



WSNetwork News

October 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:

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Arrowhead-Weston Line

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

A-W line public hearings tonight through Oct. 3

The following public hearings have been scheduled on the Arrowhead-Weston line as a result of recent actions by the Public Service Commission:

- **Wednesday, October 1, 2003, 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.,** Solon Springs Community Center, 11523 S. Business 53, Solon Springs, WI
- **Thursday, October 2, 2003, 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.,** Veterans Memorial Association, 608 Summit Avenue, Ladysmith, WI
- **Friday, October 3, 2003, 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.,** Rib Mountain Municipal Center, 3700 N. Mountain Rd. Wausau, WI

Today's hearing in Solon Springs will air on Wisconsin Public Radio station KUWS-FM (91.3) in Superior live for those who can't make it. KUWS also streams live on the web for those of you elsewhere in Wisconsin. Go to KUWS to pick up the stream.

SOURCE: SOUL.

SOUL wonders “who’s confused”

The American Transmission Company’s (ATC) recent press release (viewable at <http://www.arrowhead-weston.com/news/09-19-03%20A-W%20hearings.doc>), ostensibly recaps the outcome of the Arrowhead-Weston technical hearings, yet it demonstrates once again that the ATC is better at creative writing than presenting complete and accurate information concerning the Arrowhead Weston transmission line.

Arrowhead-Weston, a bulk-transfer transmission line initially proposed to serve the needs of *eastern* Wisconsin, is now touted, by the ATC, to address the needs of *northwestern* Wisconsin. Who in their right mind would spend a half-billion dollars of Wisconsin’s ratepayer money to build a line to support Northwestern Wisconsin — a group of counties that use less than 6% of the state’s total electricity each year?

In fact, the Arrowhead line is designed to facilitate California-style deregulation in Wisconsin, and reap big money for ATC as they profit from the wheeling of energy *through* Wisconsin to points East. Unfortunately, just as California was duped by Enronitis, Wisconsin is subjected to ATCitis on a regular basis.

SOURCE: Attorney Glenn Stoddard, (608) 256-1003 and Tom Kreager (715) 693-3143.

SOUL says utility, not line opponents, have driven up A-W costs

Tuesday, Sept. 16, brought on the first salvo of the reopened technical hearings on the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in Madison. Mark Williamson, vice president of the American Transmission Company (ATC) and manager for the Arrowhead project, testified that opponents have not caused the delay or increased cost of the proposed line. Tom Kreager, President of Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL), said, “I was happy to see Mr. Williamson finally clear this issue up while under oath. We have always contended that the delays and cost increase were self-inflicted and a direct result of poor planning on the part of ATC.”

Prior to the start of today’s hearing, a large portion of Mr. Williamson’s testimony had been stricken from the record vindicating SOUL’s position that employment as a utility lobbyist does not qualify him as a credible source of information on transmission line projects. Kreager was also shocked that multiple ATC witnesses testified that ATC has no contingency plan in place and in fact has not even studied possible alternatives, if the Arrowhead line is not approved for construction.

SOURCE: SOUL, Sandy Lyon (715) 766-2725 www.protecttheearth.com/actions.html.

States want control over power line decisions

A story at from stateline.org at <http://www.stateline.org/story.do?storyId=323703> reports that the August 14 east coast blackout has stimulated much debate over the nation’s power transmission system. One of the primary issues of the debate involves the placement of electrical lines.

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Currently, states have control over the location of electrical lines in their state, but some federal officials would like to transfer the siting authority to the federal government. Advocates of federal control of siting argue that the “not in my backyard” mentality of states has a tendency to inhibit the expansion of the nation’s power transmission system, which can result in inadequate line capacity and create stress on the system. They say that federal oversight would increase the efficiency of power line construction. Those in favor of leaving siting authority with the states worry that giving siting authority to the federal government could put the power into the hands of people who are not looking out for state interests. They argue that since it is the states that know their own landscape and understand the local issues, they should be given the chance to settle siting disputes before the federal government intervenes.

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SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Sept. 15, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

Western Republicans uneasy about Bush energy bill on transmission lines

A Sept. 15 story in the *New York Times* reports, “To conservative Republicans, especially those from the West, few things are more sacred than property rights. Their attitude is usually that the government, especially the federal government, should keep its hands off private land. But as they negotiate a new national energy policy, House Republicans and the Bush administration want to grant the federal government substantial new power to allow the seizure of property — even if it means overruling state and local authorities — to establish corridors for high-capacity interstate power lines.”

**DNR Independence & Public
Intervenor Office Restoration**

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

ALEC’s regulatory flexibility act introduced in Wisconsin

The corporate-funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) recently adopted and began promoting to state legislators its model “Regulatory Flexibility Act.” The Act, which was drafted by the Bush Administration’s Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration, would require all state agencies to develop economic impact statements and regulatory flexibility analyses for “any proposed regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses.” The economic impact statements include projections of how many small businesses might be affected by the regulation and what the probable effect would be, the costs and skills needed for compliance, and any less demanding approaches that might achieve the same goal. The regulatory flexibility analyses present alternative approaches to minimize the regulation’s impact on small businesses, including exemption from part or all of its requirements, weaker and more simplified reporting, extended deadlines for compliance, and standards based on performance instead of actual design or operations.

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This model bill is flawed in many ways. First, its definition of “small business” is questionable — any “business entity, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated and

employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than six million dollars.” This definition is so broad that it could cover over 90 percent of US businesses. The Act also places an unreasonable burden on state agencies.

Opponents are concerned that the Act would institutionalize regulatory loopholes for small businesses, significantly slow the adoption of new environmental safeguards and weaken existing ones, and make regulation of large businesses more difficult. Moreover, this state-by-state approach may very well exacerbate the tendency of some businesses to play states off against each other in a “race to the bottom” with regard to environmental, labor, and other regulations maintaining citizens’ quality of life. This likelihood is increased by the lack of a definition for what constitutes a significant economic impact on small businesses.

Welch introduces ALEC bill in Wisconsin

A version of the act has been introduced in Wisconsin by Senator Robert Welch, chair of ALEC’s Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture task force.

Welch’s “Small Business Regulatory Bill of Rights” (SB 100) passed the Wisconsin Senate last week but has been tabled in the Assembly. Similar bills have been introduced in ten other states. For more information on the Act, visit <http://www.serconline.org/alec/alec20.html>.

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SOURCE: SERC “Wildlines Report,” Sept. 29, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

WDNR Secretary Hassett touts the new DNR

An interview with WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett is on the pages of www.Wispolitics.com. In the lead-in to the site’s September 17 interview by Jeff Mayers, the site reports “...Hassett answers to Doyle, and he’s carrying out one of the Democratic governor’s primary missions — cut red tape in the agency and give businesses more certainty without eroding standards. He says DNR is ready for ‘phase two in environmental regulation, which is focusing on environmental results and not the number of prosecutions’ — a concept that alarms some environmentalists who worry the ‘new DNR’ means sleeping with the enemy. Lately, regulatory reform has meant working with the independent Public Service Commission to cut review time on power lines and power plants and shaking up the Air and Waste Division leadership. That kind of regulatory reform could help ease Hassett’s approval by the Republican Senate. So far, that hasn’t happened and no hearing has been scheduled, and some Republicans are skeptical that DNR could ever be changed for the better. But there’s growing speculation that Doyle, the perceived liberal, might be able to pull a ‘Nixon goes to China’ maneuver and change the agency in a way Republican governors couldn’t because of the danger they’d be labeled anti-environment.”

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SOURCE: www.wispolitics.com.

Wildlife experts criticize Colorado Governor’s politicizing wildlife agency

The September 16 Denver *Post* report at <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36~53~1634582,00.html> that Colorado Governor Bill Owen’s administration is receiving sharp critique from Division of Wildlife (DOW) officials charging that political influence is limiting their ability to do their work. Fifty-eight former DOW employees wrote Owen last week,

claiming that his administration favors business interests over wildlife. Over a dozen of the signatories cited specific examples of political interference in their scientific research. The letter was written in part to question a proposal to reorganize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in a way that would put the DOW under even greater political influence. DNR Director Greg Walcher dismissed the criticism, saying that it was motivated by resistance to change.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Sept. 29, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation

WSN issue chair: open
Contact the WSN

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Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement

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

Hixton CAFO draws opponents

The WDNR held a public hearing at the Jackson County courthouse in Black River Falls on September 17. Many members of the community came out to offer their comments on and objections to a proposed expansion of a CAFO near Hixton. Residents, already concerned about high levels of nitrates in some local wells, want the manure management plan for the operation to be reconsidered. Andrew Hanson of Midwest Environmental Advocates is representing the Concerned Farmers and Citizens of Hixton and spoke at the hearing. Kate Hale, WSN Western Regional Coordinator, and Tom Wilson, WSN board member, also gave testimony.

Many citizens spoke articulately and with passion on behalf of the health of the community and the land. The DNR is at present considering the testimony offered at this hearing, as well as written commentary that came in during the week following the hearing. Members of Northern Thunder, of the Factory Farm Act listserv, of the Robinson Creek Preservation Association, and other concerned folks came to speak and/or offered written objections. It was a great example of the way networking can amplify the power of individual voices! More information about the case is available on-line at <http://www.midwestadvocates.org/main.html> or contact me.

SOURCE: Kate Hale, WSN Western Regional Coordinator, wsnwest@earthlink.net.

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Groups want access to Bush's deals with ag polluters

The Bush Administration is negotiating a back-room deal with the livestock and poultry industries that would let giant factory farm polluters off the hook for violations of the Clean Air Act and the Superfund hazardous waste law that have protected communities for decades. The Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment have filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act, demanding that the Bush Administration divulge information about its closed negotiations with the meat industry.

In May, environmental groups obtained an industry letter documenting clandestine negotiations with the Bush Administration to shield giant factory farms from the requirements of the Clean Air Act and Superfund hazardous waste laws. Since then, the Bush Administration has been working on a deal that would allow the approximately 115 livestock factories in Wisconsin and others around the country to continue polluting without any threat of prosecution. The Bush Administration has rebuffed environmental groups' requests for information about the closed-door meetings, claiming that it has "not entered into any 'safe harbor' agreement." However, environmental groups recently obtained a copy of the supposedly non-existent agreement. According to that draft, the Administration would allow the meat and milk industries to ignore clean air and hazardous waste laws indefinitely, asking only that industry "monitor" its emissions.

A copy of the meat industry's memo proposing the amnesty agreement, the environmental groups request for enforcement actions, as well as other relevant documents can be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/2003/may/cao_papers.asp.

SOURCE: Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club (608) 256-0565, Andrew Hanson, Midwest Environmental Advocates (608) 628-2429, and Ken Midkiff, Natural Resources Defense Council (573) 256-5705.

RC&D holding legislative ag forum Oct. 22 in Madison

The state Resource Conservation and Development areas (RC&Ds) are having their first ever Legislative Agricultural Forum in Madison Oct. 22. They intend to invite legislators and air a bunch of rural/ag issues through a series of speakers. Then they want to ask them "what will you do for us?"

I am involved in the startup of the new RC&D for SE Wisconsin, and am talking to them about getting more proactive and coming up with suggestions on the front end. [Representative] Al Ott is helping them set this up. Any good ideas of what's floating out there? Whatever happened to the Use Value Assessment for farm related woods and wetlands?

For those of you who don't know, RC&Ds are non-profit partners with NRCS who develop and implement on-the-ground projects that benefit both the economy and the environment. Find out more at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd.html>. There is lots of room to network with these people in the future — that's why I got involved. Rural small-scale energy systems are of great interest to them.

SOURCE: Lisa Conley, lconley@usa.com.

Farm files defamation suit against party for opposing WDNR permit

I wanted to let you all know that Sedelbauer Farms, Inc. intends to file a defamation suit against one of our clients for publicly opposing the DNR's proposed issuance of a state water pollution permit to that facility. This highlights the need for the legislature to take up SB 80, the Anti-SLAPP suit bill pending in the legislature. Please contact Senator Zien's office and request that he schedule that bill for a hearing. Senator Zien's contact information is sen.zien@legis.state.wi.us,

Room 15 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882 Madison 53707-7882 (608) 266-7511 Fax (608) 267-6794.

SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Attorney Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., 702 E. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-5047.

Doyle comments on large vs. small farms

Governor Jim Doyle spoke with members of the state's agriculture press on Sept. 15 to field questions on his "Grow Wisconsin" economic development plan in a teleconference from the Governor's Executive Residence. Announced the week before by the Governor, "Grow Wisconsin" is a comprehensive agenda of action to get Wisconsin's economy moving again, producing the kind of good paying jobs that permit people to support their families, buy a home, and enjoy the great life Wisconsin has to offer. The Governor said the following about opposition to large animal operations: "In retail we value small businesses and we also value large ones. Agriculture is no different. We should value small family farms but we should also value larger ones. It's crucial to the long-term economic health of the state. We should never lower our environmental standards, but we can move forward here carefully and profitably."

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Seminars target farm economies and environmental quality

A seminar series "Preserving dairy farm economies and environmental quality: A comparative study of tools from New York, Wisconsin, and elsewhere" will be held at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, UW-Madison campus September 23 from 12:30- 2:00 p.m. Anyone involved in nutrient management research, modeling, planning, or policy will find this informative. Other titles in the series:

October 14 — Tools that meet a regulatory requirement CROPWARE Greg Albrecht, Cornell University

October 28 — Nutrient Balancers N-cycle Michel Wattiaux, UW-Madison Modified Yardstick Kevin Erb, UW-Extension

November 18 — Tools that meet a regulatory requirement SNAP Bill Pearson, UW Discovery Farms WI-Pindex Larry Bundy, UW-Madison

December 2 — Feed nutrient balancer CNCPS Danny Fox, Cornell University

December 16 — Software evaluation wrap-up session.

Series sponsored by National Center for Manure and Animal Waste Management. For more information contact Leah Nell Adams (608) 265-2379 lnadams@wisc.edu.

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SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," Sept. 24, 2003.

California worried about more than farm *water* pollution

A story in the *Mercury News* on Sept. 16 at www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/living/health/6783587.htm reports that agricultural sources are responsible for more than 25 percent of the air pollution in the Central Valley of California. For decades farmers have been exempt from regulations because of provisions in the federal Clean Air Act. But the passage of a new bill by the California State Assembly will end the exemption. The bill will require farms to implement control measures to reduce or eliminate air pollution resulting from various farm related activities. The bill will also establish new state operating permits for large dairies and feedlots.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Sept. 22, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

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Forest Fragmentation

WSN issue chair: John Schwarzmann,
ECCOLA eccola@newnorth.net

Arizona forest loss accelerating

A story in the *Arizona Daily Star* on Sept. 11 at www.azstarnet.com/star/Thu/30911forests.html reports Arizona's forests could be gone in 20 years unless there's a change in management, according to Northern Arizona University professor Wally Covington. The increase in forest fires due to high fuel loads, coupled with an infestation of bark beetles and non-native weeds, is devastating the forests. The underlying problem is an excess of small, young trees that are more flammable. "We need to remove the excess trees, reintroduce periodic low-intensity surface fires, and control aggressive exotic plants" to return forests to a more natural state, Covington told a special legislative panel. Rob Smith of the Sierra Club, speaking to the same panel, emphasized the importance of preserving the oldest 10 percent of trees, which are not only more fire resistant but also more commercially attractive. Both speakers agreed that it is important to address forest health now, given the high cost of fighting wildfires.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Sept. 15, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

Mercury Reduction

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

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Baldwin worried Bush Clear Skies initiative "not even close" on mercury

The discharge of the harmful neurotoxin, mercury, from power plants into our air and Great Lakes has been a concern of mine since I served in the Wisconsin Legislature. Changes to the Clean Air Act in the 1990s specified that each plant is required to install the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) for mercury emissions by the end of 2007. The Clear Skies Initiative would replace current law and mercury reductions would be delayed and diluted. The Administration's

plan would allow power plants to emit more than five times as much mercury for a decade longer (2010-2018) and three times as much after 2018 than current law allows.

When debating public policies, it is almost impossible to craft a “perfect” bill. However, the Clear Skies Initiative is not even close and is — in short — a bad idea. I believe we should be doing more to make our air healthier, not more unsafe like the rule changes and the Clear Skies Initiative would do. The protection of our environment should be made the priority it deserves to be. I am proud the majority of people in Wisconsin, like you, have always known that. I assure that I will do my part and that I will continue to fight for the protection and preservation of our environment in Congress.

SOURCE: U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, WI 2nd District, (608) 258-9800.

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

Clean Wisconsin calls for end to mining waste loophole

A Senate committee should close a current loophole that exempts mines from solid waste fees designed to pay the costs of WDNR oversight. Facilities for metallic mining wastes are currently exempt from paying fees that pay the costs of oversight and regulation by the DNR’s Waste Management Program. According to testimony by Clean Wisconsin, the exemption is “unfair to taxpayers and to non-mining waste facilities. Mines should be required to cover their own regulatory costs.”

Claire Schmidt of Clean Wisconsin told the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources that, “Mining wastes do not degrade; they will remain toxic over geological periods of time. Perpetual DNR review of such facilities will be required. Since the costs of DNR oversight will continue virtually forever, it makes no sense that mining wastes are singled out for an exemption from the fees that should pay those costs. The proposed Crandon Mine, for instance, could generate tens of million of tons of mining waste. It ought to pay its fair share of state oversight.”

The committee is reviewing proposed rules that would increase solid waste fees. Schmidt urged to committee to repeal the current exemption for mining waste that is included in the rule.

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SOURCE: Clean Wisconsin (formerly Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, 122 State Street Suite 200 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-7020 www.cleanwisconsin.org).

Poll: Crandon Mine worries may result in fewer vacationers

A poll conducted by Chamberlain Research asked the following question of 600 Wisconsin residents: “If the Crandon mine receives a permit and begins operations, would that make you less likely to vacation in that area of Northern Wisconsin?” More than 23% said yes, while 64% said no, and 12% said they did not know or had no opinion. The region most concerned was Madison, with more than 35% of people from that area saying they would be less likely to vacation in the

area. The 8th Congressional District in Northeastern Wisconsin had 28% say they were less likely to vacation in the area. The poll has a margin of error of $\pm 3.97\%$.

“A 23% decline in tourism would cost 1,650 tourism jobs and \$65 million in revenues in the three counties surrounding the mine, devastating the area economy,” said Bill Ahrens, Executive Director of the Northwoods Economic Development Project. “The proposed mine would create only a fraction of the jobs it puts at risk. In addition, mining waste would threaten the area forever, but a study done for former Governor McCallum said any mining jobs would end in only 17 years.”

“The mine would provide only 200 jobs according to April 2003 media statements by its latest owner,” said Herb Buettner, owner of the Wild Wolf Inn in White Lake. “The travel industry provides more than 7,000 jobs in just the three counties surrounding the proposed mine site. It’s inconceivable that a state and a region working to boost their economies would even consider a risky proposal like the Crandon mine.”

SOURCE: Dave Blouin, Sierra Club, Burroak15@aol.com.

UPDATE: mining bills in the WI Legislature

Bills to ban cyanide for mining and close loopholes for mining wastes are awaiting hearings. These bills will help safeguard northern Wisconsin’s economy by strengthening environmental protection.

- **Assembly Bill 91**, introduced by Rep. Spencer Black, (D-Madison) would ban the use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines.
- **Assembly Bill 420**, introduced by Rep. Terri McCormick (R-Appleton), and **Senate Bill 157**, introduced by Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) would halt special treatment of mining wastes in current state environmental laws.

The “No Special Treatment” Bill (AB 420, SB 157) was also the subject of polling this summer. The results were released in August and indicate that 91% of Wisconsin residents polled believe that state lawmakers should close loopholes for mining wastes.

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Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection

WSN issue chairs: Jim Wise, ECCOLA ecowise@newnorth.net and Donna Sefton, WI Assn. of Lakes, dfsefton@charter.net

Suit against MMSD sewage dumpings dismissed

As you may have heard, our lawsuit (jointly filed with Lake Michigan Federation) suffered a setback today. Our case was dismissed in Milwaukee federal court. Our board, and the board of Lake Michigan Federation, will be deciding what our next step will be.

It is important to note that the dismissal has nothing to do with violations of MMSD’s sewage permit, but centers entirely around whether or not this belongs in federal or state court. Our contention is that it belongs in federal court. The case centers around MMSD’s sanitary sewage dumpings, which are NOT permitted. This is the type of dumping that comes from the sanitary sewers — undiluted sewage basically. Between 1994 and 2001, MMSD’s own records indicate that they had 4.9 of this type of overflow per year, or roughly a billion gallons of this raw sewage was dumped into area rivers. None of this was permitted.

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Batholith, part of the Canadian Shield, and relatively near the site of the Front 40 mining project test areas, which are just to the NW of Menominee MI. It appears that they will make a go-for-broke attack on the streams in the entire area, which may have many mine site potentials, and maybe just hope they can score the Wolf. This must be stopped at all costs!

SOURCE: Curt Andersen, curtandersen@milwpc.com.

Stream corridor improvement workshop Oct. 14-15

A stream corridor improvement workshop will be held in Dodgeville on October 14-15 is sponsored by DNR, NRCS, and UW Extension. The cost is \$20. Topics include resource concerns and defining stream project objectives, habitat considerations, vegetation considerations, and finding resources for funding. Contact Peggy Compton (608) 342-1633 or peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu for more information.

SOURCE: UWEX via River Alliance of WI.

Peshtigo River projects lose 10,000 acres of project land

In a September 15 order, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted an application by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation to amend the project boundaries of five of its projects to remove 9,738 acres of land. All but 389 acres will be transferred to the State of Wisconsin to become a part of the Peshtigo River State Forest. The remaining 389 acres are earmarked for private development. The Commission placed two key conditions on the amendment: a 200-foot buffer zone from the shoreline and certain recreation facilities will remain within the project boundary. Coalition member River Alliance of Wisconsin protested the appropriateness of this amendment and fragmented rebalancing only a few years after relicensing.

SOURCE: *Running Rivers*, September, 2003, www.americanrivers.org/policyupdates/runningrivers.htm.

“Life on the Edge” rewrite available

Thank you to all of you that worked on the rewrite. This is the seventh printing of this book which has been the back bone of shore land homeowner information for water front property owners, for 10 years with nearly 40,000 copies sold around the state. Our new partners, the Wisconsin Builder Association, play a role in reviewing the text.

The book received a major up date with new technologies, laws and methods of dealing with water front issues added. The book was originally designed to be given out by realtors when they closed on a water front home, zoning administrators, local governments or lake organizations. This handy book covers every issue from Aquatic Plants to Zoning including some basic limnology, information on aquatic invasives laws, new aquatic plant management laws that home owner need to be aware of and much more. Copies will be available from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, your UW Extension county offices, DNR, The North American Lake Management Soci-

ety. It looks like the price per copy will not increase from \$10.00 (some groups discount that price or give the book out for free).

If you are interested in buying the books at discounted quantity prices in case lots contact Sally Marchel at smarchel@uwsp.edu or (715) 346-2116 at our offices at UW-Stevens Point

SOURCE: Robert Korth, UW-Wisconsin Stevens Point UWEX Lakes Program, (715) 346-2192 via River Alliance of WI.

RAW Clean Water Act workshop to help watershed groups

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The River Alliance of Wisconsin is developing a new workshop Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed. These workshops will provide a general overview of the river protection tools available to citizen groups under the Clean Water Act, but will also be customized to address issues specific to your watershed. Content of the customized portion of the training will depend upon which factors pose the greatest threats to your waters, factors which will be identified prior to each workshop based on a review of documents produced within or about your watershed.

We are currently seeking pilot-groups to participate in the workshop and would also like to assess how much overall interest there is for the program. If your group is interested in scheduling a Clean Water Act training workshop sometime this fall or winter or would like more information about the workshop, please respond to this message. Any information you would like to convey regarding known threats in your watershed would also be helpful in our efforts to plan a state-wide roll-out of this Clean Water Act training.

SOURCE: Erin O'Brien, Project Assistant, River Alliance of Wisconsin, localgroups@wisconsinrivers.org.

Kanno attends WTO protest

A story in the *Baraboo News Republic* recently reported on Town of Newport resident Hiroshi Kanno. Hiroshi spent a week at the World Trade Organization negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. Kanno is a leader of Concerned Citizens of Newport, a WSN member group that works against the Big Springs water bottling plant proposed by the Perrier company. He believes the free-trade agreement would give big corporations too much power over small farmers and local communities.

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Apostle Islands would benefit from federal wilderness designation

A story in the *Superior Daily Telegram* on Sept. 16 reports that the plan to designate much of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore as federal wilderness would be the next logical step in preserving this remarkable area by Bayfield. The National Park Service plan would set aside 33,500 acres of islands in the park, or 80 percent of the land, as protected wilderness. It hasn't been controversial, perhaps because little would change in the operation of the park.

Yet it's important because the current restrictions would become permanent. For example, the existing ban on snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles would come permanent under a federal wil-

derness designation, according to Bob Krumenaker, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's superintendent. But boaters would be able to use the waters of Lake Superior around the islands just like they can now.

The public comment period lasts until Oct. 17, so there's plenty of time for residents to give their opinion to the Park Service, or join Gov. Jim Doyle and former U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson in encouraging Congress to approve the plan. Nelson, who started Earth Day, said these rare islands should be "preserved in their natural state," and this plan offers the chance to do that.

AG files suit against Fond du Lac wastewater company

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Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager announced today that her office has filed a complaint against ECI Special Waste Services, Inc., a City of Fond du Lac wastewater treatment company, and its officers William F. Schweda and Jeffrey G. Schweda, for allegedly violating state environmental laws from July, 2001, until August, 2002. According to the state's complaint, the defendants collect wastes from client industries, transport the waste to their treatment facility, apply various treatment technologies to the wastes, and then discharge the wastes via sanitary sewer into the City of Fond du Lac's municipal wastewater treatment plant. The complaint charges ECI and William and Jeffrey Schweda with violating on numerous occasions the terms of their city permit and requirements in state laws and rules.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 9-24-03.

WDNR water permits issued faster than national average

Governor Jim Doyle has announced that landowners seeking permits from the WDNR for waterway or wetland projects in Wisconsin are receiving decisions three times faster than it took five years ago. Doyle made the announcement while introducing his 'Grow Wisconsin' plan focused on streamlining the process without compromising the state's high standards.

SOURCE: Todd Ambs, WDNR, (608) 264-6278 and Jessica Erickson, Governor's Office, (608) 261-2156.

NJ to make polluters pay for 'total environmental costs'

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A story in the Sept. 10 New York Times reports New Jersey is about to begin enforcing a law that requires polluters to pay the total cost for restoring damaged natural resources — not just the cost of cleaning up. The state first developed natural resource damage claim regulations under the Whitman administration. In 2000, New Jersey won an appeals court ruling on the law, dismissing a legal challenge brought by Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Public Service Electric and Gas, DuPont, and other large companies. However, the companies were able to push through legislation stipulating that all claims must be filed by 2005. That deadline, along with increasing threats to the state's water resources, is why New Jersey is acting to enforce the law now. The state will initially focus on areas where the groundwater has been significantly contaminated. According to the state Department of Environmental Protection, there are more than 3,000 such sites. Some are concerned that the claims could cause companies to leave New Jersey. State Commissioner of Envi-

ronmental Protection Bradley Campbell explained, “Our natural resources have been diminished far more by the accretion of smaller environmental insults from various sources of contamination, and it would shortchange the public interest if we write off these claims.” For more information on holding polluters accountable, visit www.serconline.org/enforce/pkg_frameset.html.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Sept. 15, 2003, wildlines@serconline.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Landowner contact program workshop Nov. 8

A program entitled “Elements of a Successful Landowner Contact Program” will be held Nov. 8 in Geneva, Illinois. This daylong workshop will address the essential elements for a comprehensive landowner contact program. Various tools for land protection will be addressed briefly and in context, but the workshop will focus on the ins and outs of landowner contact. Participants will discuss real world examples and attempt to craft workable solutions. This workshop will be of interest to land acquisition staff of both private land trusts and public agencies. The session will contain information from the basic level through intermediate. The early registration deadline is October 24.

Participants will learn about:

- How to establish criteria to guide a landowner contact effort
- Do’s and don’ts of landowner etings
- How to discover critical information essential for a successful project
- Establishing landowner contact lists
- Ideas for organization of projects
- Tips for how to complete the project- including follow-up contacts Course Leader:

SOURCE: MaryKay O’Donnell, Director of Land Protection, Little Traverse Conservancy (MI), http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/let_mw.htm via Lisa Goodman of the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

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Badger Fly Fishers set spring opener event

The Badger Fly Fishers of Madison will host their annual fundraiser, the Spring Fly Fishing Opener, on January 24 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway in Madison. Our featured speaker will be fly fishing expert, guide, and author Mike Lawson. Mike will be presenting two programs, *Spring Creek Magic* and *Proven Techniques for Larger Trout*. We will have fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet. Representatives from various rod companies will be there with the latest examples of their finest rods available to be test casted indoors at our event, while local vendors and fly shop owners will be available to sell rods to anyone who wishes to purchase one. There

should be something for everyone who loves fly fishing! Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door.

SOURCE: Rich Ludt (608) 833-7918 or www.badgerflyfishers.org.

Hank Aaron trail fall festival Oct. 11

Join the WDNR and the Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail for our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 11, from 11-4. Bring the kids and participate in archery, natural crafts, campfires, casting, rock climbing and talk to Menomonee Valley historical interpreters. The Fall Festival will be near the Klements Sausage House in the Miller Park east parking lot, exit 308B from I-94. For more details go to <http://renewthevalley.org/news/index.html?a=view&nid=26>.

SOURCE: Menomonee Valley Partners *eNews*, September 26, 2003, info@renewthevalley.org.

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WSN Member Groups Get connected...join the WSN

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society
Anishinaabe Nijiji/ 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
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
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
Friends of Milwaukee's 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

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WSN Network News is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of 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, Clean Wisconsin, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., Musky Club of WI, 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, 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.

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