



WSNetwork News

October 1, 2002

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

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WLCV publishes 2001-2 conservation scorecard

The Wisconsin Assembly and Senate have been "scored" on the basis of their votes on key conservation and environmental votes by the new Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

This is a valuable tool for conservation-minded voters. You can download the scorecard at <http://www.wlcv.org/>.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

WPS proposes new power plant at Weston

The Wausau *Daily Herald* reports that Wisconsin Public Service is proposing a new coal-burning power plant be built at their existing Weston, WI, site near Rothschild. The 500-megawatt generator would be used to meet growing customer demand, though critics say the company would instead sell the excess electricity at a profit for stockholders. According to the *Daily Herald*, "The new generator, announced Wednesday and expected to be up and running in 2008, will provide electricity mainly for Wisconsin consumers.... Some excess power could be sold outside the state, but WPS' main goals in building the addition are to reduce reliance on outside electricity sources, shut down old, inefficient generators and minimize the use of expensive gas-turbine peak-use power plants." A decision on which type of coal — low-sulphur or high-sulphur — has yet to be announced by the company. More at <http://www.wisinfo.com/newsherald/mnhlocal/275958437213382.shtml>.

SOURCE: Wausau *Daily Herald*.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Factory Farming

Manitowoc County farm draws groundwater concerns

A proposed 5,000-head beef cattle feedlot in the Town of Gibson in Manitowoc County drew 200 people, many of whom expressed concerns about the impact of the operation on their drinking water, according to a September 17 article in the Manitowoc *Herald Times Reporter* (http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local_6102323.shtml.) At a hearing at Mishicot High School on September 16, some expressed concern that they had not received enough notice about the proposed operation. Others wondered about the operation's impact on area well water, from possible manure contamination to the presence of antibiotics and hormones given to the cattle. According to a September 14 *Herald Times Reporter* article (http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local_6055389.shtml) the operation, owned by Norval Dvorak and his 4 sons, would include 3-4 barns, produce 120 tons of manure daily, and employ an anaerobic digester to convert manure to methane gas that would provide enough energy for 200-250 homes. Dried manure would be reused for fertilizer and other purposes, while liquid manure would be channeled to a lagoon. The feedlot would be located about 1.5 miles from the West Twin River and still needs approval from the county Soil and Water Conservation Department, the DNR, and the Town of Gibson Board.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-18-02.

Mississippi upholds CAFO air quality permit

The Mississippi state Permit Board recently decided to uphold an air quality permit for an Oktibbeha County hog farmer, according to the 9/11 *Clarion-Ledger*. The ruling leaves in place a 4-acre holding pond full of animal waste while the state Permit Board waits for quantitative scientific measurements. The ruling was seen as a benchmark for other state Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) complaints. Some nearby residents have experienced asthma attacks, burning eyes, nosebleeds, and respiratory problems which they say is a result of the odor. The board did recommend some sort of a windbreak, a solution criticized as inadequate by the farm's neighbors and activists. For more on confined animal feeding operations, see <http://www.serconline.org/cafos.html>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildline Report* #37, September 16, 2002.

Iowa considers factory farm rule

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission is discussing a draft rule, slated for vote this October, as part of a Legislature mandate to control feedlot pollution. It would create a point system to rank livestock farmers for sustainability-minded actions, like locating confinements farther than required from waterways, public places and homes; feeding hogs phytase to reduce manure phosphorous levels; and building confinements near one's own home. The draft gives counties the

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opportunity to review proposals for new confinement operations, with the Department of Natural Resources making final permit decisions. This rule allows communities to evaluate the potential harm of large confinements so they can ensure the long-term viability of farming in their region, considering things like water and soil quality, and animal health and productivity. For more on factory farming, visit <http://www.serconline.org/cafos.html>).

State Environmental Resource Center, Trevor@serconline.org.

White House faces criticism for cutting farm conservation

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Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman yesterday faced withering criticism from the Senate Agriculture Committee over her Department's implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill. Senators faulted the Secretary with violating the intent of Congress on a wide range of issues, from the dairy program to oil seed loan rates to the conservation programs. Senator Harkin, in particular, expressed his anger that the USDA had accepted a compromise after the Office of Management and Budget refused to release technical assistance funds for the Wetlands Reserve Program, Farmland Protection Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. Congress, he said, very clearly stated that the technical assistance funds were to be made available, and the OMB was wrong to interpret the law otherwise. "Maybe I should conclude that this administration does not support conservation, and this is the way they'll get at it — they'll bleed it dry by not providing technical assistance money," said Harkin, who also threatened to subpoena OMB Chief Counsel Philip Perry.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Western Rivers damaged by livestock production

The latest issue of *Cascadia Times* profiles ten rivers, including the Bear, Salmon, Gila, Big Hole, and Kern that are suffering from the impacts of livestock production. Read the story at <http://www.times.org/>.

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

Idaho rejects CAFO over concerns state laws too weak

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From the September 16 (Boise) *Idaho Statesman*: Despite a promise of generous local tax revenues coming in to southern Idaho, Cassia County has rejected a scaled-back 595,000-hog and poultry CAFO. The process began in 1998, when a \$1 billion industrial farm facility was proposed. While state leaders were intrigued, the project was eventually scaled back to the half-million-plus animals, and state legislative leaders scrambled to pass CAFO regulations. During this same time, Jefferson County officials turned down a request for a 96,000 pig operation, concerned state and county rules were too weak to prevent environmental problems. The smaller facility would have produced as much waste as a city of 250,000. Eventually, a set of CAFO rules were passed: the state will not issue a final permit if the Idaho Department of Water Resources does not

grant water rights or if the local county objects to the operation. More at <http://www.idahostatesman.com/Story.asp?ID=20547>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-18-02.

Minnesota farm web site finalized

In 1998, the Minnesota Legislature mandated the study of the long-term effects of the livestock industry on the economy, environment, and way of life for Minnesotans, appropriating \$2.97 million. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board finalized the Animal Agriculture Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) this month—18 volumes of facts, analysis and policy recommendations (at www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/geis/). Numerous concerned citizens have already cited the study at hearings held for a proposed 3,000-head dairy farm, resulting in "a compromise based on science rather than emotion." And the GEIS has more potential; for example, with further development a database of feedlots, including the number and type of animals, could be compiled and used to trace disease outbreaks and locate farms for quarantine. Officials hope to further develop the GEIS program in the next year.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #39, September 30, 2002.

Sporting, conservation, agriculture groups unite in Ohio

Throughout America the last few years have witnessed a groundswell of grassroots cooperation between family farmers and sporting and conservation groups. In Ohio the Izaak Walton League is teaming up with Ohio State University and the state's Department of Natural Resources to spearhead a gathering of organizations that "have a stake in Ohio's working and outdoor lands." The overall goal is to have an open dialog on how to strengthen landowner incentives for conservation practices and to investigate new programs for landowners. They have invited over 50 organizations, ranging from Defenders of Wildlife the Ohio Farmers Union, to attend the event, which will be held on October 10, 2002 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. For more information, or to view the registration or agenda, send an e-mail to Rick Graham of the Ohio IKEs at Rick.Graham@ohiostatebuckeyes.com.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #39, September 30, 2002.

Forest Fragmentation

Comment period extended on Brule River State Forest master plan

The public will have until Nov. 4, 2002, to submit comments on the draft master plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Brule River State Forest. In response to several requests, the WDNR has extended the comment period, which was previously scheduled to close on Sept. 20,

2002. This extends the comment period from 45 to 90 days, which is the maximum period allowed under state rules.

The documents are the result of years of planning and public involvement to chart a future course for the 41,000-acre Brule River State Forest, according to Steve Petersen, Brule River State Forest superintendent. Following a 90-day review period the Natural Resources Board will consider accepting the documents, which if approved, would become the operations guide for the Brule River State Forest for the next 20 years.

Written or verbal comments may be submitted by Nov. 4, 2002 to Superintendent Steve Petersen, Brule River State Forest, 6250 S. Ranger Road, Brule, WI 54820; by phone to (715) 372-5678; by Fax to (715) 372-4836 or by e-mail to petersp@dnr.state.wi.us.

The documents have been mailed to the approximately 1,000 people and organizations that have participated in the planning process or who have expressed interest in the plan. Copies may be obtained online at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/Brule/ or by request to Brule River State Forest Superintendent Petersen.

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

WIN network generates 435 comments on Apostle Island options

The Wisconsin InterNetwork generated 435 of the 1,800 comments received by the National Park Service regarding Apostle Islands wilderness protection! Of the 1,800 comments, only 10-15 people were opposed to wilderness protection. Next steps, according to Jim at the National Park Services, are to:

- distribute a draft study and an environmental impact statement in the winter and
- schedule a public comment period for next summer.

Go WIN!

SOURCE: Joy Strawser, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, joy_strawser@lcvef.org.

Groundwater Protection

First annual Wisconsin Groundwater Festival planned

Groundwater, surface water, energy, and humans — what's the connection? The Wisconsin Groundwater Festival will be a fun-packed two-day event offering hands-on activities, presentations, and exhibit booths on May 9 and 10, 2003, at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Friday will be a "School Day" for Wisconsin 5th and 6th grade students and their teachers from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. (pre-registration required). Saturday will be open to the general public from 10

a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, go to www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg or contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722 or gwguardian@uwsp.edu.

SOURCE: Denise Kilkenny-Tittle, Denise.Kilkenny-Tittle@uwsp.edu.

WSN groundwater chair reports on Chicago Annex 2001 meeting

Hi all: Following is my brief report on the *Annex 2002 Update and Opportunities for Outreach* meeting on 9/20/02 in Chicago. The meeting was convened by the Lake Michigan Federation, Cameron Davis, Executive Director, in downtown Chicago on Friday September 20, 2002. Present were representatives from agencies and organizations from MI, IL and WI. From Wisconsin the WSN, WED, League of Women Voters Milwaukee, Milwaukee River Alliance, Upper Mississippi River Coalition, were represented.

Reg Gilbert from Great Lakes United made the morning presentation on Annex 2001, its history and progress. Since the signing of Annex 2001 in June, 2001 staff from 8 states and 2 Canadian Provinces have been working on agreements to implement Annex 2001. "The purpose of the agreement(s) will be to further the Governors' and Premiers' objective to protect, conserve, restore, improve, and manage the use of the Waters and Water-Dependent Natural Resources of the Great Lakes Basin." (from Directive #1).

Initially it was hoped that the agreements would be completed by November so that the current signatories of Annex 2001 would be able to sign the agreement. This will not happen. It now appears that the agreements will be drafted in the spring with public hearings to follow. There may be six or more new Governors and Premiers after the November election.

Great Lakes United hopes to have their own public hearings as soon as the draft document is available. These hearings will be conducted in all of the states and provinces.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno.

Historical e-mail on Perrier permit

As a bit of history, here is the earliest e-mail we received alerting us to rumors about Perrier's possible withdrawal from Wisconsin several weeks ago:

"I received a phone call from Rosemary Carlson, Big Springs, Town of New Haven, Adams County, at 1:20 p.m. Tuesday (today). She received a phone call from Judy Gibson, reporter for the Wisconsin Dells Events, for her reaction to the Perrier press release.

There is supposedly a press release today (Tuesday) from Nestle Waters (Perrier), that the company is "not renewing permits in Big Springs which are due by Sept. 20."

Reason: because of lack of legislation and rules in WI, etc. etc., however, the company is "keeping options open".....well, they are not renewing the permits. Rosemary sees it as a victory, that they are pulling out. Dells Events will be running a story this weekend.

I have not seen the release and don't know, at this point, how to get ahold of it. Maybe you guys already have it. If anyone has it, could you please fax it to me for my records? 920-787-5103. Thanks. Didn't Perrier have a PR firm in Milwaukee?

Mary Jane Schudlach, 715-228-4593."

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GCC releases 'Buried Treasure' summit report

The Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) would like to announce the release of *Sharing Our Buried Treasure: Directions for the Protection and Management of Wisconsin's Groundwater — A Summary of the 2001 Groundwater Summit*. This document is intended to summarize and synthesize the key themes that were raised at the Groundwater Summit, which was attended by representatives of over 60 organizations and agencies representing a wide array of interests and viewpoints on future groundwater management needs in Wisconsin.

Inside you will find a brief background on the Groundwater Summit, a discussion of nine Key Themes, along with potential strategies suggested by Summit participants, and plans for implementing the ideas generated at the Summit. Further information is available on the GCC web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gcc/>.

Please note that *Sharing Our Buried Treasure* is not intended to represent a consensus of the participants, nor the agencies and organizations that they represent. Rather it is intended to serve as a starting point for further dialogue about the future of Wisconsin's groundwater management. The GCC will serve as an "institutional catalyst" to ensure that the ideas and directions presented in this Summary are widely distributed and to track and evaluate progress made as a result of this effort.

At this time, we invite you to share this document with members of your staff or organization. Your organization is encouraged to evaluate its current groundwater management activities and to develop specific strategies to achieve the visions and needs identified in this Summary. We hope that this Summary can be a useful guide as you address groundwater-related issues in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns about the attached document, please do not hesitate to contact me at 608-266-1099 (susan.sylvester@dnr.state.wi.us) or Tim Asplund at (608) 267-7449 (tim.asplund@dnr.state.wi.us). Finally, we invite you to participate in a further dialogue of the issues raised at the Groundwater Summit at the Waters of Wisconsin Forum. It will take place on October 21-22, 2002, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. The forum is the culmination of a statewide initiative sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and is billed as "a gathering of leading water experts and concerned citizens to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive long-term policy for sustaining Wisconsin's waters." In addition to an excellent program of speakers and discussion of the Waters of Wisconsin project recommendations, there will be a special session devoted to "Wisconsin's Groundwaters: Conditions, Problems, and Needs" on Monday afternoon. The Summit themes will be presented and further discussed at this session. For more information on the Forum, please visit the Wisconsin Academy's web site at <http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/forum/>

SOURCE: Susan L. Sylvester, Chair, Groundwater Coordinating Council, and Administrator, Water Division, WDNR, (608) 266-1099, Susan.Sylvester@dnr.state.wi.us.

California requires more efficient washers

The 9/12 *Christian Science Monitor* reported that California Gov. Gray Davis signed a first of its kind bill last week that requires water efficiency in clothes washers. While opponents criticized

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the cost of new washing machines, supporters claimed that the washers' cost would be recouped in savings on water and energy. Other states such as Washington and Texas have already tightened washing-machine standards, which will affect newly purchased appliances. With drought and neighboring states putting more pressure on California's water supply, some officials say the cost will be made up in as little as five years through lower water bills. California achieved vast savings in both water and money during the early 1990s when widespread implementation of ultra-low-flush toilets, water-saving showerheads, and other conservation steps cut water use by 20 percent.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildline Report* #37, September 16, 2002/

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New Jersey law requires well testing

As reported in the 9/10 Philadelphia *Inquirer*, New Jersey has become the first state in the nation to require in-depth testing of privately owned wells. The Private Well Testing Act requires that private well owners use a state-certified laboratory to test their water for numerous contaminants and then make the results known to any buyer. The analysis will include tests for 26 different volatile organic compounds as well as for coliform, iron, manganese, nitrate, and lead. In some areas of the state, tests also may be required for arsenic, mercury and radium. Legislators say the law was critical to public health in light of recent contamination found in NJ's water supply.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildline Report* #37, September 16, 2002/

Mercury Reduction

Senate votes to ban new mercury thermometers

The U.S. Senate has passed legislation that would ban the sale of mercury fever thermometers anywhere in the United States. The Senate voted unanimously on Thursday to pass The Mercury Reduction and Disposal Act of 2002 (S 351), authored by Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican. Besides banning new thermometer sales, the bill would also help solve some of the nation's mercury disposal problems. "Many of us know from personal experience that mercury fever thermometers are very easily broken," Collins said after the bill was passed. When this happens, the improper disposal of the mercury can have severe environmental and physical consequences." "One mercury thermometer contains about one gram of mercury. Despite its small size, one of these thermometers contains enough mercury to contaminate all the fish in a 20 acre lake," Collins added. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that mercury thermometers contribute about 17 tons of mercury to solid waste per year. The Mercury Reduction and Disposal Act provides for a grant program to help consumers exchange mercury thermometers for digital or other alternatives.

SOURCE: Environmental News Services via Kay McKenzie.

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Metallic Mining

Groups critical of Governor's hasty retreat from Crandon purchase

Reacting to the Governor's statement that ended negotiations for the public acquisition of the Crandon mine site, environmental groups expressed disappointment and determination to work harder and longer to protect Wisconsin from dangerous sulfide mining.

"We are very disappointed in Governor McCallum," said Claire Schmidt, mining campaign director of Wisconsin's Environmental Decade. "He had the opportunity to show some leadership and make a landmark conservation purchase for Wisconsin and he dropped the ball."

"BHP Billiton was unable to get the state to pay for their bad investment. So now we're going to have to fight longer and harder. Wisconsin citizen opposition has kept that mine from opening for decades, and that same citizen opposition is even stronger today. Wisconsin's economy depends on tourism, not mining. The people whose jobs depend on our clean environment are not going to go away," added Schmidt.

Jim Wise, of Northern Thunder and the Wisconsin Stewardship Network and a Tomahawk businessman said, "I'm disappointed but not surprised. We've worked with this company for years and they've never been totally honest."

"The governor decided to pull the plug on the negotiations before they even began. The Crandon mine is the major environmental threat to Wisconsin, and it's clear that the governor is out of touch with the issue," said Caryl Terrell of the Sierra Club.

"We were waiting for a dollar figure from the appraisals, and we still haven't seen it. Why didn't the public have a chance to look at the dollar amount and participate in the purchase process? The public has a right to know the results of the Crandon Mine site appraisal and give feedback to their elected officials," added Schmidt.

Joanne Sleeter, Town Clerk of the Town of Nashville said, "Now we're angry. We're going to get up earlier and work longer to stop this mine."

"If the Governor thinks opening a mine in the north woods is popular, he will find out he is dead wrong," added Terrell.

SOURCE: Mining Campaign Director, Local Issues Coordinator, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, 122 State Street Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-7020.

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How Does Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund Work?

The recent negotiations for the Wolf Headwaters Purchase raised the question for many as to exactly how the state's Stewardship Fund operates. Here's an overview from Caryl Terrell of the Sierra Club:

“The legislature authorizes the sale of General Purpose Bonds for the State Stewardship Fund. As needed, the State actually sells the bonds. The State has a bond counselor who manages the sales in New York City. These bonds are repaid in 20 years with interest. The amount of interest is determined at the time of sale based on the credit-worthiness of the State of WI (not so good right now) and other factors affecting the government bond market (threat of terrorism, possible war with Iraq, economic recession, etc.).

“The key to understanding the benefit of bonds is that the principal is not due for 20 years, so that future taxpayers bear the burden — at the same time they are enjoying the new parks, recreational trails, and wildlife habitat bought with the bond money. There is an interest debt charge in each biennial budget to build up the needed pot of funds to pay off the interest due in 20 years. For example, the current budget includes interest for bonds sold since the beginning of the State Stewardship Fund in 1990. It covers purchases including “The Big Chip” Chippewa Flowage back in the early days to the more recent purchases like the Peshtigo Fire State Forest. Debt service on the StewFund totaled \$21.7 million in 1999-2000 (Legislative Fiscal Bureau report).

“The big drawback of bonds is that they cannot be used for operating expenses. This means salaries of staff, travel, printing brochures, maps, rent, etc. These expenses have to be budgeted from revenue streams coming from income taxes, sales taxes, user fees, etc.

“The Governor plays into Stewardship Fund actions as follows. The Governor is the final step for all contracts and purchases over some amount (pretty minimal amount but I can't recall it). State Stewardship Funds have the additional hurdle of passing the Joint Finance Committee on a passive review basis (i.e., without objection they are approved).

“In the recent consideration of purchasing the Crandon Mine lands, there was the additional twist that the Governor was requesting the purchase. So if the price had been negotiated successfully, the Governor would have asked the Natural Resources Board (all appointees of his) to create a project for the “Wolf River Headwaters Reserve” and approve the purchase. This request would then have gone to the Jt. Finance Committee and then to the Governor for final sign-off.

“If you need more information on the Stewardship Fund, I encourage you to telephone Janet Beach Hanson at the WDNR at (608) 266-0868 or Jordy Jordahl of The Nature Conservancy at (608)251-8140.”

Wolf Watershed meeting Oct. 13 in White Lake

The next monthly meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project (WWEP) will be on Sun-

day, Oct. 13, in White Lake, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn, in Langlade County on Hwy. 55 and the Wolf River, just north of the Menominee Nation boundary. We will discuss the most recent dramatic mining developments, and our effort to pass mining reform bills to really kill the Crandon mine (below).

SOURCE: Wolf Watershed Educational Project, mtn@igc.org.

Legislators push for stronger mining legislation

Despite BHP Billiton's decision to close its Nicolet Minerals office in Crandon, Senator Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay), Vice Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources Committee, announced he will continue his efforts to strengthen the state's groundwater standards as they apply to metallic mining.

"While BHP Billiton/Nicolet Minerals has made a corporate decision not to pursue the Crandon Mine project, there is no guarantee that some other party won't come in and pick up where Nicolet Minerals left off. We need to remain vigilant in protecting what is widely regarded as one of the state's greatest natural treasures, the Wolf River," said Hansen who authored legislation last session that would subject metallic mines in Wisconsin to the same groundwater standards as landfills and other Wisconsin businesses.

State Rep. Judy Krawczyk, R-Green Bay, said she and Rep. Terri McCormick, R-Grand Chute, would continue their push for mining legislation as well.

"We can't do something that, two years down the line, we look at and say, 'Oops, we should have watched this,'" Krawczyk said. "I am not anti-business. But there's got to be a way that business and the environment can work together. Terri and I are looking 20 years down the line."

SOURCE: Sen. Hansen office and news reports.

Mining finance report released

The Workshop Report on "Finance, Mining & Sustainability: Exploring Sound Investment Decision Processes" (January 2002) is now available in a PDF format (696 KB) at the MRF-Environment website. The exact location of the report is: http://www.mineralresourcesforum.org/workshops/finance_wp/docs_slides/financereport.pdf.

Gubernatorial Candidate stands on the Crandon Mine

McCallum: The governor stopped the state from negotiating to buy the land around the proposed northern Wisconsin mine last week. He said mining is an important economic driver in the Crandon area.

Doyle: He criticized the governor for breaking off negotiations. Doyle also wanted the governor to call a special session of the Legislature to protect the state from mining pollution.

Thompson: He doesn't think the state can afford to buy the land around the mine. But Thompson also is "not very high" on the mining proposal and wants to make sure it's "absolutely safe."

Young: He pledges to negotiate a fair purchase price for the proposed mine property and its mineral rights. Young also wants to ban mining in Wisconsin until better technology makes it safe.

SOURCE: Wisconsin *State Journal*.

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This report, drafted by UNEP, provides an overview of the UNEP, World Bank, and Mining Minerals & Sustainable Development (MMSD) initiative investigating the role of financial institutions in improving the environment and social performance of the mining sector. This report and all the papers presented during the workshop are available, in whole or in part on the following websites:

- Mineral Resources Forum (www.mineralresourcesforum.org),
- the World Bank (www.worldbank.org/mining),
- the IFC (www.ifc.org/mining), and
- MMSD (www.iied.org/mmsd).

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Pennsylvania faces mine pollution crisis

Acid and heavy metals leaking from abandoned mines is a leading source of water pollution in Pennsylvania. The problem could soon get worse — as coal companies leave the state, they also abandon environmental obligations. Get the full story at <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/2002/09/22/news/local/4122763.htm>.

SOURCE: *RiverCurrents*, September 27, 2002.

Shoreland/Wetlands

New rules to control runoff pollution effective Oct. 1 in Wisconsin

Rules requiring farmers, cities, construction sites and roads to cut polluted runoff flowing from their land are set to go into effect Oct. 1, making Wisconsin a front runner in tackling the diffuse pollution that's the biggest remaining threat to water quality in the state and the nation. The rules come 30 years to the month after Congress passed the 1972 Clean Water Act. That landmark federal legislation significantly reduced and controlled pollution flowing from factories and municipal sewage treatment plants, but did not address pollution carried into lakes and rivers by rain and melting snow from farms, city streets, construction sites, and other sources. Groups affected by the rules will see some changes starting next week:

Click here for a [timeline on implementation of Wisconsin's new nonpoint runoff rules.](#)

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- **State regulators** will have stronger tools to address serious manure runoff problems from smaller livestock operations.
- **Owners of livestock operations** that expect to have at least 1,000 animal units — roughly 710 dairy cows, 1,000 beef cattle, 2,500 hogs, or 200,000 broilers — must apply for a permit one year in advance instead of six months.
- **Farmers with croplands and/or livestock** who now meet the standards for controlling erosion — the “tolerable” or T soil erosion rate for that soil, which typically ranges from two to five tons per acre per year — are expected to continue meeting that standard, as are farmers meeting standards for handling manure and keeping it out of streams.

- **Developers, builders or others** that may be responsible for new development or redevelopment construction on sites of 5 acres or more must implement a plan that identifies practices designed to reduce 80 percent of the sediment load that runs off the site. This requirement also applies to construction of streets and roads in areas of new development or redevelopment, and starting in March 2003, it applies to construction sites of 1 or more acres.

River Alliance, others collecting comments on impaired waters list revisions

As many of you already know, the DNR just released the 2002 impaired waters list (a.k.a. the “303(d) list”). The River Alliance and a number of other conservation organizations are preparing comments on the list, which are due on Friday, October 4th. We are asking for the assistance of each of you in preparing these comments, as you are the local “eyes and ears” that can best [say] whether your waterway should be considered “impaired” (and thus be on the list to be restored), and for what reasons. Any questions or comments, call me, Diana Toledo, at the River Alliance office (608-257-2424). Thank you everyone.

SOURCE: Diana Toledo, River Alliance, diana@wisconsinrivers.org.

Reader concerned about Suamico’s attitude toward wetland protection

I have been a WSN newsletter subscriber for over a year now. This article appeared on the front page of the *Green Press Gazette* on Sept. 24, 2002 (*see excerpts at right*). Please read this. You won’t believe what you are reading. I have lived in Green Bay all my life and have enjoyed many years of hunting and fishing on the bay of Green Bay. Until recent years, I have witnessed while passing areas along the bay, continued filling of many acres of wetlands. With the enactment of environment protection laws, the practice has stopped. But not soon enough. We as a state have lost acres upon acres of wetlands within the bay of Green Bay! This township has gone off the deep end on this issue. I believe that the town board has developers breathing down their necks to stop the DNR from preserving habitat for all living creatures, except people. This township has in the last 10 years grown in size, more than any other around Green Bay. None can compare. This is a fact. Which brings me to my request — would you

Excerpts from *Press-Gazette* story:

“A state plan to buy 85 acres of wetland important to northern pike spawning has run afoul of the Suamico Town Board and some residents.”

“Town Administrator Richard Johnston said many in Suamico recall a time before the construction of the four-lane U.S. 41/141 in the early 1970s when the property was dry agricultural land. One is 74-year-old Howard resident Patrick Farrell. In part, the flap between the town and the DNR stems from a difference of opinion about the land’s wetland status.”

“Farrell isn’t a disinterested bystander. He and his brothers own 17 acres of land next to one of the parcels the DNR wants to buy. Farrell would like to sell the land for development, but can’t because the state defines it as wetland — a status Farrell said will be impossible to change once the DNR buys the adjoining land.”

“There’s areas of Suamico that have been wetland for millennia,” Johnston said. But the area bounded by Lineville Road on the south, the Canadian National Railroad tracks on the west and U.S. 41/141 on the east, he said, isn’t one of them. “

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PLEASE publish this in your next newsletter. Also, please make any interested environmental groups aware of this, i.e. Ducks Unlimited.

We need to make people in the environmental community aware of this. I have written a letter to the peoples forum of the *Press-Gazette* in the hope of getting my views published. My hope is that the town board of Suamico be aware that they may face stiff opposition if they continue to pursue the DNR on this issue, of wetland protection. I appreciate anyway you can help in getting the word out about this matter.

SOURCE: Paul Kruse, Green Bay, (920) 465-8842.

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Clean water rules to be reviewed

EPA and Army Corps of Engineers officials announced yesterday that they will consider new rules for enforcing the Clean Water Act. Of particular concern are non-navigable waterways, and the degree to which they can be protected. There are concerns that new rules could leave thousands of small bodies of water unprotected. If the definition of protected waterways changes, clean water enforcement of federally unprotected waterways would become the responsibility of the states, many of which have inadequate laws to regulate industrial pollution. The impetus for revising the rules came from a 2001 Supreme Court decision, which limited the scope of the Clean Water Act, but environmentalists argue that the administration is using the ruling as an excuse to roll back the Act's protections. For more information on water issues, see <http://www.serconline.org/safeair&water.html>.

SOURCE: State Environmental Resource Center, Trevor@serconline.org.

DATCP has nonpoint implementation brochure

A three-page brochure from DATCP is available that explains the new nonpoint rules to farmers, specifically regarding cost sharing. (*Readers may contact the WSN for an electronic copy. The brochure will also be on the WSN conference 2003 CD.*)

SOURCE: Richard Castelnovo, DATCP, Richard.Castelnovo@datcp.state.wi.us.

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Fox River restoration plan comments due Oct. 21

The Draft Joint Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area is available for comment with a due date of Oct. 21, 2002, to US Fish & Wildlife Service. More information is available at <http://midwest.fws.gov/nepa/foxriver/index.html>.

The draft Joint Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area (Plan) considers three alternatives for restoring natural resources lost through release of contaminants into the area. The Proposed Alternative (C) is to fund natural resource-based restoration projects in a large area including the headwaters of tributaries to the Lower Fox

River and Green Bay system. This alternative would allow restoration throughout the complete watershed and is expected to maximize the benefits of the restoration projects.

Alternative B would conduct similar natural resource-based restoration projects, but they would be geographically limited to occur only in the assessment area: the 39 miles of the Lower Fox River, adjacent floodplain and ecologically associated uplands, all of Green Bay and adjacent coastal wetlands including tributaries upstream to the first impoundment.

Alternative A is the “No Action” alternative required under NEPA and would produce no additional restoration actions being implemented as a result of the settlement. No injured natural resources would be restored and there would be no compensation to the public for losses from these injuries.

Comments on the proposed projects are welcome and should be submitted in writing. For more information contact Colette Charbonneau at the address below.

SOURCE: colette_charbonneau@fws.gov, (920) 465-7410.

Show your support for Florence County’s Wild Rivers zoning ordinance

The Wild Rivers are some of Wisconsin’s more remote and undeveloped rivers. The Pine and Popple Rivers flow across Florence County. In 1965, the Wisconsin legislature designated the Pine and Popple Rivers Wild Rivers, to be protected from development and kept in a natural, free-flowing condition. The public lands are open for hunting and fishing. The Florence County board then enacted the Wild Rivers Ordinance, which calls for stronger protections for the county’s Wild Rivers. It specifies building setbacks of 150 feet from the river, a minimum lot size of five acres and 500’ river frontage, with a forest density requirement, and other guidance.

Before the end of 2002, Florence county is expected to re-examine the Wild Rivers Ordinance. They are considering less stringent Wild Rivers protection. Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA) members are leading a letter and petition drive to encourage Florence County to keep the Wild Rivers Ordinance as is. To sign FCLARA’s petition, or send a letter to the Florence County Board in support of Wild Rivers Zoning, contact Tom Tanner (715) 674-5807, modtech@att.net, or Joe Bachman (920)722-1018, jbachman@athenet.net.

If you have Florence County roots, mention them. Urge Florence County officials to leave the current Wild Rivers zoning unchanged. Key people to contact include:

- Ed Kelley, County Board Chair, weberl@dnr.state.wi.us,
- Bruce Osterberg, Zoning Committee Chair, RR1, Box 292, Niagara, WI 54151, and
- Rich Wolosyn, Zoning Administrator, rwolzone@florencewi.net.

County Board contact information is online at <http://www.florencewisconsin.com/Agency/countyboard/cbm02.htm>.

SOURCE: *C.A.N.O.E.*, Citizen Action Network for our Environment, September 26, 2002

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Nominations sought for WI clean water leaders

This October marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the federal Clean Water Act. Secretary Bazzell would like to mark the occasion by recognizing individuals (within and outside the DNR) and organizations that have made a positive impact on Wisconsin's progress toward Clean Water Act goals over the past three decades. Secretary Bazzell is asking for your help identifying those who have made significant contributions.

Please take a moment to reflect on the progress that we've made as a state in the area of clean water since 1972. If you believe certain individuals and organizations played a critical role in our quest toward clean water, please nominate them so they can receive the recognition they deserve. Nominations may be brief, and should contain the nominees' name and contact information (if available) along with a statement regarding the nominee's roles or achievements.

Submit your nominations by September 30 to Susan Sylvester, sylves@dnr.state.wi.us, Water Division administrator. E-mail nominations are preferred. All who are nominated will receive recognition from the DNR Secretary's Office. Those receiving multiple nominations for significant achievements will be selected for recognition at the upcoming Waters of Wisconsin Forum October 21-22, at upcoming Natural Resources Board meetings, and at other events celebrating Wisconsin's clean water progress.

SOURCE: C.A.N.O.E, Citizen Action Network for our Environment, September 26, 2002

Greater Milwaukee Clean Water Forum Oct. 5

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will sponsor the Greater Milwaukee Clean Water Forum Saturday, October 5, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Union, 2200 East Kenwood Blvd., from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join scientists, government officials and environmentalists in an important dialogue. Find out what is being done, learn in non-technical scientific terms, ask questions, and participate in the discussion. Preserving this resource is too important to leave it up to someone else! On-line registration by credit card is available at <http://www.uwm.edu/UniversityOutreach/registration/onlineform.shtml>.

WWA can benefit from Bucky Book sales

I'm writing to ask that if you are a purchaser of the Bucky Book, you should consider getting it from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA), rather than from a commercial outlet. If you are not a regular purchaser, you may wish to consider becoming a purchaser in order to save money and wetlands at the same time. The \$35 book is filled with \$1,000's in discount and free coupon offers. And, if you buy your book from Wisconsin Wetlands Association, at least \$12 will be donated toward wetland protection! Having dinner at just a couple of the restaurants or going

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to a couple movies will pay for the book, and you will be making a much needed contribution to one of the most effective environmental organizations in the state.

SOURCE: Tom Dawson, Member of the Board Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton St. #1 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 250-9971 Fax: 608-256-4562, www.wiscwetlands.org.

Aquaculture proposal published

EPA proposed an effluent limitations guideline for Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production (or “Aquaculture”) facilities in a Federal Register notice on Thursday, Sept. 12. The proposal addresses rapid industry growth, the use and possible discharge of drugs and chemicals, and possible harm to fish. The notice begins a 90-day public comment period (ending December 11th). You can find the proposed regulation and support documents on EPA’s web site at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/aquaculture/>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 9-18-02.

Viroqua industrial wastewater permit worries locals

A proposal for a 3.75 million-gallon industrial wastewater pit 2 miles southwest of Viroqua and about 4,000 feet southwest of the Bad Axe River has some in Vernon County worried, according to a September 17 *Wisconsin State Journal* article. United Liquid Waste Recycling of Clyman wants to convert a former dairy farm’s liquid manure storage lagoon to hold municipal sludge and wastes from food processing, commercial laundry, motor vehicle cleaning operations, and other industries. The company also wants to spread 7 million gallons of wastewater each year on nearby farm fields. Vernon County Board Supervisor Judy Wilmes said the board is not totally against the plan but is worried that the proposal does not include enough safeguards and could damage area trout fishing. Unless someone can show the proposal doesn’t meet state standards, a state permit for the operation will be issued around October 1.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 9-18-02.

Nature Conservancy publishes Chequamegon Bay watershed guide

The Nature Conservancy has just published a 30-page guide, *Our Watershed, Our Water: Traveling the Land to Our Rivers, Lakes and Drinking Glasses*, for residents of the Chequamegon Bay watershed. The guide contains general information on watershed functions, it illustrates the cultural and natural history of Chequamegon Bay, and it provides information on how local residents can help maintain the health of the Chequamegon Bay watershed for current and future residents. To request a free copy of the watershed guide, contact The Nature Conservancy’s office in Ashland at (715) 682-5789.

SOURCE: Nature Conservancy.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEC to exempt nonprofits from broadcast restrictions

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) has accepted an Alliance for Justice proposal to exempt all charities and foundations from new campaign finance law restrictions on broadcast advertisements featuring federal candidates. The Alliance for Justice, in partnership with the Sierra Club Foundation, had asked the FEC to protect these organizations from restrictions on “electioneering communications” under recently passed campaign finance reform legislation.

“501(c)(3)s are already banned by federal tax law from supporting or opposing candidates,” explained John Pomeranz, Nonprofit Advocacy Director at the Alliance. “The FEC clearly understood that forcing these nonprofits to comply with BCRA’s electioneering communications restrictions would only subject them to needless, duplicative regulation. Now charities are free to fully participate in the public policy debate without fear of unnecessary interference by the FEC.”

The complete comments submitted by the Alliance and the Sierra Club Foundation are available at www.fec.gov/pdf/nprm/electioneering_comm/comments/alliance_for_justice.pdf.

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WSNetworkNews is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups with an interest in protecting and preserving Wisconsin’s natural resources.

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.

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

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Timeline of activities relating to the nonpoint pollution rules

Oct. 1, 2002: Runoff rules become effective including:

- Agricultural performance standards for reducing erosion, for handling manure, and prohibiting manure piles near waterways go into effect.
- Construction on sites of 5 acres or more are required to have an erosion control plan and reduce sediment by 80 percent
- Municipalities have available to them model ordinances for construction erosion control and storm water management. These model ordinances are voluntary but municipalities that choose to use them will be assured that their ordinances meet the state's performance standards.

March 10, 2003: Construction on sites of 1 acres or more are required to have an erosion control plan and reduce sediment by 80 percent.

Oct. 1, 2003: Agricultural operations applying fertilizer and other nutrients to new croplands are required to start following a nutrient management plan.

Oct. 1, 2004: Developers must start meeting performance standards for reducing runoff from new developments or redevelopment projects, including transportation projects.

Jan. 1, 2005: Agricultural operations must follow a nutrient management plan to apply fertilizer and other nutrients in watersheds containing impaired, outstanding or exceptional resource waters, or source water protection areas.

Jan. 1, 2008: Nutrient management plans must be followed on all existing croplands not covered under earlier deadlines.

March 10, 2008: The following deadlines become effective:

- Deadline for municipalities with densities of 1,000 people per square mile to implement standards for information and education activities, for managing leaf/grass collection, for applying nutrients to public properties 5 acres and greater, to detect and stop illicit discharges to storm water sewers.
- Deadline for municipalities regulated under storm water permits to meet standards for implementing information and education activities, for managing leaf/grass collection, for applying nutrients to public properties of 5 acres or greater, to detect and stop illicit discharges to stormwater sewers, and to reduce by 20 percent total suspended solids carried in runoff.
- Deadline for nutrient application performance standard on non-municipal turf areas of 5 or more acres in size.

March 10, 2013: Deadline for municipalities to meet standard requiring a 40 percent reduction in total particulate matter through high efficiency street sweeping or other changes