



WSNetwork News

October 15, 2002

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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WSN priority issue selection process underway. Your input — and vote — determines our 2003 issues agenda

The eight issues you follow twice a month in this newsletter are chosen annually by the WSN's member organizations on a "one-vote-per-group" basis. The WSN Board of Directors is meeting Oct. 26 to begin this annual selection process. The WSN's bylaws call for the board to recommend a slate of issues to the WSN member organizations for a vote at the annual meeting which will take place Feb. 15, 2003, at UW-Stevens Point.

Suggest an Issue: If you would like to suggest an environmental/conservation issue you feel has sufficient *statewide importance* and *multi-organization appeal* to be on the annual WSN ballot, let us know. (Even if an issue is placed on the ballot and fails to be selected, the voting process offers valuable feedback on how the concern is viewed by a broad range of organizations concerned about Wisconsin's natural resources.)

Make Your Voice Heard: Only WSN member organizations vote to determine the network's priority issues. Take part in this process by becoming a WSN member organization! To find out how the WSN can help your organization better reach its goals through our networking and capacity-building services, contact Member Services Director Chris Nehrbass at cnehrbass@chorus.net.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

ATC names Williamson to spearhead Arrowhead project

The Sept. 20 *Business Journal* contained a story about Mark Williamson being named to a new position with the American Transmission Company in which he will "make the pitch [for the

Arrowhead-Weston line] to landowners, regulators, legislators and business owners....” The story say “very few state citizens or business executives applaud ATC’s plans to upgrade the electricity grid for the 21st century.” The complete story with a profile of Williamson is at http://www.biz-journals.com/industries/energy/electric_utilities/2002/09/23/milwaukee_story6.html?f=et158.

SOURCE: *Business Journal* via Logan Edinger of SOUL.

SOUL Citizen’s Energy Forum may become annual event

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SOUL was formed as an opposition group to the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line. Many SOUL members became aware that Wisconsin’s energy policy (or lack thereof) mainly consisted of a utility going to the Public Service Commission and asking for approval of a planned project. The only time any input from the public was asked for was in the approval process or at untimely and ill-publicized public meetings. The public was left out of the crucial planning process. The SOUL board of directors decided to expand its focus from just fighting the line to trying to change the process that allows these bad ideas to happen. Thus the Citizen’s Energy Forum was born. Click [here](#) to jump to the end of this newsletter for a summary of the speakers and results of the recent Citizen’s Energy Forum.

SOURCE: SOUL.

SOUL: new power plants make Arrowhead unnecessary

With the announcement of the Weston IV 500 MW plant in addition to the 2,800 MW of additional generation planned by WE Energy, there can be no doubt that there ever was a need for the controversial Arrowhead Weston transmission line. The combined output from the four Weston generation plants alone will meet the needs of over 900,000 people. This ensures reliable electric supplies because Census information for the year 2000 indicates Marathon County’s population was only 126,031 people and the expected population growth predicted by the Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations, part of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, is an approximate average of 3.1 percent in each of the 5-year periods between 2000 and 2020.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin’s Final Environmental Impact Statement confirms this, saying “with sufficient generation additions, no increase in transfer capability is required.” With the addition of in-state generation the need to import energy can be reduced to levels even below our current levels.

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SOUL has always promoted new generation in industrial sites near the point of use, and with Weston IV the need for the Arrowhead line is moot. WPS could have proposed Weston IV four years ago, then it would have been nearing completion. Instead they choose a path to foster electrical deregulation with the potential of huge profits.

SOURCE: Tom Kreager, SOUL, (715) 693-3143.

Sierra Club gets Doyle's position on Arrowhead-Weston

I have posted a few of Doyle's responses to Sierra Club questions below.

4a. "I support the construction of a power line because I believe that Wisconsin businesses and consumers must have access to reliable power if we are going to keep and create good-paying jobs so that all of our citizens can prosper. I do believe, however, that the state should consider re-siting the line, using as many existing corridors and public right-of- ways as possible to minimize the environmental and social impact of the line."

4b. "The PSC needs to be returned to an independent board that represents the public interest. I will appoint PSC Commissioners who understand the balance between the interests of the public and the interests of industry, who make timely decisions based on the merits and protect the consumer's interests as its bottom line."

SOURCE: Rich Wentzel, Sierra Club.

Manitoba Hydro contract now before the PUC

The 500 megawatt contract between Xcel Energy and Manitoba Hydro recently arrived at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the public now has until October 21 to send in written comments on it. Your participation in this official public comment period is valuable. MWEJ will soon develop and circulate a notice...with our recommendation about the best way for folks to write in their comments to the PUC.

SOURCE: Diane J. Peterson, Minnesota Witness for Environmental Justice, birch7@pop.goldengate.net, (651) 255-6945.

Plan to shield power-plant records from public stirring debate

An October 4 story in the Houston *Business Journal* reports that "Public Citizen, the organization formed by Ralph Nader 30 years ago, is protesting a proposed rule by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that the agency says is designed to protect the nation's critical energy infrastructure from sabotage by terrorists. Specifically, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, wants to exempt detailed operational and safety data on power plants, electric transmission lines and oil and gas pipelines from the Freedom of Information Act. This follows another move last October, only a month after the terrorist attacks, to remove detailed public information on energy facilities licensed or certified by FERC from the Internet and public reference rooms." Complete story at http://www.bizjournals.com/industries/energy/electric_utilities/2002/10/07/sanantonio_story7.html?f=et158.

SOURCE: Oct. 4 Houston *Business Journal* via Robert Ringstad.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Sierra Club receives Doyle position on DNR/PIO restoration

I have posted a few of Doyle's responses to several Sierra Club questions below.

7a. "When Governor Scott McCallum removed the independent DNR Secretary, and when the GOP tried to split the DNR, I spoke out early and passionately against these moves. As Governor, I will move swiftly to restore an independent DNR and fight any effort to further fracture the DNR, by opposing attempts to separate environmental enforcement from the rest of the agency."

7b. "When I appointed a special Public Intervenor to fight the Crandon Mine, Governor Tommy Thompson eliminated the Public Intervenor's Office. Since that time, I have fought to restore the Public Intervenor in the Attorney General's Office as an independent watchdog for Wisconsin's environment, and as Governor, I will be committed to getting it done."

SOURCE: Rich Wentzel, Sierra Club.

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Factory Farming

Debate surrounds Manitowoc County feedlot proposal

Both the Town of Gibson and the Town of Kossuth in Manitowoc County [met] October 7 to discuss a possible moratorium on approving permits for a proposed 5,000-head feedlot, according to an article in the September 29 Manitowoc *Herald Times Reporter*. See http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local_6288922.shtml. At a meeting on September 28, Andrew Hanson, an attorney representing Midwest Environmental Advocates, told Town of Gibson board members that Packerland Holdings Inc., the company that is working with the Dvorak Family on the feedlot, is owned by Smithfield Foods, a company Hanson said was one of the worst polluters in the nation. The issue of whether to give required permits to the operation has generated considerable debate among town residents, many of whom have high nitrogen levels in their well water. Tom Braun of Hamp Haven Farms defended the Dvoraks (in a September 25 Manitowoc *Herald Times Reporter* article): "This (large-scale operation) is the agriculture of my generation — we are today's family farm." Attorney Hanson is quoted in the September 29 article as saying, "If I owned a piece of property and that (feedlot) moved in next to me, I don't know what I would do. It's almost as if you have nothing left to lose" in litigating the matter.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-02-02.

Iowa's largest hog operation fined \$32 million

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement have won a judgment of \$33 million against Iowa Select Farms. Farmers in Sac County filed the lawsuit against the hog giant two years ago, alleging that the company's hog confinement facility there "produced offensive odors, noxious gases and excessive flies." The facility in question housed 30,000 hogs on 640 acres, producing an amount of manure equivalent to a 100,000-person city. The jury awarded the plaintiffs \$1.06 million in compensatory damages and \$32 million in punitive damages, a record judgment in a complaint of this type against a factory farm. "This sends a message that these factory farms have got to clean up their act," said Hugh Espey of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

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Minnesota feedlot “encyclopedia” on-line

Minnesota is the home of over 25,000 to 30,000 “active” animal feedlots. To better understand the economic impact of these facilities and to guide legislators in policy making, the state has completed possibly the largest study ever undertaken on the environmental impact of animal feedlots. The “Generic Environmental Impact Report on Animal Agriculture,” is a 6,000-page document created with the input of a 25-member citizens committee that included industry groups and environmental and animal welfare advocates.

This report, which has taken 4 years and \$3 million to produce, makes 76 recommendations, taking into consideration economic, environmental, health and community concerns. The document can be accessed at: <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/geis/>. A 324-page section on farmed animal health and well-being is also included. A compact disc of that section can be ordered by sending \$10 to: Jen Rinick, Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C., 20027.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Report: two farm acres lost per minute

The United States loses two acres of prime farmland every minute to development — the fastest decline in the country’s history — according to a study by American Farmland Trust. That loss occurs due to the spread of suburbs, replacing some of the country’s best farms by houses on large lots linked by new roads, highways and malls.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #40, October 7, 2002, Trevor@serconline.org.

Rock County dairy to contest denial of expansion

Rock County’s largest dairy operation plans to go to court because the Town of Magnolia Board (on a 2-to-1 vote) has denied its request to expand its operation from 400 to 1,500 animal units, according to an October 3 story in the Janesville *Gazette*. Larson Acres General Manager Ed Larson said the operation follows all state laws and local ordinances regarding manure spreading and other concerns brought up by opponents. As part of its expansion permit application submitted to the town board, Larson Acres had agreed to not pump manure on fields within 500 feet of a residence on Sundays without permission, inform the town chairman 15 days before pumping manure, build a manure pit under the barn rather than in a separate area, and test area wells. More at <http://www.gazetteextra.com/larsonacres100302.asp>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 10-09-02.

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Forest Fragmentation

Groundwater Protection

Paving hoped to prevent plating facility groundwater seepage

From the September 26 Chippewa *Herald*: The City of Chippewa Falls is paving over a 90-by-205-foot area at the former Better Brite Plating facility as a way to keep pollutants from seeping into area groundwater. An underground synthetic membrane has previously been installed to keep rainwater from soaking in and washing pollutants in the chemically contaminated site into area waterways. The blacktop will protect the membrane. More at <http://www.chippewa.com/archives/index.inn?loc=detail&doc=/2002/September/26-541-news1.txt>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 10-02-02.

Video shows breaks in Marinette sewer system

From the October 3 Marinette *Eagle-Herald*: A televised inspection of the city’s nearly century-old interceptor sewer has found some sections so badly damaged that the brick walls are in danger of collapsing. City officials have met with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the DNR, and other state agencies to review the latest damaged caused by a June 23 storm that dumped more than 4 inches of rain on the city. One of the 4 sections is of particular concern, since the section serves 61 percent of the city and trains that run on tracks over the section often transport hazardous chemicals. More at <http://www.eagleherald.com/sewer103.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 10-09-02.

Mercury Reduction

We Energies, DNR agreement to reduce plant emissions

The *PRNewswire* reports “We Energies will voluntarily reduce emissions at its power plants over the next 10 years as part of a ground-breaking agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Multi-Emission Cooperative Agreement (MECA) calls for We Energies to invest \$400 million-\$600 million in environmental improvements to reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury from its power plants by 45-50, 60-65, and 50 percent respectively.”

SOURCE: *PRNewswire*.

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WED calls for improvements on We Energies' old plants, too

Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (WED) is questioning the agreement between WE Energies and the WDNR, saying it fails to provide any relief from pollution for the families living near the Oak Creek coal plant. WED said the agreement is a distraction from the real issue, which is that WE Energies wants to more than double the size of the existing Oak Creek coal-burning power plant without cleaning up the old plant. WED says it is ironic to sign the cooperative agreement at Oak Creek because WE Energies wants to expand Oak Creek to become one of the 10 largest coal plants in the nation, but won't commit to cleaning up the existing, dirty coal plant. New coal plants would mean more mercury that contaminates lakes and fish, carbon dioxide that causes global climate change, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides that cause acid rain and unhealthy air, as well as other pollutants.

SOURCE: Marc Looze, Air Pollution Campaign Director, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, 122 State St. Suite 200 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-7020 mlooze@environmentaldecade.org.

No charge for recycling mercury thermometers in Dane County

The average mercury thermostat has 4 grams of mercury in it, estimated to be enough to pollute an 80-acre lake or 80-100 million gallons of water to the point where a fish consumption advisory would be issued. There is no charge for recycling thermostats through the TRC collection centers. Their locations are given on the web page http://www.nema.org/DocUploads/F7219D9C-9C2E-435B-8156497BBA0A99FE//trc_wholesalerlist.xls.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Recycling Manager Dane County, Wisconsin

Metallic Mining

Gubernatorial candidate TV forum transcript of Crandon Mine question

The recent Wisconsin Broadcasters' Assn. televised gubernatorial candidate debate featured a Crandon Mine question from Ed Walters of WHBY radio in Appleton. The candidates' responses have been transcribed and follow:

Ed Walters: *"The Crandon mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River in northern Wisconsin is a controversial issue. Some say the mine would create needed jobs and give a boost to that area's economy. But others say the mine would threaten the environment and tourism. What are your views on the subject, and should the state buy the property to stop the mining project?"*

Jim Doyle: "I don't think the mine is a good idea for Wisconsin. I think that the long-term economic benefits to this state really depend on clean air, clean water and a beautiful environment. I don't believe that the mine, as proposed, would further that. I have supported legislation that would stop certain portions of that proposal. For example, we should not be allowing the use of cyanide in mining in Wisconsin. We should make mines have to comply with the same hazardous waste laws as we do landfills and industrial operations."

“With respect to buying the land, I guess I’m disappointed that the governor cut off the negotiations as quickly as he did. I was sort of waiting to see what the price would be. And I know what he said the price would be. But I guess I’m interested to hear from the other side what the price is. It really depends, of course, what the dollars are and whether or not that is a good deal. But I do— For me, personally, I do not think the mine is in the best interests of the future of Wisconsin.

“If I could use a minute, in the last question, Governor McCallum indicated that somehow the legislative fiscal bureau would say property taxes would go up under my plan. This was a paper that they did years ago before I ever talked about my plan. And newspapers around the state that have looked at the governor’s ad about this have called it ludicrous, deceptive, manure. It is simply untrue and just saying it over and over again doesn’t make it more true.”

Scott McCallum: “I will on the Crandon mine. But first of all, take it to an independent group. Because it is absolutely correct. The numbers are right. And saying things like that doesn’t change it. So, I don’t mind an independent group look at it. You take spending caps off, property taxes go up in Wisconsin.”

“We have some of the toughest standards and the toughest laws in the environment in the state of Wisconsin. In the country. In our state. And those laws ought to be adhered to. I’m proud of having tough environmental laws, and I’m proud of my environmental record of things that we’ve been able to do working in a bipartisan fashion in the state of Wisconsin. I did suggest that I would look at having the state, with our environmental fund, purchasing the Crandon mine property. When negotiations took place, discussions were done, I saw the price. And I’ve got to say from the perspective of Wisconsin taxpayers, that’s why I was just shocked that the attorney general suggested we should have made that purchase. To purchase the land and mineral rights, when’s the state is not going to run a mine, is beyond what any taxpayer ought to expect to take place in the state. And furthermore, it would have depleted our environmental fund. The stewardship fund. So, it would have hurt on all fronts. It was absolutely the wrong thing to do. I’m going to make the right decisions for the future of the state to protect tax dollars and if we need tougher laws, I have supported them, I will move ahead in that direction.”

SOURCE: transcript located/forwarded by Dave Blouin, Sierra Club.

WSN group collects mining positions of top four gubernatorial candidates

The Crandon mine, as well as mining in general, has been a priority issue for the Wisconsin Stewardship Network since its beginnings. The outcome of November’s election will have a significant impact on mining in Wisconsin. As part of the mining committee’s issue work, we contacted the four front-running gubernatorial candidates to ask them their position on the Crandon mine and upcoming mining legislation. If a candidate did not respond, we included information from their website or from other public statements. The answers are presented without bias at the end of this month’s *WSNetwork News*. Click [here](#) to review them in a format without headers or footers, suitable for copying and mailing or faxing to associates concerned about mining in Wisconsin.

SOURCE: WSN Southern Hub Claire Schmidt and WSN Mining Issue Co-chair Jim Wise.

Doyle would re-open discussion on Crandon Mine purchase

At an Oct. 13 press conference in Green Bay, gubernatorial candidate Jim Doyle said, “As governor, I will re-open discussions on purchase of the mine to protect our environment, public health, and the headwaters of the Wolf River. It would be a major financial investment. It may turn out, at the end of the day, that it is not feasible. There are many uncertainties. But I know one thing for certain. It won’t happen unless we try. It will never happen under a McCallum administration. The governor has already walked away from this issue with no real effort to determine a fair price or negotiate an agreement.”

SOURCE: Doyle for Governor.

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Black renewing push for cyanide ban bill

Assembly Democratic Leader Spencer Black said on Oct. 7 that he will reintroduce legislation this January. “With the Crandon mine project in abeyance, now is the right time for Wisconsin to strengthen our environmental laws and protect our water by banning cyanide in mining,” Black said. “I will reintroduce the cyanide ban when the Legislature returns in January so Wisconsin’s water will be protected from cyanide at Crandon or any other mine in the future.”

SOURCE: Rep. Black.

Montana mining company seeks to roll back state’s cyanide ban law

Canyon Resources will ask the Montana Legislature early next year to overturn Initiative 137 that prevents development of the 10-million ounce McDonald gold mining project. The proposed project has been on hold since 1998, when state voters approved the Initiative, which prohibits open pit, cyanide leach mining in Montana. More at <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewss-tory.cfm/newsid/18005/story.htm>.

SOURCE: MINEWIRE, Vol.5, No.18 October 11, 2002.

Lawrence University hosting mining speakers

Former WDNR Secretary George Meyer is now an instructor at Lawrence University in Appleton. Meyer has organized a series of speakers on mining in Wisconsin. Each event will be in Science Hall, Room 102, at 7:00 p.m. The Oct. 22 event features Ken Fish, Menominee Nation activist, and Dave Blouin, Sierra Club.

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Shoreland/Wetlands

MEA update on WI impaired waters list update process

[Midwest Environmental Advocates can send those interested our] final comments on Wisconsin's 2002 303(d) list of impaired and threatened waters, submitted to the DNR on October 4, 2002. They highlight points where Wisconsin's list is inconsistent with federal law, such as the state's apparent failure to list "threatened" waters and those waters where designated uses are only partially met, as well as the failure to actively solicit the public and other local, state, and federal agencies for data on impaired and threatened waters.

Further, the comments show that the state has failed to list waters where current use of the water is inconsistent with its potential, or attainable use (such as where a stream currently supports Limited Forage Fishery, but could support a Cold Water Fishery if it was restored). The comments suggested the addition of dozens of new stream segments based on a brief review of 4 of 21 water quality management plans. The comments conclude that these waters were excluded because of the DNR's flawed listing policies. There are likely hundreds of more streams that should be listed based on the 17 other water quality management plans.

SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Attorney, Midwest Environmental Advocates, 702 E. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703, (608) 268-0207, ahanson@midwestadvocates.org.

River Alliance starts Lake Michigan dam owner campaign

The River Alliance of Wisconsin launched the first part of a dam owner education project for the owners of almost 800 dams in the Lake Michigan Basin of Wisconsin on Sept. 26. Every dam owner whose information was available from public records will receive a letter informing them of their ownership and responsibilities and inviting them to contact the River Alliance if they are interested in knowing more about their dam, including the option of removing it.

"Many folks may not even realize they own a dam" stated Helen Sarakinos, dam program manager at the River Alliance and coordinator of the project. "And they may not be aware that they are financially responsible and liable for that dam's safety." Many of the state's more than 3,700 dams are aging and in need of expensive repairs. Selective removal of old, obsolete or unsafe dams can be an economical and effective solution. Removing a dam costs on average three to five times less than repairing it once in Wisconsin. A growing number of communities in Wisconsin are making the choice to remove dam structures from rivers and are then using the opportunity to create beautiful public parks or revitalize waterfronts.

SOURCE: Special Edition River Alliance of WI *C.A.N.O.E.*, Volume 5 Issue 26.

Polluted runoff rule update given WDNR personnel

Toni Herkert, Dam Safety/Floodplain & Shoreland Management Section, gave a rundown of the upcoming NR 115 Rule Revision process at the Bureau meeting Tuesday. The Department has

been considering updating this 30-year-old rule for several years. The effort is now underway starting with Phase I, forming and meetings of the General Development Advisory Committee. This committee has a potential membership of 4 representatives of local government, 4 public resource interests, riparian owners, academic resources and private business representatives. Four main shoreland management issues will be the basis for the updates:

- shoreland buffers & setbacks
- development density
- nonconforming structures
- flexibility & mitigation

For more information contact Toni Herkert at Toni.Herkert@dnr.state.wi.us for more information.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-09-02.

National water monitoring day Oct. 18

Hundreds of Wisconsin citizens who volunteer to monitor lake and stream water quality are expected to participate in a National Monitoring Day set for Oct. 18 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. On that day, volunteers will sample water quality in the lake or stream they've been monitoring and enter the data in a national database.

"The idea is to help educate the public about the importance of monitoring and getting involved in keeping an eye on the environment," says Nate Feuerer, who coordinates Wisconsin's Self-Help Lake Monitoring network. "The event is also designed to give a national snapshot of water quality on the anniversary of the Clean Water Act."

More than 1,100 Wisconsin volunteers monitor specific lakes several times each year for water clarity and in some cases, the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil and other exotic species.

SOURCE: Nate Feuerer (608) 261-6430 or Kris Stepenuck (608) 264-8948/

WOW conference expands registration

Citizens, scientists, academics, policy makers, and representatives from agriculture, industry, conservation groups, and Native American tribes will gather in Madison Oct. 21-22 to chart Wisconsin's Clean Water Act for the next generation at the Waters of Wisconsin (WOW) conference. Added space has been reserved by organizers to accept the high demand. For information on late registration, contact the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Science and Letters.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Science and Letters, www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/forum/.

Public can give FERC hydro regulation input at Milwaukee meeting

In September, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) announced plans to revise their regulations for licensing hydropower dams from beginning to end. FERC has set out an

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ambitious timeline to arrive at a draft rule by spring 2003 and a final rule by fall 2003. Six outreach meetings are scheduled for October and November in locations around the country. The meeting in our location is at the Courtyard Milwaukee Downtown, 300 W. Michigan St. One meeting is for the general public on Oct. 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and another for tribes on Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SOURCE: Todd Ambs, River Alliance of Wisconsin, (608) 257-2424 or tambs@wisconsinrivers.org.

Inaugural stream monitoring awards presented to volunteers

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A University of Wisconsin-Madison water researcher, teachers at Marquette University and Middleton high schools, and multiple Chippewa County schools and government agencies are the inaugural winners of a state-wide award to recognize the contributions of Wisconsin's volunteer stream monitors. The Stream Monitoring Awards Program was initiated this year by the WDNR and UW-Extension to recognize exemplary work in volunteer stream monitoring in Wisconsin. The 2002 recipients received plaques late last month during the first-ever statewide stream monitoring conference held in Wisconsin Rapids.

SOURCE: Kris Stepenuck (608) 264-8948; Peggy Compton, UWEX (608) 342-1633.

Congratulations to WSN Board member Phil Emmling, winner of the "individual category" stream monitoring award

Philip Emmling received a DNR River Protection grant to study Castle Rock Creek in 2000-2001 and monitored the creek 22 times, including four times following major runoff events. He has since shared study results with a local watershed committee and interested citizens and at state and national conferences. In addition, he has worked with Madison area middle and high schools to monitor creeks, lagoons, and a groundwater spring. He has conducted family science night sessions for the area schools and has assisted the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited with volunteer monitoring training sessions.

Teams monitoring water quality management in Wisconsin's forests

Eight interdisciplinary teams of resource specialists lead by foresters from the state Department of Natural Resources and U. S. Forest Service (USFS) are visiting forestry sites throughout Wisconsin this month to monitor water quality management.

The goal of the monitoring project is to assess how extensively and effectively Wisconsin loggers, landowners and foresters are using "best management practices" (BMPs) to protect water quality on their land, according to Dale Gasser, DNR forest hydrologist coordinator of the forestry BMP program coordinator. The DNR randomly selected monitoring sites from a statewide list of timber sales. DNR foresters then visited these sites to determine if they met the following criteria: harvesting was completed in 2001-2002; harvesting occurred on a wetland or within 200 feet of a stream, lake or river; and the landowners gave permission for a monitoring team to walk through their property. More at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/usesof/bmp/bmp.htm>.

SOURCE: Dale Gasser, (608) 266-1667 (office) or 608-206-6324 (cell phone).

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Ahnapee River watershed organizing meeting Oct. 24

If you are interested in the Ahnapee River in and its tributaries, please come to our informational meeting on October 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Crossroads in Sturgeon Bay. At the meeting, you will have the opportunity to provide input on whether you think formation of a watershed organization is a good idea. To help us plan for the event, please call (920) 388-2792 ext. 101 by October 21.

SOURCE: Patrick Robinson, UW-Extension Lakeshore Basin Educator for Natural Resources, patrick.robinson@ces.uwex.edu.

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Most of Iowa's streams "unmonitored" by professionals

In Iowa...most of the state's 72,000 miles of streams remain unmonitored by professionals. This raises a question: how can we even begin to address these concerns if we don't have the data we need?

SOURCE: Excerpt from EPA *WaterNews* for September 24, 2002, via WDNR "Basin Briefs."

Mercury Marine to clean up Cedar Creek

Mercury Marine has agreed to clean up a polluted 5-mile stretch of Cedar Creek, from Cedarburg to its confluence with the Milwaukee River, under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, according to an October 2 article in *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. More at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/OzWash/oct02/84397.asp>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-02-02.

Fox Valley stormwater treatment robbing upgrades to sewer system

From the September 27 *Appleton Post-Crescent*: A surcharge for storm water flowing into the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment plant may be draining funds that could be used to correct the problem. "We are looking at millions of dollars being invested at the treatment plant to handle storm water when that money can be spent to reduce the problem at the front end," according to Combined Locks Village President David King. The surcharge to the communities served by the district is based on the volume of storm water in excess of normal flows into the sewage plant. Representatives of the communities served by the sewerage district are wondering if the surcharge funds should be spent to correct inflow and infiltration of laterals connected to the system, rather than for expanding the sewage treatment plant. The sewage commission has yet to determine how the funds will be spent. More at http://www.wisinfo.com/post-crescent/news/archive/local_6226616.shtml.

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SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-02-02.

Coaster brook trout survey opportunities for individuals

For those of you who live up north (or visit there), there is a volunteer opportunity to help out MN DNR with stream surveys for Coasters on the north shore of Lake Superior. Contact Ken Benoit at kjbenoit@charter.net if you are interested in getting involved with surveys to be conducted from 10-17 through 10-30-02.

SOURCE: Laura Hewitt, lhewitt@tu.org.

Montana Supreme Court extends water rights to wildlife

The Montana Supreme Court has overturned a 1988 decision allowing the Water Court to deny requests to divert water for fish, wildlife and recreation purposes. The 5-2 decision released last week could have far-reaching effects on water rights across Montana. The high court ruled that fish, wildlife, and recreation are beneficial uses of water under Montana law. A water right allows a certain amount of water to be diverted or withdrawn from a source for a specific use. Water law historically leaned toward protecting mining and agriculture interests. “This is probably one of the most significant decisions on water in the last 10 to 12 years,” Chief Water Judge Bruce Loble said. The high court also instructed the state Water Court to identify, review, and hold hearings on all pre-1973 recreation, fish, and wildlife claims to determine their validity — about 1,700 cases, the Water Court estimates.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #40, October 7, 2002, Trevor@serconline.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Milwaukee CWA celebration Oct. 16 near Summerfest grounds

Please join us in recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Come and learn more about how far we’ve come in the effort to eliminate water pollution and how far we still need to go. There will be local speakers to discuss the importance of the Clean Water Act, environmental groups such as Milwaukee River Revitalization Foundation, and Wisconsin Wastewater Operator’s Association. The public will be able to view microscopic samples taken from local waterways and tour UW-Extension’s Neeskay Vessel. There will also be a special presentation for school groups who participate in the District’s annual poster contest. Any environmental organizations that would like to participate, please call La Shaun D. Jackson at (414) 225-2126 or e-mail at ljackson@mmsd.com. The event is sponsored by:

- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District,
- UWM-Great Lakes Institute,
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission,
- Pier Wisconsin,
- Milwaukee Port Authority,

- Intergovernment Co-Op Council, and
- United Water Services.

The event takes place October 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Urban Park, between the north gate of Summerfest and Michigan Ave.

River Alliance profiled in Orion publication

The current *OrionOnline* “Stories from the Grassroots” features The River Alliance of Wisconsin. You can read their profile at www.oriononline.org/pages/ogn/members/rawprofile.html.

SOURCE: Patrick Kelly, PKelly@orionsociety.org.

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FMR rolls out new web site

Some of you might already know, but some of you may not, so I am shooting out an e-mail to everyone about our new website, www.mkeriverkeeper.org, and its contents. Please check out the River Watch button to view new articles about Milwaukee’s rivers!

SOURCE: Jennifer Linse, Executive Assistant, Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers, 7028 W. State St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213 www.mkeriverkeeper.org.

Programs to address health concerns of electromagnetic fields

Electrical engineer Don Zipse will be discussing how utilities have cut costs and possibly compromised health safety when designing the electrical distribution system in the U.S. at meetings in Green Bay and Madison. Zipske will be at the Allen Dairy farm near De Pere on Oct. 24 and in Madison at the Bolz Auditorium across from Meriter Hospital on Oct. 23. The meetings are sponsored by Families and Friends for Social Responsibility. For more information contact Russ Allen at (920) 676-8490 or Marilyn Wilson at (608) 231-2277.

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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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Summary of SOUL 2002 Citizen's Energy Forum

By Logan Edinger

On September 13 and 14, 2002, Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) hosted a forum that may become an annual event. The Citizen's Energy Forum was held at the Westwood Center in Wausau. What made this event different than most is that it was a meeting of representatives of the various utilities, state officials, and ordinary citizens trying to find common ground in shaping the state's energy policy.

Since all of the donations that SOUL takes in goes to legal costs in opposing the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line and operating the organization, it was apparent that some funding was needed to produce the Citizen's Energy Forum. That funding came from the Wisconsin Stewardship Network. The WSN works to bring diverse groups and individuals together. Collectively and as individuals, the WSN will work to elect men and women who will restore Wisconsin's tradition of conservation leadership. WSN encourages people to work together to make changes to environmental policy and educate people about environmental problems in Wisconsin.

Each year the WSN meets and decides upon priority issues that will receive funding for events that will unite and rally people and organizations to an important cause. The WSN board recognized that the Arrowhead-Weston line was a priority issue and that by supporting an energy forum it might lead to changes that WSN supports like reducing mercury emissions, reinstating the public intervenor, and removing the DNR secretary from a cabinet level position.

SOUL President Tom Kreager opened the Forum by introducing Todd Hanson of the WSN. Todd spoke about the mission of the WSN and how priority issues are made and where to find WSN on the Internet. He also spoke of how the WSN is funded through grants and donations from participating organizations and how WSN operates.

Keynote speakers at the forum on the 13th were Secretary of State Doug La Follette, Steve Hinkler of the Citizen's Utility Board, and David Jenkins with the Wisconsin Electric Co-operatives. They expressed a need for more citizen input in the decision-making process of utility plans. They also talked of the fact that most of the energy we all use is not renewable and will eventually run out. They stressed that:

- The use of renewables such as solar power needs to be incorporated into the way we heat and electrify our homes and businesses.
- Everyone needs to change the way they look at energy.
- People need to seriously pressure their elected officials to raise the mileage standards on automobiles and to put money into the research that is necessary to make large-scale renewable energy a reality.
- Changes should be made with new technology in mind and not use the same old methods such as coal and fossil fuel generating plants that harm the environment.

They also addressed the frustration of private citizens who feel that their voices are not heard in Madison pertaining to utility construction and expansion. All agreed that the main reason for that is that there is too much money in politics and political campaigns. This type of lobbying leads to bad ideas becoming reality and forces elected officials to put blinders on in regards to the opinions of the people that they are supposed to represent. It also leads to large corporations with private

interests being in the forefront of the planning and decision-making process, sometimes in ways that border on or cross over to outright corruption.

On Saturday the forum continued with policy discussions. One of the rules of the forum was that no last names or job titles would be used. Name tags were given out with just the attendees' first names on them. Then they were randomly seated in groups at tables and talk about forming an energy policy for the state of Wisconsin.

Ordinary citizens were seated next to gubernatorial candidates, utility executives, and state representatives. They were given several hours to share their thoughts and ideas for Wisconsin's energy future. Each table had a facilitator that kept notes and kept the participants focused on the issue.

Some people addressed the current way utilities do business — that money paid by rate payers be used to for actual gas and electricity and not be used on campaign funding and for the expansion of utilities into non-utility businesses such as automobile selling, newspaper publishing and cable TV providers. Others looked into what needs to be done now by stating that energy needs to become a bigger campaign issue with our politicians, and that that can be done by going to candidates and telling them that most people are frustrated with what they pay for utilities, that most people know that the current means of producing energy are harmful to the environment, and that if we want to seriously cut mercury and other harmful emissions, we need to change the status quo on how energy is produced and handled in the state. The Public Intervenor office needs to be restored so that people have a place in the state government they can turn to express their concerns. The DNR secretary needs to be elected by the DNR board to reduce the political pressure put on that office so it can actually listen to their staff's research and findings.

Still others looked at ways to change the way consumers use energy:

- Put energy into our everyday conversations.
- Learn about the new technologies that are here or on the horizon.
- Acknowledge, if not actually reward, people who remodel or build new homes and businesses using solar and wind technology or fuel cells and micro-turbines.
- More news articles need to be written that show and prove that using alternative energy can be cost effective and cleaner to use.

The Forum continued after a great meal with the note takers from each table reading what was discussed in their sessions. It was only then that each person stood up and introduced themselves and the group or utility they represented. It was a highlight of the forum and since no voices were raised and no punches thrown, it was proved that all sides of an issue as controversial as energy can meet on common ground and openly discuss change.

(NOTE: A compilation of the notes taken at the Forum will be made by SOUL to be distributed to local and state leaders in the best confidence that the work done at the Forum will not be taken lightly. These results will be on the WSN 2003 conference CD distributed at Feb. 14-15 in Stevens Point.)

Mining Positions of Top Four Gubernatorial Candidates

Candidate Name: Attorney General Jim Doyle – Democratic Party

What is your position on the proposed Crandon mine?

I do not support opening up a mine that would cause irreversible damage to Wisconsin's precious natural resources. The proposed Crandon mine is in one of the most environmentally sensitive areas of the state, surrounded by wetlands, lakes and streams that feed the Wolf River, a National Wild and Scenic River. Current laws are inadequate to protect our water and our land from destruction and devastation if the Crandon mine project moves forward. As Governor, I would reopen and pursue discussions about possible state purchase of the land to protect the headwaters of the Wolf, and look for creative ways to make that possible.

What is your position on legislation to ban the use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines?

I am a strong supporter of legislation that would ban the use of cyanide in mining. Using cyanide in mining is both unsafe and unneeded, and poses a real threat to our environment and our people. During the last session, I repeatedly urged the Legislature and the Governor to take action on passing the cyanide ban and a bill that would end special treatment for mining companies. When the legislature failed to act, I asked Gov. McCallum to call a special session to act on the mining bills, but he responded that Wisconsin's mining laws were some of the best in the country. As Governor, I will work to pass legislation that prohibits mining companies from using cyanide in mining.

What is your position on legislation to end special treatment to mining companies?

I support legislation that would end special treatment for mining companies by eliminating the exemption for mining waste from the state's hazardous waste laws. Mining waste is clearly hazardous waste, and it makes absolutely no sense to give preferential treatment to companies that we know produce waste that is harmful and dangerous to our environment and our people. As Governor, one of my priorities will be working to pass stronger mining laws. The state needs to provide safeguards and protections that will preserve our pristine natural resources for future generations.

What is your position on writing rules to implement the Mining Moratorium?

I support requiring the Department of Natural Resources to write rules that would better define and implement the Mining Moratorium Law. This is an important law that establishes new environmental standards that mining companies must meet before they can open up a mine in Wisconsin. The law should be clear, and the DNR should begin the task of writing these rules.

Candidate Name: Jim Young — Wisconsin Green Party

What is your position on the Crandon Mine?

The Crandon mine should never be built. We must protect the environment, tourism industry and different cultures of this great area. The land involved in this proposed venture should be bought through a cooperative effort between the state and the tribes, with local governments and other interested parties contributing funds if they wish. This area should then be cared for and nurtured through a cooperative resource management effort between the state and tribal governments with equal decision making powers for each participant (one vote for each participating entity) Of course the state could always just return the land to the participating tribes as a show of respect and reparations for past (and maybe current) efforts at cultural genocide.

What is your position on legislation to ban the use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines?

The use of cyanide should be banned from all mining operations in Wisconsin (and the US). As governor, I will sign this legislation.

What is your position on legislation to end special treatment to mining companies?

All mining companies should be held to the same standards as other Wisconsin businesses. I believe that we must return to a “no degradation” standard for all businesses and municipalities in Wisconsin relative to water, land and air. Because of their dismal history and current practices, no new sulfide mining operations should be permitted at the current time. I propose that we create laws that call for initial local and tribal referenda for approval of a project with a subsequent statewide vote to finalize commencement of the project.

What is your position on writing rules to implement the Mining Moratorium?

The DNR should immediately write rules that uphold the intent and facilitate the implementation of the Mining Moratorium Law. The DNR should stop wasting its time and resources (opportunity costs) trying to usher the mining companies through our loophole ridden resource protection laws. We have a constitutional mandate to protect the public domain. We also have an inherent responsibility as the current stewards of Wisconsin to protect our natural, life-sustaining environments from degradation, the abuses of private interests and short sighted policy decisions for future generations.

Candidate Name: Ed Thompson – Libertarian Party

What is your position on the Crandon Mine?

The environmental reports must be completely promptly and reviewed. There is no excuse for miles of delay. Review the science and take action. If the mine cannot be operated safely, the no mining is allowed. Buying the Crandon mine property is definitely not the answer. This is just blackmail. Buying the Crandon mine land to protect the environment from pollution amounts to either rewarding (1) a company for threatening to pollute the environment or (2) opposition to a mine that is safe for the environment. It has to be one or the other. If we start buying land every time there is a threat of pollution, we are just rewarding irresponsible actions and threats.

What is your position on legislation to ban the use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines?

The information I have seen indicates that cyanide should not be used in mining. As governor, I will have the available information fully reviewed and make a decision based on sound science.

What is your position on legislation to end special treatment to mining companies?

I oppose special treatment for mines regarding pollution. The environment is so important. It is the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil where our food grows. Mines should be held to the same environmental standards as are other activities. We need to ensure that our environment is protected from pollution, fairly and honestly, without special protections for some polluters. I have refused to take special interest money in this campaign — and even returned it — to make it clear that I will make fair and honest decisions in the best interest of the people of Wisconsin.

What is your position on writing rules to implement the Mining Moratorium?

The end goal of environmental law in Wisconsin should be protecting our air, water and other natural resources from pollution. It does not make sense to single out mines for a moratorium. The threat of pollution, not a particular industry, must be addressed. Pollution is dangerous no matter the source. We need to hold the big polluters accountable. Anyone who harms our environment must repair the damage and compensate victims. I firmly believe this simple rule: If you make the mess, you should clean it up. Too often the fat cats who make big political donations get away with pollution, leaving us to carry the freight. That is just plain wrong. As governor, I will stand up to polluters and hold them accountable for harming our health, violating our property rights, and contaminating our environment.

Candidate Name: Governor Scott McCallum – Republican Party

Governor McCallum was unable to respond to our questionnaire. Below find several recent quotes on the Crandon mine issue.

From Governor McCallum's website:

“Governor McCallum is committed to protecting and improving the quality of our air, land and water. During his tenure in state government, he has been involved in enacting many laws, regulations, and partnerships intended to protect and improve our air, land and water.

Governor McCallum supports the Mining Moratorium Bill that created more stringent requirements for the approval of metallic mines. The DNR will verify that the metallic mining permit applicant has submitted examples of mines in operation that meet certain conditions. Most importantly, examples submitted must be mines that have been closed for ten years without violating an environmental law and without causing significant environmental pollution of the groundwater or surface water.

Governor McCallum supports the current metallic mining regulatory framework that was developed through a thoughtful, deliberative process, and included perspectives from a variety [of] groups which traditionally have not easily found common ground. Governor McCallum believes that these measures, along with the strength of our existing laws, protect Wisconsin's air, land and water from the possible harms of an inadequate metallic mining operation.

The proposal for the State of Wisconsin to purchase the Nicolet Minerals Company property in the vicinity of the proposed Crandon Mine project is an intriguing idea that deserves further consideration and discussion. Governor McCallum plans to meet with all interested parties regarding this proposal and will be reviewing all possible outcomes and consequences that this proposal may have on the environment and the Northwoods community.”

9/13/02 From Governor McCallum's press release on his decision not to continue negotiations for the state acquisition of the Crandon mine:

“I believe this decision reflects the sentiments of many Crandon-area citizens who have serious reservations about the possible loss of jobs if the state were to acquire the Nicolet property. Mining is an important economic driver in the Crandon area and the concerns of citizens definitely played a role in our decision to stop negotiations.”

9/18/02 From the Eau Claire Leader Telegram.

Leader Telegram: So you don't think the Crandon mine proposal is dead?

Governor McCallum: I do not. I don't think it's dead. ... They may have some other interested buyers. I'll tell you what I do know is ... I'm not going to have the state get into running a business (by buying the mine). I was truly amazed that (Doyle) was critical of my not purchasing (the mine) at the price that was being talked about. It was a bad deal for taxpayers, it was a bad deal for jobs, it was a bad deal for the environment, the costs to the Stewardship Fund.