



WSNetwork News

September 1, 2003

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

Click on these WSN priority issue section links
or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation](#)
- [Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection](#)

**WAL, WWA pick
new executive
directors.**

Click [here](#) for details.

Arrowhead-Weston Line

WSN issue chair: Logan Edinger, Save Our
Unique Lands, edinger@centurytel.net

CUB says A-W line won't help prevent blackouts

Federal investigators have singled out operational errors as the root of last week's massive east coast electricity blackout, highlighting the need for a transmission system that is efficient and relies less on complex operational oversight. The proposed Arrowhead Transmission Line (Duluth-Wausau) is less efficient and requires more operational oversight than a cheaper alternative, the King-Weston line. According to federal investigators, a series of operator errors led to the largest blackout in American history. System operators at MidAmerican Energy, and in New York State mishandled transfers of electricity that cascaded into a disaster that led to a loss of electricity in the eastern U.S. and Canada.

CUB Executive Steve Hiniker said that any improvements to the electric transmission system should allow for the efficient transfer of power and require the least human oversight possible. The King-Weston transmission line is more efficient than Arrowhead and would require less operator oversight according to technical experts hired by CUB to review the two projects.

SOURCE: Citizen Utility Board, (608) 251-3322.

More transmission lines not the cure for blackouts

While there is a pressing need to find the cause, there's also the danger in this superheated political environment of getting carried away and overreacting. Indeed, even before anyone knows the basic facts about what started the blackout and why it spread, many people are already calling for a whole lot of money to be thrown at expanding and upgrading transmission. To be clear, we're not saying that targeted investment in transmission upgrades isn't needed. In certain areas of the U.S. like Long Island and Boston, congestion on the transmission system is both a major reliability risk and economic problem. Where there are unacceptable levels of transmission congestion, owners and operators of the grid should find the least costly means of fixing those problems. Fortunately, there are ways to address transmission congestion, besides just building more transmission.

Building more generation closer to where electricity is needed will help solve the problem by not having to ship power across long distances. Distributed generation from smaller sources like microturbines, fuel cells, and solar technologies can also play a role. In fact, with the development of on-site generation technology, the grid itself may become less important over the next 20 years.

SOURCE: Excerpted from *PennFuture*, www.pennfuture.org via Great Lakes United.

**DNR Independence & Public
Intervenor Office Restoration**

WSN issue chair: Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club —
John Muir Chapter, cterrell@execpc.com

Former public intervenor Dawson to head Justice Dept. enviro unit

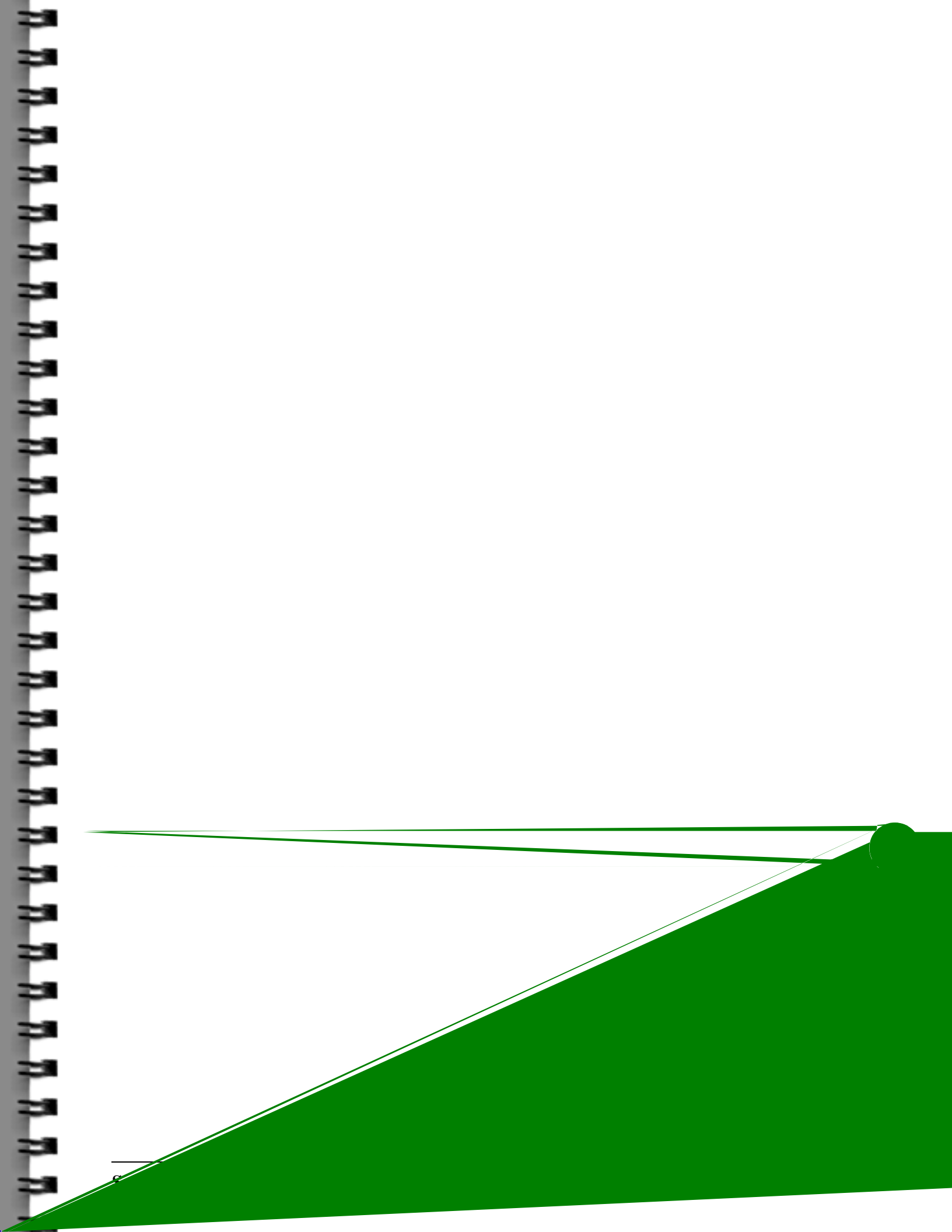
A story in the August 13 *Capitol Times* reports, "Sending a signal that she plans to stress environmental law enforcement, Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager has appointed a former public intervenor to head the Justice Department's environmental protection unit.

Thomas Dawson served as intervenor — an independent representative of the people of Wisconsin on environmental matters with the power to sue — before former Gov. Tommy Thompson abolished the office in 1995. Kathleen Falk, now the Dane County executive, was also an intervenor. Lautenschlager also supports an Assembly bill sponsored by Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, that would restore the Office of the Public Intervenor to the Department of Justice. The office was created in 1967, with authority to bring lawsuits and serve as the public's watchdog over Wisconsin's natural resources."

SOURCE: Madison *Capitol Times*.

San Francisco adopts the "Precautionary Principle"

A story in the August 4 San Francisco *Chronicle* reports that San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown signed into law a landmark municipal Environment Code and Precautionary Principle last week.



snow, except in an emergency, and will implement a number of other improvements in its manure management operations in order to keep pollutants out of surface waters.

SOURCE: Brian Rieselman, RieselmanBJ@DOJ.STATE.WI.US, (608) 266-7876.

State hog farm protections could be trumped by less stringent EPA rules

Offshore oil drilling and ozone in California. Factory farm pollution in North Carolina. Power plant regulation in the northeast. Across the country, states are finding that the Bush Administration's environmental policies are less stringent than their own and, in some cases, the administration is even limiting the ability of states to protect their environment. In North Carolina, for example, factory-style farms are subject to state regulations requiring various permits and waste treatment systems, and the state currently has a ban on new hog farms. These rules are more stringent than recently released EPA guidelines. Environmental advocates in North Carolina are concerned that large scale animal farmers will use the new EPA rules as leverage to weaken the state regulations (*Raleigh News & Observer* 12/17/02).

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," August 25, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

NY bill challenges farm regulations

In a move to stifle the process of passing new environmental regulations that impact agriculture, New York's Sen. Kuhl has introduced S1973, a bill designed to create a review of existing and proposed rules and regulations affecting agriculture. The authors of the act allege that "the purpose of this act is to improve our agricultural economy by challenging existing regulations which work against viable farm operations, and prohibiting any further regulations which may harm agriculture."

In reality the proposed legislation adds an additional level of bureaucracy (and expense) which will serve not only to further endanger the environment, but will also hinder the agricultural sector. The Commissioner of Agriculture would be given the sole duty of determining which regulations need to be analyzed. The NY agencies that would have their regulations scrutinized under this legislation include the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health, Labor, and Transportation. This act goes on to suggest that all other state agencies may be subject to the same level of inspection. Sen. Kuhl, former NY state chairman for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), seems to be taking clues from one of his former organization's legislative models, the Economic Impact Statement Act, which would require an environmental cost/benefit analysis to be conducted for any regulation proposed to protect the environment. With this eerily similar act, Sen. Kuhl is obviously trying to roll back the regulations that protect our environment and our farms, while pretending to be "farm friendly." In reality, the only group this legislation is "friendly" towards is corporate agricultural interests.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," August 18, 2003.

To p.1

To p.1

New Mexico Forest Service considers ATV restrictions

The August 5 Santa Fe *New Mexican* reports that the five national forest supervisors of New Mexico are having qualms about a policy that allows all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) nearly limitless access that results in erosion. The forests are crisscrossed with ruts left by three- and four-wheel dune-buggy-like ATVs, even where the Forest Service or local police try to block access to protect eroded areas.

“When an off-highway vehicle (OHV) user drives across the country, it leaves a mark on the land that other people see. After four or five passes, the land starts to really show the use,” said Marcia Andre, forest supervisor of the Gila. “We get unplanned roads created each year from OHV users going cross-country. We find it’s growing exponentially from this OHV use.” Five national forest supervisors in Arizona expect to sign a uniform ban on backcountry ATV travel by Sept. 30. Andre said New Mexico forest supervisors are working on an off-road strategy, also expected to be completed in September.

The first step will likely be an inventory of current roads and trails and input from the public, Andre said. By 2005, she said, forests could specify limits on ATV use. For more on how your state can promote responsible ATV use, visit http://www.serconline.org/orv/pkg_frameset.html.

SOURCE: SERC “Wildlines Report,” August 11, 2003.

Alaska changes state forests from “multi-use” to “timber”

The August 12 Fairbanks *Daily News-Miner* reports Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski signed into law a bill to change the primary use of all current and future state forests from “multi-use” to “timber.” The change means that, if conflict arises over the use of a parcel of forestland, logging will win out over any other use. The bill also allows the state Department of Natural Resources to:

- ignore potential impacts of land use when planning small-scale projects,
- reduces requirements to publicize timber sales,
- eliminates the five-year review schedule of forest management plans,
- increases the amount of state land open to large timber sales, and
- ends the requirement to send new plans to the state legislature.

Gov. Murkowski stated the new law is important to create jobs and increase revenues for Alaska. Local environmentalists say the law sacrifices public oversight of state land and environmental protection to logging interests. Although sweeping in scope, the new law is not expected to have much of an impact in the short term, since the amount of available timber in Alaska currently far

To p.1

To p.1

exceeds demand. For more information on the sustainable use of natural resources, visit: <http://www.serconline.org/sustainability/index.html>.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," August 18, 2003.

Woodlot owner workshop set for Sept. 6 near Burlington

Owners of small, private woodlands can gain basic knowledge of how to better care for their woods through hands-on activities during a Sept. 6 workshop at the Seno Woodland Education Center near Burlington. The workshop will help landowners with 1 to 100 acres of woodlands learn more about caring for their forest and is intended to encourage stewardship and wise management of small, privately owned woodlands.

Participants will take part in activities including: woodland inventory, tree measurements, habitat investigation, soil and water protection, forest improvement practices, and making a long range woodland plan. Participants will also gain valuable information and resources about where to get additional help and advice, tax considerations and government assistance programs. Cost of the session is \$25 and includes all handout materials, snacks and lunch. People can register for the workshop by calling (262) 743-1694.

SOURCE: Paul Pingrey, DNR Division of Forestry, (608) 267-7595 or Kendra Johncock, Seno Center, (262) 743-1694 or kendra@elknet.net.

To p.1

Mercury Reduction

WSN issue chair: Marc Looze, Clean Wisconsin, mlooze@chorus.net

WWF: committee vote against mercury rules 'abdicates responsibility'

On August 20 the Assembly Natural Resources Committee voted to oppose the DNR's proposed rules reducing mercury emissions from four Wisconsin utilities by 80% by 2015. The committee asked the Department to modify the rules to address concerns raised by Wisconsin utilities and business groups. The utilities and business groups requested that the rule be amended to assure that Federal regulations that may be adopted in the future would preempt DNR's proposed rules and that the requirement for an 80% mercury emission reduction by the year 2015 be totally eliminated, leaving in place only a 40% reduction standard by the year 2010.

"Wisconsin utilities are the single largest contributor of the mercury that contaminates our lakes and streams, the fish that live in them and the anglers and their families that eat the fish from our waters," said Bob Miller, Chair of the Fisheries Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. "Every single lake and stream in the state is listed on the DNR's Fish Contaminant Advisory thereby greatly restricting the number of fish that may be eaten by children and women of reproductive age."

To p.1

“Despite these very real health threats to Wisconsin citizens and extensive support for the rule by DNR professionals, doctors, other health professionals, women of reproductive age, anglers, tourism officials, labor representatives, native Americans, representatives of religious organizations and a large number of environmental groups, the Assembly Natural Resources Committee totally bought the position advanced by utility and business groups and abdicated its responsibility to protect the health of Wisconsin citizens” said George Meyer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, George Meyer, Executive Director, (608) 516-5545.

To p.1

Metallic Mining WSN issue chairs: Jim Wise, ECCOLA eccola@newnorth.net and Claire Schmidt, Clean Wisconsin, schmidtc@cleanwisconsin.org

Poll says residents favor closing mining loopholes

State lawmakers should close current loopholes for mining waste, according to 91% of those responding to a recent statewide poll. By a margin of 20-to-1, Wisconsin residents say mining waste sites should be required to meet the same hazardous waste and groundwater standards as landfills and waste sites for other industries.

“Important bills have been introduced to eliminate the current laws that give special treatment for mining,” said Dave Blouin, Sierra Club state mining committee chair. “It’s time for both the Assembly and Senate to schedule hearings and votes on the bipartisan ‘no special treatment’ bills to protect our groundwater and wetlands from mining waste.”

Public says “no” to special treatment

The proposed bills were the subject of a question in the July Wisconsin Trends poll by Chamberlain Research. The following question was asked of 600 Wisconsin residents 18 and over. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.97%.

“Mines are currently exempt from certain environmental regulations. Should new mining waste sites be required to show they can meet the same hazardous waste regulations and groundwater standards as landfills or waste sites for other industries?”

Yes	543	(90.5%)
No	27	(4.5%)
Don’t know, no opinion	30	(5.0%)

AB 420 would close current loopholes

Assembly Bill 420, introduced by Rep. Terri McCormick (R-Appleton) and Rep. Judy Krawczyk (R-Green Bay), and Senate Bill 157, introduced by Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) would close loopholes for mining in Wisconsin’s environmental laws, such as the current provision exempting mining waste from hazardous waste laws. The “no special treatment” bills are identical to one that passed the Senate last session but was not voted on in the Assembly.

To p.1

SOURCE: Sierra Club, Dave Blouin, (608) 233-8455, buroak15@aol.com.

Rep. Gunderson drafts legislation to reduce state's public waters

The WSN has received a communication from a DNR source summarizing concerns that a bill by Rep. Scott Gunderson would “significantly change the scope of navigable waters in the state of Wisconsin.” According to the communication, “These issues arose in the Leg Council Recodification Committee. We advised the Committee that to adopt a definition (such as the one proposed in this bill) that would eliminate from public trust protection waterways that have been determined navigable by the WI Supreme Court under the public trust doctrine would be an unconstitutional abrogation of the trust doctrine. Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution provides that ‘the river Mississippi and the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence...shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the state as to the citizens of the United States....’

“After discussion of these issues, the Leg. Council Committee agreed that the appropriate approach was to codify the navigability test outlined by the WI Supreme Court in *Degayner*, in 1972 (which restated and readopted the *Olson v. Merrill* test) and to direct DNR to adopt rules outlining how it would conduct navigability tests.”

SOURCE: WDNR source.

Gunderson letter excerpt...

“In the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and as the co-chairman of the Legislative Council Study Committee on the Recodification of Chapter 30, I have heard time and again that Wisconsin needs to create a definition for navigable waters and navigability.

Under current law, navigable waters are defined to mean any body of water which is navigable under the laws of this state. The lack of a real definition has led to many court cases, which only further complicate and confuse an unworkable definition. Thus, I am introducing legislation that creates an actual usable and enforceable definition of navigable waters. After reviewing the definitions from many other states, I have decided to introduce language that is similar to laws on the books in both Iowa and South Dakota.”

BACKGROUND: public trust doctrine

The navigability test which recognized that streams were navigable if there were periods of navigable capacity, including spring freshets, was adopted by the WI Supreme Court in *Olson v. Merrill* in 1877. This test was reaffirmed by the Court many times (1878, 1882, 1898, 1889, 1909 and, most recently, in the *Degayner* case in 1972). Its clear to me that any legislation that renders waters non-navigable and thus non-public would be deemed a violation of the public trust doctrine. When the Legislature authorized the draining of a Big Muskego Lake in the late 1890's for development by the WI Land and Improvement Company, the case went to the WI Supreme Court, where they stated, in *Priewe v. WI State Land and Improvement Company*, 103 WI 537(1899), “The legislature has no more authority to emancipate itself from the [public trust] obligation resting upon it which was assumed at the commencement of its statehood, to preserve for the benefit of all people forever the enjoyment of the navigable waters within its boundaries, than is has to donate the school fund or the state capital to a private purpose.”

To p.1

To p.1

Partners create “Shoreland Connection” web site and CD

Several partner groups in northern Wisconsin have collaborated to produce a web site and CD offering advice on how land owners can be better stewards of shoreline property. The web site is at <http://www.theshorelandconnection.org> and was developed by the **Headwaters Partnership Team**, the **Wisconsin Stewardship Network**, the **Wisconsin Association of Lakes**, and the **Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area**.

According to Jim Wise, the WSN’s north central regional coordinator, “The information is in an easy-to-use format for anyone with access to a computer. We are making this CD available for free and it can be ordered by calling toll free at (866) 850-3866. All of the information also is available on the Internet at www.theshorelandconnection.org.”

To p.1

SOURCE: Jim Wise, ECCOLA, ecowise@newnorth.net.

Florence County Wild Rivers zoning needs your support Sept. 2

The Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA) seeks a strong local turnout at the final public hearing on Wild Rivers Zoning, Tuesday evening, September 2. This hearing will result in a vote from the Planning and Zoning Committee which will then be voted upon and enacted by the full county board in the near future.

At issue is Florence County’s protective zoning ordinance, which safeguard’s the County’s two state-designated Wild Rivers, the Pine and the Popple. (Wisconsin has three state Wild Rivers, the third is the Pike River in Marinette County.)

Florence County’s Planning and Zoning Committee had earlier attempted to completely repeal the County’s Wild Rivers Zoning. On Tuesday evening they expect to hear a compromise proposal that would establish a 300-foot minimum frontage, a 100-foot minimum setback, and a three-acre minimum lot size. This would represent a significant rollback from current standards.

To date, FCLARA has opposed any weakening of Wild Rivers Zoning. The Florence County Planning and Zoning Committee will meet on Tuesday evening September 2 at 7 p.m. in the courtroom in Florence at the County Courthouse. FCLARA members would be grateful to see local friends and supporters attending, or contacting members of the Committee with comments. For more information contact FCLARA officers Jim Swanson, (715) 528-4872 swanson-captjim@aol.com or Ruth Cassens (715) 528-5432 rcassens@borderlandnet.net

To p.1

SOURCE: River Alliance of Wisconsin *CANOE*, August 28, 2003.

Friends of St. Croix submit comments on NR118

Hello Friends of the St. Croix. I have a draft of comments for the WDNR re: proposed revision to NR 118 [dealing with] lower St. Croix riverway land use. Comments are due this Friday. [These comments were] drafted by a local committee of Buck Malick (chair of St. Croix county board and former Exec. Dir. of MN WI Boundary Area Commission), Bill Clapp (Standing Cedars Land

Trust and retired for MN attorney general's office), and Larry Kennedy (Pres. of St. Croix River Assn.). Contact me if you'd like to see them.

SOURCE: Tom Clarke, (715) 294-3154, tomstcroixriver@hotmail.com.

Citizens, groups contesting Polar water bottling operation's well permit

A source following to the proposed water bottling operation near Polar in Langlade County has supplied the following update:

"In late July, the DNR issued a high capacity well permit to the entity polar Ice Water - Dennis Hose to install a high capacity well (300 gal/min) for removing spring water for commercial sale. Whereas Mr. Hose's originally said last winter and spring that his stated intent for daily spring water extraction was 6,000 gal/day (later upped to 12,000 gal/day) with the use of a 500 gal/min. high cap well, the permit issued to him now indicates that his daily extraction will be in the range of 140,000 to 180,000 gal/day, 30 times more than what he first said he intended to extract.

"A number of groups have filed a petition late Friday, Aug. 22nd (the last day for filing) with the DNR seeking a contested case hearing on the permit issued by the Department. They dispute the claim made by the DNR that there will be 958,800 more gallons of water available for "natural discharge" to the Rabe Pond/Rabe Creek system, since Mr. Hose, who operates Trout Haven Hatchery at the site where he seeks to install the high cap well for potable water extraction, will allegedly be shutting down seven pumps on his property. The plaintiffs contend that the numbers submitted in the permit do not reflect the actual state of affairs as far as daily pumping is concerned.

"An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will decide whether or not to grant a contested case hearing on the petition. This decision should happen in the next two to four weeks. Petitioners seeking the hearing include three chapters of Trout Unlimited (Antigo, Green Bay and Wolf River), the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited, the Langlade County Waterways Association, several individuals, and the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. Current plans by the permittee include running a pipeline about a mile westward to County S so as to avoid having to deal directly with the Township of polar on zoning matters and weight limits on a town road. The permittee still would have to deal with county rezoning, as the land where he seeks to set up a transfer station currently is zoned agricultural."

SOURCE: WSN source.

Year of Water follow-up celebration Nov. 3 in Brookfield

A follow-up event to last year's Waters of Wisconsin event is being planned for Nov. 3 at the Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield. The event will feature:

- Exploring theme of water, arts and community to provide a personal connection to care about water,
- Look at outcomes since Waters of Wisconsin Forum and plans for the coming year, and
- Continue conversation about how to arrive at a sustainable water future for Wisconsin and report on immediate actions to this end.

SOURCE: Shaili M. Pfeiffer, Waters of Wisconsin Associate, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, 1922 University Avenue Madison, WI 53726-4099 (608) 263-1692 x21, smpfeiffer@wisc.edu.

Great Lakes states face water management plans

The August 11 Ann Arbor *Press* reports that representatives from eight states and two from Canadian provinces participated in a meeting [last week] to continue negotiations over a region-wide water management agreement. Although the meeting was held in private, details of the plan emerged, including mandatory state comprehensive water management plans, the set-up of a regional commission to determine whether new withdrawal projects will be approved, and adoption of a grandfather clause that would allow current withdrawals and diversions to continue. Many concerns have arisen surrounding the use of water from the Great Lakes including the protection of state's rights, having enough water for crop irrigation, the needs of growing municipalities, and how large a voice citizens should have.

The policies that currently govern the Great Lakes include a federal water resources law, a charter between Great Lakes' governors and the Canadian premier, and a 90-year-old US-Canadian treaty. Complicating the issue further is the fact that the laws may not be strong enough to stand up against US commerce regulations and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or GATT. The meeting was one of many to come in the hopes to manage the Great Lakes for future generations. For more information on how your state can preserve water for the future, visit http://www.serconline.org/waterconservation/pkg_frameset.html.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," August 18, 2003.

New on-line library catalogs 30,000 volumes relating to water

If you're interested in learning about water issues in Wisconsin, check out Wisconsin's Water Library at www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary. The new site offers access to almost 30,000 volumes and a videotape collection of water-related information, plus links to additional sources on the Web. The site was designed to help Year of Water participants who want to learn more about Wisconsin's waters, but any Wisconsin citizen can check books out from the library. Just search the collection or browse the suggested reading lists, then request up to five items via email. Library staff will mail the materials to you free of charge for a loan period of four weeks. You can either return materials to your local public library or mail them back.

The project is a special partnership of the UW Water Resources Library, UW-Madison Libraries, and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. The UW Water Resources Library is an academic library but has nontechnical materials on most water-related topics. The library has always emphasized materials related to Wisconsin and has many books relating to groundwater, mercury, wetlands, and water quality protection. For recreational reading, there are books on water-related tourism, water gardening, building a pond, etc.

SOURCE: JoAnn Savoy, Special Librarian, UW Water Resources Library, home of Wisconsin's Water Library, 1975 Willow Drive, 2nd Floor Madison, WI 53706 (608) 262-3069 josavoy@aqu.wisc.edu.

To p.1

To p.1



To p.1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAL, WWA announce new executive directors

Two Wisconsin Stewardship Network member groups — the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) — have announced new executive directors.

The WAL Board of Directors announced on August 11 the appointment of Peter T. Murray as their new Executive Director. Murray has a BA in economics and an MBA with a major in finance. For almost five years, Murray was responsible for all administrative services at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, WI. In addition to his work at ICF, Peter also has served on the boards and as an officer of several non-profit organizations. Murray can be reached at (608) 662-0923 or ptmurray@wisconsinlakes.org.



Peter Murray



Becky Abel

The WWA has hired Becky Abel as the organization's new Executive Director. Abel comes to the WWA from The Nature Conservancy where she worked for the past seven years. Abel's background is in conservation planning, ecological field work, coalition building, and program outreach. She has an M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. For more information, visit <http://www.wiscwetlands.org/becky.htm>.

SOURCES: WWA and WAL.

Fighting Bob Fest this weekend in Baraboo

The second Fighting Bob Fest will be held this Saturday, September 6, at the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo. We are expecting thousands of socially and politically conscious citizens to attend this gathering. The theme for this year's program is "corporate accountability." Speakers include Jim Hightower and a long list of great progressives. Help propagate grassroots democracy by joining us.

REAP's fifth annual Food for Thought festival Sept. 19-20

The theme of the fifth annual Food for Thought festival is "Coming Home to Eat: The Bounty in Our Backyard." The key note speaker for the event is writer/activist/professor Gary Nabhan. Gary is working to bring awareness to the value of eating locally and has written several interesting books about his quest to learn more about "backyard bounty."

In his prize winning *Coming Home to Eat*. Mr. Nabhan describes a year in which he strived to eat only foods grown, fished, or gathered within 250 miles of his Arizona home.

To p.1

To p.1

The forum takes place Friday, Sept 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Bascom Hall, UW-Madison Campus and Saturday, Sept. 20, 8:00-1:00 p.m. on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. off the Capitol Square.

SOURCE: Bryant Moroder, Sustain Dane, Promoting Sustainability in the Madison/Dane County Area, www.sustaindane.org. bryant@sustaindane.org.

Wood, food, paper top landfill loads in WI

The WDNR has just published the results of the waste composition study done by Cascadia Consulting Group in late 2002, and the results show that wood, food and paper are the three largest sources of waste going into the state's municipal waste landfills. The web page below provides a link to both a five-page summary report and the full 114-page report. In addition, the web page provides highlights of recycling in Wisconsin and links to other waste composition reports for the state, the DNR markets directory, data from public surveys on recycling in Wisconsin and other useful information. Find it at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/>.

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

Popular Madison office building has spots open

The new owner of the office building at 222 S. Hamilton would like to fill some empty space with non-profit organizations. The Sierra Club, Wetlands Association, Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, RENEW Wisconsin, and Sustain Dane already have offices in the building. If you're looking for nice space with other friendly groups, contact Jim Stopple at (608) 268-4912 or 251-8777.

SOURCE: Ed Blume, Communications/Outreach, RENEW Wisconsin, 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703 <http://www.renewwisconsin.org>.

Milwaukee demographic analysis workshop Sept. 11-12

The Local Demographic Analysis Workshop (LDAW) was developed for human service providers, neighborhood activists, grant writers, planners or anyone who would like to easily look up and analyze basic demographic characteristics of a target population, neighborhood or city. This is a hands-on workshop where participants will learn to extract, query, download, analyze and present 2000 Census of Population and Housing, 2002 Census Supplemental Survey and American Community Survey data. The workshop will take place Sept. 11-12 at 2100 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 200, Wauwatosa. Visit www.smartgirltechnologies.com or call us toll free at (877) 241-6576 for more information.

SOURCE: Traci Clemmer, info@smartgirltechnologies.com.

AFJ releases concise guide to nonprofit group election activities

With the election season already underway, many people and organizations have started to mobilize by registering people in their community to vote, educating the public on key issues, and sup-

To p.1

To p.1

porting or opposing candidates. Want to know how you or your nonprofit can participate in election-related activities? Need a quick summary of what activities are legal without getting confused by the legal jargon? Check out the three new one-pagers from the Nonprofit Advocacy Project on the Alliance for Justice website, which explain engagement in election-related activities within the law.

1. Election Activities of Individuals Associated with 501(c)(3) Organizations http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/electoral_activities_individual.pdf.

2. Permissible Election Activities Checklist http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/electoral_activities_01.pdf.

3. Election Year Activities for 501(c)(4) Social Welfare Organizations http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/electoral_activities_c4.pdf.

These aren't designed to be comprehensive (we've written lots of full-length legal guides for that). Instead we've written them to get you started thinking about some of these issues and the opportunities available to you or your organization. Feel free to hand out copies to your board, reprint these in your newsletter, or otherwise share them with others.

(For your convenience, two of these reports are included at the end of this issue of *WSNetwork News*.)

SOURCE: Ann Allegra, Alliance for Justice, allegra@afj.org.

To p.1

To p.1

WSN Member Groups

Get connected...join the WSN

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society
 Anishinaabe Nijjii/ Protect the Earth
 Badger Fly Fishers, Inc.
 Brown County Conservation Alliance
 Central WI Chapter of SOUL
 Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU
 Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin
 Clean Wisconsin
 Concerned Citizens of Newport
 Door County Environmental Council
 Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland Areas
 Families and Friends for Social Responsibility
 Frank Hornberg Chapter of TU
 Friends of the Jump River

Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
 Green Bay Chapter of TU
 Groundwater Guardians
 Habitat Education Center
 Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of TU
 Inland Sea Society
 Izaak Walton League of America - WI Division
 John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club
 Lake Superior Greens
 Lakeshore Chapter of TU
 Madison Audubon Society
 Menomonee Valley Partners
 Midwest Environmental Advocates
 Mining Impact Coalition of WI, Inc.
 Neighbors Standing United
 Northern Thunder
 Pheasants Forever - Sugar River Valley Chapter
 Plover River Alliance
 Random Lake Association
 River Alliance of Wisconsin
 Save Our Unique Lands

Shaw-Paca Chapter of TU
 Smallmouth Alliance Southern WI Chapter
 SOUL of Kennan/Catawba
 SOUL of Lake Superior
 SOUL of Rusk County
 SOUL of Sawyer County
 Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU
 The Muskellunge Club of WI
 Twin Lakes Conservancy
 Waterkeepers of Wisconsin
 WI Association of Lakes
 WI State B.A.S.S Federation
 WI State Council of Trout Unlimited
 WI Wetlands Association
 Winnebago Audubon Society
 Wisconsin Conservation Voters Institute
 Wisconsin Resources Protection Council
 WI Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG)
 Wolf River Chapter of TU

NOTICE: This newsletter may contain portions of copyrighted material. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, such attributed material is sent without profit to people expressing a prior interest in this information for research and educational purposes.

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

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Brown County Conservation Alliance, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., 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's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, plus individuals who serve as at-large members.

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

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

Subscriptions to *WSNetwork News* are free. To opt in or out of this distribution list, e-mail us at wsn@chorus.net.



Permissible Election Activities Checklist

501(c)(3) public charity organizations are strictly forbidden from engaging in any political activity in support of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. The IRS will consider all of the facts and circumstances surrounding an activity to determine whether the activity violates this prohibition. However, 501(c)(3) public charity organizations can engage in nonpartisan voter education activity and in a limited amount of lobbying.

501(c)(3)s MAY:

- engage in limited lobbying, including work on ballot measures
- conduct nonpartisan public education and training sessions about participation in the political process
- educate all of the candidates on public interest issues
- publish legislative scorecards (with certain restrictions)
- prepare candidate questionnaires and create voter guides (with certain restrictions)
- canvass the public on issues
- sponsor candidate debates (with certain restrictions)
- rent at fair market value mailing lists and facilities to other organizations, legislators, and candidates (with certain restrictions)
- conduct nonpartisan get-out-the-vote and voter registration drives
- establish a controlled 501(c)(4) organization
- work with all political parties to get its positions included on the party's platform (with certain restrictions)

501(c)(3)s MAY NOT:

- endorse candidates for public office
- make any campaign contributions
- make expenditures on behalf of candidates
- restrict rental of their mailing lists and facilities to certain candidates
- ask candidates to sign pledges on any issue (tacit endorsement)
- increase the volume or amount of incumbent criticism as election time approaches
- publish or communicate anything that explicitly or implicitly favors or opposes a candidate

Note: This handout provides general guidelines only, and is intended to serve as an overview. Because the application of law is fact-sensitive and context is critical, it should not be relied upon as legal advice. Organizations should consult with their attorney to receive guidance on special rules governing their conduct.

Election Activities of Individuals Associated with 501(c)(3) Organizations

The prohibition on partisan political campaign activity does not apply to the activities of officers, directors, or employees acting in their individual capacity. Staff may work on political campaigns outside work hours, or using their available leave time. However, leaders and volunteers may not use the facilities, equipment, personnel, or other resources of the organization to provide support or oppose a candidate or campaign.

Below are examples of instances when the actions of board members, officers, or employees can be seen as actions on behalf of the organization in a political campaign:

1. The director of an organization makes statements biased for or against candidates for public office during an event sponsored by the organization or in any of its publications.
2. An employee of an organization wears a political button at a public event or function when acting on behalf of the organization.
3. An employee gives the organization's mailing list to a candidate.
4. An organization permits a candidate to use the organization's office for a phone bank without charge.
5. A board of directors thanks an Executive Director for her work on behalf of a candidate.

An organization can help to protect itself from violating these laws by:

1. Requiring officers or employees acting as individuals engaged in partisan political activity to clearly state that they are acting in their individual capacity, not on behalf of the organization, and that any reference to their work for the organization is made only for identification purposes.
2. Notify employees of their limitation on use of their staff time and office facilities. Time sheets should reflect that an employee took leave to participate in partisan activity.
3. Disavowing any partisan actions of officials or employees that appear to be authorized by the organization, taking steps to ensure such actions are not repeated. Such a disavowal should be in writing and done in a timely manner.

Note: This handout provides general guidelines only, and is intended to serve as an overview. Because the application of law is fact-sensitive and context is critical, it should not be relied upon as legal advice. Organizations should consult with their attorney to receive guidance on special rules governing their conduct.