois. Other speakers in the morning will include:

- Progressive Editor Matt Rothschild on civil liberties,
- Glenn Stoddard on the environment,
- former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Herbert Grover on the educational system,
- author John Stauber on the challenges to our food supply,
- Milwaukee Hispanic leader Robert Miranda on the plight of minorities, and
- The *Capital Times*’ Associate Editor John Nichols on the media.

“Fighting Bob Fest” will begin at 9 and sessions will run through 6, with an evening of music to follow. During the afternoon, those in attendance will be invited to take part in working sessions that will discuss and plan ways to address the problems and issues raised during the morning talks. Leaders of groups that have been involved in the Perrier water controversy, the anti-ethanol fight and the corporate farm fight will be on hand for the sessions.

The event will include music throughout the day and food will be available for a nominal fee on the grounds.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, (608) 253-7266.

WI Activist Conference Oct. 19 in Madison

The second annual Wisconsin Activists Conference sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility-Madison Chapter and several other organizations October 19, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison. Focus is national and state strategies including legislation. Morning of speakers and workshops on four topics:

- Environmental Health
- Nuclear Security
- Access to Health Care

- Globalization Afternoon Media Fair — hands-on workshop on crafting your message and getting media attention Finale is a Press Conference on the work accomplished.

SOURCE: PSR-Madison Chapter, (608) 232-9945, mail@psrmadison.org, www.psrmadison.org.

GLAHN accepting grants for fall cycle

A reminder to all of you working in the Great Lakes Basin that the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund is accepting proposals for their fall grant cycle. Deadline is September 30th. The grants program provides grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 U.S. Funding for GLAHNF's programs is provided by a grant from the C. S. Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan. For more information, visit GLAHNF's websites at www.glhabitat.org and GreatLakesDirectory.org, or contact the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at (231) 347-1181.

SOURCE: Diana Toledo, River Alliance of WI.

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The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Federation of Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton League of America, Lake Superior Greens, Madison Audubon Society, Muskies, Inc., Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State

B.A.S.S. Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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

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

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