



WSNetworkNews

October 1, 2001

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

Click to jump to news on these WSN priority issues:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence](#)
- [Factory Farming](#)
- [Groundwater Protection](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Public Intervenor Office Restoration](#)
- [Shoreland/Wetland Protection](#)

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

Terrorist attack shouldn't distract from line alternatives discussion

I was listening to the governor's speech concerning the terrorist attack against the USA. He was introducing members of his cabinet that were present. He actually introduced Avi Bie as a member of his cabinet! I know this might be a bad time to point fingers, but hey, our case still needs to be fought.

As the talk about increased security for transmission lines and other utilities continue, maybe it would be a good time to point out the alternatives. We all know that the utilities are sitting on technology that would make transmission lines and even substations obsolete. Maybe we should contact our representatives at the national level and educate them about fuel cells and other forms of distributed/renewable energy.

SOURCE: Diann & Logan Edinger, edinger@centurytel.net.

WSN issue chairs call for project ideas from Wisconsin groups

For each of the WSN's eight statewide priority issues tracked in this newsletter, the WSN has an issue chairperson. These chairs keep in touch with groups and individuals concerned with their issue. Chairs also develop flexible plans for distributing the WSN's limited resources around the state so we make progress on these issues.

At this time, our issue chairs are developing their plans for year 2002. They are also looking for ideas for short-term projects that can still be accomplished in 2001.

Conference calls are being set up late October to get ideas from interested people on what they feel can and should be done to see progress on our statewide priority issues. If you have some ideas and would like to participate in one or more of these plans, contact State Coordinator Todd Hanson at (608) 268-1218 or wsn@chorus.net.

DNR Independence

Factory Farming

Attorney joins MEA to help on CAFO matters

Hi, I'm a new attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates. Although I've met some of you, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you I haven't. I have a two year fellowship position that has been funded by the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) and the Beldon Fund. During this time I will be providing legal assistance to communities affected by the environmental and economic impacts of factory farms in Wisconsin.

The approach is two-pronged: litigation under federal environmental statutes and representation in the local land use planning process. Before becoming a lawyer, I worked with the EPA to help rural communities provide safe and affordable drinking water, and really look forward to helping groups in Wisconsin protect their water quality.

Although I was born and raised across the pond over in Michigan, I'm still a relative newcomer to Wisconsin. I welcome any ideas, leads, advice, and discussion about factory farming in Wisconsin, and look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Please help pass on the word to communities facing problems with livestock factories that they can contact me for legal and technical assistance.

SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Attorney Midwest Environmental Advocates, 22 E. Mifflin St. Suite 300 Madison, WI 53703 ph: (608) 251-5047 fax: (608) 268-0205 www.midwest-e-advocates.org.

Farm bill stalled by attacks, but now back on track

Over the last two weeks while the country mourned the terror of recent events, the Congressional legislative agenda, including the farm bill re-authorization, was placed on hold. It now appears things will begin moving very quickly. Reports are now flying around Washington that the House version of the farm bill (H.R. 2646) will likely move for a floor vote Wednesday, Oct. 3. This proposal by the Texas leadership in the House (Stenholm-Combust) is opposed by virtually all farm groups and has been likened to a "Texas Tornado" because it "moves too fast and causes too much damage, does not address the trends of concentration and vertical integration, and weakens important conservation provisions.

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

USDA releases farm principles publication

Last week the Department of Agriculture released “Taking Stock for the New Century,” a long-awaited 120-page statement of principles on farm policy and the next farm bill (available at www.usda.gov). The report notes a marked change of direction for the Bush Administration farm policy, including a recognition that the current system of farm payments directs disproportionate assistance to a few large farms, and a call for expanded conservation programs.

Several conservation groups, including Defenders of Wildlife, have praised the conservation and small farm focus of the report while keeping an eye on the rumor that the Administration is using farm policy as a chit to broker the passage of “Fast Track” trade authority. Surprisingly, the situation signals sizable cracks in longstanding control of farm policy by giant commodities concerns. According to the Environment and Energy Daily, a lobbyist for the Farm Bureau, for instance, expressed “concern that USDA is getting more involved in the social interests of farmers rather than crop production. ‘We would disagree with that kind of philosophy,’ she said.”

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

Rock County official accused of taking CAFO bribes

The Associated Press reports that a grand jury has indicted a Rock County official on accusations he received bribes from a hog production facility in exchange for preferential treatment. John Burgers, director of the Land Management Office and the Soil and Water Conservation Office, was charged with solicitation and receipt of a bribe from Global Ventures Inc. in Pipestone. The hog operation also was charged with offering a bribe to an agent of an organization receiving federal funds.

SOURCE: Sam Gieryn, sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.org.

Tickets available for “Eating It” production

The Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe will be in Madison October 17 with its hit musical satire “Eating It.” A thought-provoking and humorous look at the specter of market-driven genetic engineering, the new play embodies the political wit that has earned the anything-but-silent troupe national and international acclaim for more than four decades.

This is a hilarious show, and really speaks to our issues. Pro-family farm organizations in Madison are building this into a media event to “keep family farms in the picture.” I have tickets, which are only \$12.50 per person. Please come. Call me at (608) 256-1250, X13 for tickets.

SOURCE: Sam Gieryn, sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.org.

Terrorist attack feared to affect farm conservation initiatives

The terrorist plane strikes in New York and Washington last week that killed thousands of people could also affect American farmers far from the scenes of tragedy. Purdue University agricultural economists warn that U.S. farmland ecology and conservation will be affected if the economy slows further or if Congress shifts money from commodity-support programs to national security. Philip Paarlberg, a specialist in international agriculture trade, said there could be negative financial consequences to American farmers from Tuesday's attacks, particularly if U.S. federal spending is redirected from agriculture to the war on terrorism. More at: http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/09/09202001/s_45018.asp.

SOURCE: Environmental News Network.

DNR helping sponsor dairy environmental summit

DNR will help sponsor Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin's Environmental Summit. This entitles us to exhibit space at their conference, and recognition on their brochure. The Environmental Summit will be held on Nov.14-15 in Green Bay. If you could help spread the word about it, that would be great. I will be sending out their brochures to each of our permit drafters for you to distribute to the operators you have contact with.

PDPW will help us with contacting their membership for our upcoming Expansion Workshops. This should be of great help to us in reaching that target audience, and should be much more effective coming from a trusted organization like PDPW. In addition, PDPW will have a short slot (10 min) on our workshop agenda to talk about their organization and how they have been working toward agency cooperation on dairy issues in Wisconsin.

WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-26-01.

Groundwater Protection

Michigan AG weighs in on Perrier Great Lakes basin withdrawal

In June, Rep. Julie Dennis, Rep. William O'Neil, and Senator Chris Dingell asked Jennifer Granholm, Michigan Attorney General whether a private company's (Perrier) proposal to pump and bottle groundwater from a spring in Mecosta County is subject to the provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA). "No water shall be diverted or exported from any portion of the Great Lakes within the United States, or from any tributary within the United States of any of the Great Lakes, for use outside the Great Lakes basin unless such diversion or export is approved by the Governor of each of the Great Lakes states."

Attorney General Granholm released two letters Monday regarding her opinion on whether or not the Perrier water withdrawal and removal is subject to the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA) prohibition against diversion or export of water outside of the Great Lakes Basin.

(NOTE: These letters can be viewed in their entirety at http://www.ag.state.mi.us/press_release/pr10256.htm.)

SOURCE: Mary J. Schmudlach, theschmuds@juno.com.

Farmers encouraged to explore manure energy

Because of growing environmental concerns, farmers need to take a proactive stance and start considering the potential for making “green energy” from manure, according to Dairyman Carl Theunis. As reported in the September 13 *Agri-View*, Theunis, (speaking to farmers attending the Farm Management Update meeting in Appleton) said, “The days of us putting raw waste into holes in the ground...are quickly coming to an end.” Theunis said a dairy operation with 1,000 cows could justify the initial expense of a manure digester, but fewer cows would be needed if an off-farm product (such as whey) is added to the mix. Based on his research, he said whey seems to produce 25 percent more methane than manure alone. Theunis said he is looking at a 5-6 year payback on an energy project he has installed and said a biodigester’s efficiency can rise to 75 percent if the heat is captured and used to heat water and a milking parlor. The September 2001 issue of Wisconsin Conservation Engineering News newsletter, published by DATCP and NRCS, features an article on “Manure Biogas Utilization Systems.”

WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 9-19-01.

County, townships to join intergovernmental talks on Badger

Sauk County and Merrimac and Sumpter townships will join intergovernmental talks Tuesday, October 2, with representatives of federal and state agencies and the Ho-Chunk Nation to find ways to implement a reuse plan for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Sauk County. The meeting will be the first time representatives of local, state, federal, and tribal governments have come together to officially discuss the 7,354-acre facility since the county-sponsored Badger Reuse Committee issued its recommendations on March 28.

Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., the meeting will be held in Madison at the Department of Natural Resources Building, 101 S. Webster St., Room 027. It will be the first of four intergovernmental meetings planned for October — two in Madison on Oct. 2 and Oct. 16, and two in Baraboo on Oct. 9 and Oct. 23. All will be open to the public.

SOURCES: Laura Olah and Michael May, U.S. General Services Administration, (608) 231-9573.

Mercury Reduction

Bayfield and Red Cliff mercury discharge renewal

The wastewater permits for the city of Bayfield and for the Red Cliff tribe are coming soon and are for 20-25 years. The current regs don't ask them to be limited in the amount of discharge of mercury in the effluent. Discharging into Lake Superior is more advantageous because the federal regs are less restrictive since they haven't kept up.

Kay McKenzie, kamck@infotelcom.net.

Metallic Mining

October 13 Capitol rally for cyanide ban bill

The Wisconsin Rally for a Cyanide Ban in Mining will be on Saturday, October 13, on the State Capitol State Street steps at 1:00-2:30 p.m. after farmers' market). We also need people to sit at the Farmers' Market table each Saturday, and pass out leaflets the morning of Oct. 13. Please organize your community to come to the rally, not just members of your group, but members of fishing clubs, media, unions, students, etc. The rally will be critical to show the media and lawmakers that a majority of Wisconsin support the ban, before the Senate takes up SB-160 in the last week of October.

Contact your two lawmakers to meet with them on Friday, October 12. Please spread the word through letters to the editor, radio call-in shows, newsletters, phone calls, etc. For information see <http://www.alphacdc.com/treaty/cyanide> and see the press release links below.

SOURCE: mtn@igc.org.

Mining 'equal treatment' bill to have hearing

The tentative Senate hearing date for the equal treatment for mining bill (no special exemptions from environmental laws for mining) is Thursday, Oct. 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the DNR Southeast Regional Headquarters building at 2300 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Milwaukee. The primary impact will be to require that mining waste facilities (a mine itself and its Design Management Zone) meet groundwater standards at 300' away instead of 1,200'. In other words, the design management zone would be the same as for a landfill.

The bill (LRB-3503/1) will be authored by Sen. Hansen, a Democrat. Rep. McCormick, a Republican, has a nearly identical bill draft. We hope they will agree on a single proposal. The bills will likely also be supported by Rep. Krawczyk, who is also a Republican.

This is an effective and important bill with a chance of passing BOTH houses. The concept was supported 90% to 5% in our statewide poll. NMC and BHP have not made any public comments on the bill.

SOURCE: Bill McClenahan, Martin Schreiber & Associates, bill@martinschreiber.com, (608) 259-1212 Ext. 4.

Public Intervenor Office Restoration

Shoreland/Wetland Protection

Ashley Furniture will not appeal court ruling

We are please to announce that Ashley Furniture Company of Arcadia, WI, has indicated that it will NOT appeal the recent decision by Circuit Court Judge Dane Morey that the “wetland fill exemption” created for Ashley in the 1999-2001 state budget is unconstitutional. This decision is an important precedent for our state in that lawmakers know that private issues inserted into a state budget bill can be challenged in court--and won. The lawsuit was filed by five conservation organizations including Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade and WWA. See the attached news release for more details.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite #1 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 250-9971, fax (608) 256-4562, <http://www.wiscwetlands.org>.

Tribe wins authority to regulate tribal water quality

A judge has ruled that the Sokaogon Chippewa band has full authority to regulate water quality on its reservation lands. The decision is expected to have an impact on the proposed Crandon mine located next to the Mole Lake tribe. The ruling was by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. The state of Wisconsin has until Oct. 5 to appeal the ruling. If it does, the state will likely claim that state laws should prevail over tribal laws in water quality matters.

Support for Kind Mississippi basin legislation encouraged

Congress is currently considering legislation that would greatly improve the ability of federal conservation programs to combat polluted runoff in the basin. H.R. 1800, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation Act of 2001 will greatly expand and coordinate water quality monitoring throughout the basin, and improve citizen involvement in identifying priorities for conserva-

tion programs. This bipartisan legislation has been introduced by Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) and has over 20 cosponsors. More congressional support is needed to get this bill passed, and that support depends on your voice. I strongly encourage your organization to show your support for improved water quality on the Upper Mississippi River by endorsing H.R. 2021.

Attached is a draft sign on letter — a fact sheet and links to the bill text are available on our website at www.americanrivers.org/pressrelease/mississippibills.htm. To sign your organization on the letter, or if you have questions, please contact me in our Davenport Office at (563) 884-4481 or e-mail jstein@amrivers.org.

SOURCE: River Alliance of Wisconsin, diana@wisconsinrivers.org.

Wetlands forum set for Feb. 21

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association announces its 7th Annual Wetlands Science Forum, to be held on Friday, February 1, 2002, in Fond du Lac. The theme for the forum this year will be “the science of wetland restoration.” The forum will focus on the following themes:

- tools for evaluating wetland restorations,
- wildlife responses to wetland restorations (invertebrates and vertebrates),
- plant responses to wetland restorations (including invasive/exotic plants),
- hydrology and soils, and
- analyses of various site types for wetland restoration.

This event is being planned in collaboration with the Soil and Water Conservation Society-Wisconsin Chapter, whose annual meeting will be held in the same place on Thursday, January 31. The SWCS meeting will address policy issues surrounding wetlands, and the WWA Science Forum will focus solely on scientific studies pertaining to wetland restoration.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Wetlands Assn.

19 lake groups get grants to protect Wisconsin lakes

Nineteen Wisconsin lake associations, districts, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations have been awarded state grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to fund projects that will protect or improve the water quality, habitat and natural beauty of their lakes.

Projects receiving grants range from working a deal with the Izaak Walton League to purchase an entire undeveloped lake in Washburn County, to assisting in an incentive program in Burnett County to restore private shorelands, to working with a team of students in Washington County to control exotic species.

The next application deadline is May 1, 2002. Eligible applicants are cities, villages, towns, counties, tribal governments, sanitary districts, lake districts, qualified lake associations, and non-

profit conservation organizations. For more information or an application for funding, contact your regional lake coordinator or environmental grant specialist at the DNR Regional Office listed in the state government pages of the telephone book. In addition, visit the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes/lakeplan.htm>.

SOURCE: Carroll Schaal, WDNR, (608) 261-6423

River champion nominations sought

Please tell us your nominations for the annual River Alliance of Wisconsin River Champion Awards! Nominate your river champion by October 5!

Each year, the River Alliance of Wisconsin honors individuals, businesses, and organizations that have gone the extra mile to protect and restore our rivers and streams. We publicly recognize these award winners at our Annual Awards Dinner and Auction. This year, the event will be held the evening of Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Contact the River Alliance for more information.

SOURCE: Steph Adams, River Alliance of WI, (608) 441-8411, wisrivers@wisconsinrivers.org.

Developer employing latest techniques to protect shorelines

From the September 16 *Wisconsin State Journal*: Water's Edge Group is touting its "cutting-edge practices to protect" Lake Wisconsin shoreline at its development in the Town of Merrimac. According to Dan Heffron Sr., the project's developer, his development group has worked for 3 years to address the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff, destabilization of the shoreline, and construction site erosion. "Our stormwater plans exceed all the requirements (from the town, the county, and the DNR)" Heffron said. About 75 percent of the 50-acre site will be maintained as open space – yards, wildflower plantings, and wooded areas.

WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-19-01.

Michigan considers law requiring counties to test beach water

From the September 12 *Detroit News*: Michigan legislators are considering a law to require the state's 83 counties to test water quality at all public beaches, both on the Great Lakes and on inland bodies of water, on a weekly basis. The proposal has support of some local officials, who have suggested that more frequent testing would improve water quality and protect public health. <http://detnews.com/2001/metro/0109/12/a22-291581.htm>.

WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-19-01.

Fox-Wolf Basin conference Feb. 19

Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 and the Wisconsin Stormwater Advisory Committee announce the fourth major regionwide conference February 19-21, 2002 in Oshkosh. This conference features a day-long pre-conference workshop on low-impact site design on Feb. 19, and back, by popular demand, Tom “Dr. Stormwater” Schueler, executive director and founder of the Center for Watershed Protection. Since its inception, the Center has provided technical assistance to local governments in 30 states and the District of Columbia in preparing effective

watershed protection plans. Schueler is also the author of a manual for site planning to enhance urban stream protection and his pioneering work includes than 400 watershed restoration projects. More to follow. Contact Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 at www.fwb2k.org.

WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 9-26-01.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Urban Open Space Foundation presents The Community Open Space Summit Oct, 11-13, Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton

The Community Open Space Summit is a gathering for professionals, elected officials, and citizens from the communities of the Great Lakes States. The Community Open Space Summit will be a journey of thought-provoking presentations, round table discussions, focused breakout sessions, and best of all, action-orientated work sessions. Join us as we *Explore* successful models and practical strategies for using open space to create healthy, enriching neighborhoods and natural areas. Participate in *Shaping* the Principles that will guide future neighborhood open space design. *Launch* the Community Open Space Partnership — a broad-based network of community leaders and policy developers for local action. This is your opportunity to add your voice to the growing open space movement. For more information please call the Urban Open Space Foundation at (608) 255-9877.

SOURCE: Loretta Yabroff, Coordinator, (608) 255-9877, yabroff@uosf.org.

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

The WSN's Steering Committee consists of representatives from the following organizations: Citizens for a Better Environment, 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, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State B.A.S.S. Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Council of Sportfishing

Organizations, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The WSN's mission is to build a cooperative network that recaptures and 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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