



# WSNetwork News

November 1, 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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## Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

### Arrowhead cost overruns will require another PSC review

An Oct. 23 *Dow Jones Business Review* story says the “controversial 345-kilovolt transmission line planned by two upper Midwest utilities is likely to see higher-than-projected costs that will require additional regulatory reviews” according to a spokeswoman for American Transmission Co. LLC, the line’s future operator.

According to the story, “American Transmission’s review process shows that development costs will far exceed the \$165 million budget approved last year by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, said Maripat Blankenheim, an American Transmission spokeswoman. That means the line is headed for more regulatory reviews that will give opponents another chance to block the project. ‘It’s a guarantee that we’ll have to go back to the PSC,’ Blankenheim said. Because costs for the project will be passed on to customers of American Transmission’s many member utilities, the Wisconsin PSC must review any cost changes that go more than 10% beyond the amount it approved, Blankenheim said. Original estimates for the project left out many critical and costly items, including payments to municipalities that play host to the line, acquisition of real estate and taxes.”

SOURCE: *Dow Jones Business Review*.

### WSN Board gets 10 nominations for 2003 priority issues

The WSN Board of Directors met on Oct. 26 and reviewed 10 suggested priority issue **proposals** from Wisconsin environmental and conservation organizations. The WSN Board will decide over the next month which of these proposals to place on the ballot for a full membership vote at the Feb. 15 WSN annual conference at UW-Stevens Point.

**YOU DECIDE:** You are encouraged to:

- Contact WSN Board members to express your support for the proposals you feel best capture the top environmental and conservation issues facing Wisconsin in 2003.
- Join the WSN as an official member organization. Only member groups can cast a ballot at the annual conference to select the WSN’s 2003 priority issues. E-mail the WSN’s **Chris Nehrbass** to learn more about how the WSN can strengthen your organization with its capacity-building and networking services.

## Actons of ATC VP Williamson described in caucus scandal documents

As reported in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* on October 17, ATC's [Mark] Williamson played a big role in laundering money to help further legislation to expand coal plants in Wisconsin. The coal plan is called "Power the Future."

Mark Williamson, a former executive of and lobbyist for Madison Gas and Electric Co., told prosecutors State Senator Chuck Chvala told him to direct donations from the utility to the Kansas Democratic Party. Three donations from MG&E subsidiaries totaling \$25,000 were subsequently sent to the Kansas Democratic Party, the complaint says. Money from the Kansas party subsequently was sent to the Independent Citizens for Democracy, the complaint says.

Williamson is currently employed by American Transmission Company to "sell" the Arrowhead-Weston to locals in Northern Wisconsin. Williamson recently offered \$11,000 to Sand Lake township to allow the 345,000 volt towers which would stand 13 stories tall on the shores of some of Sand Lake's most valuable properties. The local property owners and tax payers, whom Williamson refers to as "crazies," soundly backed their town board who wisely refused the offer.

Sand Lake town board supporters declared, "Whoever touches money in the hand of Mark Williamson is soiled by the passing of 'bribe' money. This news from Madison shines the light on how dirty this 'power for profit' business is.

SOURCE: Sandy Lyon, [water@spacestar.net](mailto:water@spacestar.net).

## Park Service holding Nov. 6 meeting on proposed Namekagon line crossing

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to reach a decision about a right-of-way application for crossing the Namekagon River from Minnesota Power and the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (the applicants). The right-of-way request is for crossing the river with a 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line known as the Arrowhead to Weston Project. The EIS is being prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of proposed actions before reaching a decision. The HEPA process also provides an avenue for public input in the Federal decision-making process. The date and location of the public scoping meeting/open house is:

**Wednesday, November 6, 2002** — 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Hayward Senior High School/Commons Area and Auditorium, 10320 Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI

(NOTE: the above is an excerpt from an NPS letter describing the Namekagon EIS. Contact the WSN for a copy of the complete NPS letter.)

SOURCE: NPS.

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## DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

### WSN looking for DNR/PIO issue chair

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network is looking for an issue chair to replace Paul Mongin of the Brown County Conservation Alliance (BCCA) after his 2002 job well done surveying statewide office candidates on their positions relating to an independent DNR and the return of the Public Intervenor Office.

WSN issue chairs serve as leaders of ad hoc coalitions charged with defining natural resources concerns and devising strategies for making progress on these issues. The loss of an independent DNR and the PIO were two of the actions that concerned Wisconsin groups enough to form the WSN in 1995. Issue chairs receive compensation for their organizing efforts. For more information contact the WSN at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).

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## Factory Farming

### Hearing on proposed Manitowoc feedlot Nov. 13

I am writing to you because Smithfield Foods is proposing to construct a 5,000 head beef feedlot in the Town of Gibson in Manitowoc County. The project applicant is Steve Dvorak, who also proposes to build a manure digester and about 23 triple football field length feed storage areas on the site as well. Many of you probably know Smithfield Foods as the largest pork processor in the world. The company is now trying to stake its market share in beef processing in Wisconsin as well, in part by purchasing Packerland Packing in Green Bay, and now with this proposed 5,000 head feedlot. Smithfield already owns Patrick Cudahy, Inc., a pork processor, in Wisconsin. Smithfield hopes to raise over 200,000 head of beef per year in Wisconsin, which will likely mean more feedlots that may come your way as well.

Many of you probably also know that Smithfield is one of the worst polluters in the world. In 1997, the federal government imposed over \$12.6 million in fines against the company for five years of dumping slaughterhouse waste into a river. At that time, that was the largest fine ever imposed against a company for causing pollution. Citizens, environmentalists and farmers have sued Smithfield Foods numerous times since for violations of federal environmental laws, anti-trust statutes, and other laws. To learn more about Smithfield Foods and Packerland Packing, go to [www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/rapsheets/wisconsin/packerland.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/rapsheets/wisconsin/packerland.asp).

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Many of you know what it is like to live next to or near this type of industrial agriculture. And many of you know how the industrial agribusiness has ganged up on you in the past so that it can impose its brand of agriculture, whatever the cost. It's time to turn the tables and send Smithfield packing, so to speak.

Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. and Garvey and Stoddard, SC represent Citizens for Responsible Agriculture and the Environment (CFRACE), a grassroots group of citizens and farmers that promote sustainable agriculture in Manitowoc County and beyond. CFRACE is opposing the feedlot because of their concerns about traffic, odor, water pollution, groundwater depletion, and other nuisance conditions, as well as the overall effect the feedlot will have on the land and water in the area. Although CFRACE is a strong group, they need your help. The Manitowoc County Planning Department is holding a public hearing on Nov. 13, 2002, at the UW Center in Manitowoc at 6:00 pm to decide the issuance of the conditional use permit for the Smithfield Feedlot. Given Smithfield's ambitions, this is a project that could affect people who live outside of Manitowoc County. Come and speak to show your support for sustainable agriculture, sensible land use practices, and support for small farmers that struggle to survive in a market that companies like Smithfield have dominated. Hope to see you on November 13 in Manitowoc.

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SOURCE: Andrew C. Hanson, Attorney, Midwest Environmental Advocates, 702 E. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703, (608) 268-0207, [www.midwest-e-advocates.org](http://www.midwest-e-advocates.org).

## US establishes new organic food label standards

On October 21, "organic" will be a certified, voluntary label across the country for farmers who earn more than \$5,000 in organic sales. The certification means the farmer obeyed restrictions on pesticides, hormones, antibiotics, irradiation, bio-engineering, conservation of soil and water, and humane animal treatment. The four label categories include: 100 percent organic, organic (at least 95 percent), made with organic ingredients (at least 70 percent), and contains organic ingredients. Organic industry analysts expect the new standard to boost sales from last year's \$9 billion to \$20 billion by 2005. According to the Organic Consumers Association, a 400,000-member nonprofit group, the standards are "Grade B organic," closing some loopholes but meeting minimum aspirations of the organic community. Many, like General Mills, Coca-Cola, and Heinz who have bought organic companies to sell products in big supermarkets, believe the federal label will help mainstream organics.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #41, October 15, 2002, [Trevor@serconline.org](mailto:Trevor@serconline.org).

## Publication summarizes environmental laws affecting WI agriculture

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From the October 23 Wisconsin Ag Connection Web site: The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation has published a series of guides detailing each state's environmental laws that affect agriculture. A separate guide on federal legislation is also available. To access the Wisconsin guide in PDF format, <http://www.nasda-hq.org/nasda/nasda/Foundation/state/Wisconsin.pdf>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-23-02.

## Nov. 12-14 Farm Bill conference bringing diverse interests together

National Farm Bill Conference Take advantage of an opportunity to meet with conservation leaders, agriculture industry and association representatives and environmental groups from across the

country to discuss the Farm Bill. Walk away with answers, insight, nationwide contacts and action plans. This conference is open to everyone. It happens in St. Louis, November 12-14, 2002. For more information contact Trindal Stanke at [trindal-tanke@nacdn.net](mailto:trindal-tanke@nacdn.net) or (202) 547-5293, or visit the NACD web site at [www.nacdn.net](http://www.nacdn.net).

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-23-02.

## Appropriations for farm conservation programs stalled

While Congress passed the largest Conservation title in the history of farm bill legislation, the new law remains unfunded. With elections looming larger than the increasing federal deficit, no one is wagering a guess as to when there will be movement on the agriculture appropriations bill. The House and Senate last week passed another continuing resolution to fund the government until November 22. Thus, both branches are freed from the responsibility of considering appropriations bills until after the November 5th congressional elections. Of the thirteen appropriations bills Congress must pass, they have only completed the Defense Department and Military Construction bills. Both chambers will be operating on a pro forma basis through the elections, meaning that they will operate only on select days, or to vote on legislation that passes out of the other chamber. More information about the current status of the appropriations bills is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app03.html>.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, [sjohnson@defenders.org](mailto:sjohnson@defenders.org).

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## Forest Fragmentation

### Forest fire protection grants awarded

More than 200 Wisconsin fire departments and other fire suppression organizations will receive Forest Fire Protection grants totaling \$730,218 to purchase items used for forest fire suppression. This WDNR Forest Fire Protection grant program is funded with \$448,000 from the state of Wisconsin's forestry mill tax and \$282,218 from the United States Department of Agriculture under the authority of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. A complete list of the 213 grantees can be found on the DNR Bureau of Community Financial Assistance web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/awards/awards.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/awards/awards.html).

SOURCE: Jan Libby, WDNR, (608) 267-0800.

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## Groundwater Protection

### Story recounts efforts in Michigan to fight Perrier

Although Perrier paid handsomely to smooth the way in Michigan — it hired a public affairs group to massage the media and a respected political consultant to guide needed permits through

the regulatory agencies — its arrival in Mecosta County has been greeted with lawsuits, legislative proposals to strengthen the government's authority to manage water, and political unrest so significant that it has divided the state Republican Party and is influencing the 2002 Michigan gubernatorial campaign. Indeed, the fight over freshwater may be the most significant environmental issue in the country when it comes to affecting how voters will behave at the polls come November." Complete story at <http://www.gristmagazine.com/maindish/schneider102302.asp?source=daily>.

## Federal legislation targeting private well water testing

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Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL) are seeking cosponsors for the Private Well Testing Assistance Act (S. 3127). In order to help protect the health of rural families, the legislation provides federal assistance to help state health and environmental agencies sample drinking water wells near suspected areas of groundwater contamination. More than 15.1 million households are served by private drinking water wells in the United States. At times, these wells are affected by serious groundwater contaminants, including industrial solvents, petroleum, nitrates, radon, arsenic, beryllium, chloroform, and gasoline additives such as MTBE. The bill authorizes EPA to provide up to \$20 million per year to assist state well testing programs — subject to a 20 percent state match. For more information.

SOURCE: Rebecca Power, [rebecca.power@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:rebecca.power@ces.uwex.edu).

## Oscar Meyer plan improvements to lessen groundwater draws

From the October 20 Wisconsin *State Journal*: Oscar Mayer Foods, is using and discharging less water at its Madison plant, the result of their replacing their chilled-water cooling system with an air cooling system (in addition to other conservation efforts). With their 40 percent reduction in water use, area residents could see a small but measurable increase in the flow of Dane County waterways, such as Starkweather Creek, Token Creek, and the Yahara River, along with a possible reduction in the city's cost to pump water. But some area residents could also possibly see an increase in basement flooding. (The article via BadgerLink is at [http://proquest.umi.com/pqd-web?Did=000000218486751&Fmt=3&Deli=1&Mtd=2&Idx=64&SK=3&ScQ=000007463|00000002797531|\\*&RQT=309](http://proquest.umi.com/pqd-web?Did=000000218486751&Fmt=3&Deli=1&Mtd=2&Idx=64&SK=3&ScQ=000007463|00000002797531|*&RQT=309)).

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SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 10-23-02.

## Bush administration could shift federal water out of parks

The Bush administration has opened the way for Western states to gain control over enormous volumes of water previously claimed by the federal government. That would shift the balance in a long battle over control of a scarce resource. The policies cede to Western states important water rights that the Clinton administration had claimed. Bush administration officials describe the new approach as an antidote to past federal excess. Environmentalists said the policies would give the

states more latitude to transfer water to their cities and away from national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other federal lands. At least five Western states have begun broad efforts to sort out competing water claims. In general, the law gives the states rather than D.C. the authority to allocate water rights. But when the federal government sets aside land for a particular purpose like a national monument or an Indian reservation, the law has been interpreted as giving the government the implicit right to reserve enough water for it.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #41, October 15, 2002, [Trevor@serconline.org](mailto:Trevor@serconline.org).

## Story offers “10 reasons” to modernize state water policies

A story by Andrew Guy of the Michigan Land Use Institute lists 10 reasons why water policies should be revised in Michigan. Guy’s points have similar relevance in Wisconsin. To view the story, visit [http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/100702\\_great\\_lakes.htm](http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/100702_great_lakes.htm).

## Workshops explore ways to conserve rainwater

Environmentally friendly building practices that allow rainwater to soak into the ground instead of running toward streams will be introduced to Charlotte, NC, area developers and local government staff this month. Called low-impact development or LID, the practices can help recharge groundwater while keeping streams cleaner. They aim to let water move the way it would if no development were present. Randy Forsythe, a UNC Charlotte scientist who’s leading an LID education campaign, says local groundwater loses out on billions of gallons a year because of rooftops, streets and driveways. Those hard surfaces channel water toward streams and ditches instead of into the ground. In addition, storm water flows more quickly off hardened ground and in greater volumes. The force of water crumbles stream banks, sending sediment downstream. Pollutants such as bacteria wash off the ground and into streams. Forsythe said LID practices may cost no more than more familiar designs, such as ponds that capture and slowly release storm water.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #42, October 21, 2002.

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## Mercury Reduction

### Research of mercury contamination leaves huge gaps in knowledge

An Associated Press story by Sharon L. Crenson on Oct. 9 reports the following about mercury: “Mercury is poison. And yet it is on dinner plates everywhere: in sea bass served in fancy restaurants, in tuna casserole ladled out at home. Most of the time, there is so little, it goes unnoticed. But that doesn’t mean the mercury in swordfish or shark, trout or snapper is harmless. Rising public concern about those questions, which have been in the background for years, is now prompting public health officials to look more seriously at mercury and at its effects. Complete story at [http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/100902\\_great\\_lakes1.htm](http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/100902_great_lakes1.htm).

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## Metallic Mining

### Groups write Gov. McCallum with Crandon Mine purchase concerns

Over a dozen organizations signed an Oct. 23 letter to Gov. Scott McCallum expressing their concerns that the state of Wisconsin has overestimated the cost of a possible Crandon Mine buyout.

“Our review demonstrates that the much more likely scenario of reduced odds of getting permits to mine result in drastically lower valuations for the mine site,” the letter said. “We found that a more likely range of market value is between \$10,700,000 and \$20,000,000. This range of values is based on two scenarios; a mine site without the mineral rights included (a valid scenario if permits cannot be gained) and a 50/50 chance that permits will be granted in the year 2007. Given the technical and legal hurdles faced by the project, both scenarios are quite realistic.”

The groups signing the letter included Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., ECCOLA (Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland Area), John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, Midwest Treaty Network, Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, Northern Thunder, Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, Protect Our Wolf River (POW’R), River Alliance of Wisconsin, Rolling Stone Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, Town of Nashville Wisconsin, Resources Protection Council, Wisconsin Stewardship Network Mining Priority Issue Committee, Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Wolf River Watershed Alliance, and the Wolf Watershed Educational Project.

SOURCE: Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, PO Box 55372, Madison, WI 53705-9172.

### Doyle tells BHP he would re-open mine buyout discussions

An Oct. 16 Associated Press story by Robert Imrie reported that Jim Doyle has offered to re-open discussions about purchasing the Crandon Mine with officials of BHP Billiton. According to the story, “On Sunday, Doyle criticized Gov. Scott McCallum for his handling of the possible state purchase of the Crandon mine, saying the Republican governor dropped the issue too soon in September. Doyle, the state’s attorney general, said he would reopen purchase discussions and look for new ways to finance a deal if he is elected Nov. 5.”

SOURCE: Associated Press.

### Doyle ‘fill-in-the-blank’ mentions Crandon Mine

When asked in yesterday’s [10-29 Wisconsin] *State Journal* to complete this sentence, “There ought to be a law against ...,” Doyle said, “the use of cyanide in mining.” Doyle’s positions on the environment in today’s *State Journal* include: “Ban the use of cyanide in mining; require states that ship waste to Wisconsin landfills to separate out recyclable material; increase the state’s authority to regulate high-capacity wells; promote the use of clean, renewable energy; restore the

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office of the public intervenor with the Department of Natural Resources and return the secretary to an appointed position by the Natural Resource Board.”

SOURCE: Bill McClenahan, Martin Schreiber & Associates, Inc., (608) 259.1212 ext. 4.

## **Attendee critical of DNR staff at Oshkosh mining meeting**

FYI - following is a brief summary of the DNR's Crandon mine presentation given at the Winnebago Audubon Society chapter meeting on 10/17/02 in Oshkosh. I was outraged at the implied 'benign' social, cultural, and environmental impacts demonstrated at this presentation by [the WDNR's] Larry Lynch and Ryan Rutkowski. (Rutkowski is a geologist who has only been with the DNR for about 1 1/2 yrs in the Waste Management division).

The PowerPoint presentation was entitled “The Permitting Process for Metallic Mining sites in Wisconsin and the Proposed Crandon Mine.” You can see by the attached letter from Tom Underwood that the organization itself is not taking a position on the mine project, however the majority of members demonstrated opposition and asked some good questions. “Madam President” was asked at one point to let the DNR continue their presentation (after she reminded Larry Lynch his “job was to protect the environment”).

The slide presentation provided basic information about metallic mining and the Crandon project, but focused primarily on the permitting process. The Mining Moratorium law received a good deal of discussion. Ryan used the Flambeau mine as an 'example' for compliance so I pointed out the history of the law, the differences in NMC's three mines, and how they are completely unrelated to the Crandon deposit/site. (At this point Larry Lynch got restless/irritated and stepped in.)

Ryan described the federal, state and local authority in regard to the permitting process, so I asked him to explain where the Tribes' Treatment as States jurisdiction would come into play. Larry Lynch again came to Ryan's rescue and said TAS status would NOT affect the permitting process(!) since the jurisdiction applied to on reservation(s) resources only.

Larry Lynch also defused a comment about the process being political and indicated the Administrative Law Judge making the final decision was NOT appointed by the Governor. He did admit that the appointed ALJ could possibly not have any experience/background or education in mining, etc.

Ryan presented a picture of the Kid Creek Mine TMA in Ontario and suggested it was very similar to the Crandon mine TMA. The picture was an open (benign) looking pool of water. I asked how this could be similar to a 90' high, 240 acre TMA with a plastic liner and cover. This led to another serious debate/discussion when a member said all liners leak — at which time Ryan openly admitted they do. His exact quote was “They do leak — there are going to be a few holes — our project does assume there are going to be a few holes”.

Ryan emphasized that most of the water used in the milling process would be recycled. He confirmed for a member that cyanide would be used but did not point out the exact amount (so I did). He indicated the transportation/storage of the cyanide was not a problem and failed to mention there would be cyanide in the backfill. (So I did). Larry Lynch got quite upset with me when I asked why the citizens of Wisconsin should trust the DNR — I pointed out that the DNR has tes-

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tified against all mining legislation intended to protect the environment. Larry also responded to my question regarding using an alternative reagent to cyanide and indicated that “the mining company would have a very difficult time mining this particular orebody WITHOUT the use of cyanide because of the metallurgic composition of the ore. He suggested that another zinc mine with a different metallurgic composition could use an alternative to cyanide, but the Crandon mine project MUST USE CYANIDE.

They discussed the 1,200’ boundary, irrevocable trust, potential mine sale. The question was asked if the mine project could affect the water quality as far as Lake Winnebago and Larry Lynch indicated it would be highly unlikely. Ryan indicated a drawdown was predicted for about 16 sq. miles around the mine site, but that only one area lake is spring fed. I pointed out how this area was saturated in pristine water resources (disagreed with his statement about one springfed lake) and explained how the project would have severe negative impacts on Mole Lake’s sacred wild rice beds and local wildlife. I also pointed out the importance (and lack of) DNR base line studies in regard to the permitting process, and indicated the DEIS would most likely be out by Spring, 2003.

SOURCE: Linda Sturnot, [wolfriver55@wi.rr.com](mailto:wolfriver55@wi.rr.com).

## Federal Reserve Bank posts stories on metallic mining’s financial impacts

I received the November issue of *Fedgazette* in the mail today. The paper, which is published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, has eight pages on metallic mining entitled “Focus: Toxic Legacy.” See <http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/feature.cfm>.

The articles include:

- *What lies beneath* — The bills come due for hardrock mining’s toxic past.
- *The prices—right* — The toughest problem in metal mining’s future will be making prices reflect all the costs.
- *Pay dirt or fool’s gold* — Do small towns strike it rich with metal mining or do they simply get the shaft?
- *How much for a grizzly?* — Estimating environmental values is difficult by essential.

SOURCE: Bill McClenahan, Martin Schreiber & Associates, Inc., (608) 259.1212 ext. 4, [bill@martin-schreiber.com](mailto:bill@martin-schreiber.com).

## Green Bay group suggests PCB settlement money go to mine buyout

The Green Bay *Press Gazette* reports that Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin has proposed Fox River trustees “use the money from an upcoming settlement for natural resource damages to the river and bay of Green Bay to fund all or part of the cost of buying the 5,000-acre Crandon mine site.” Complete story at [http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local\\_6549060.shtml](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local_6549060.shtml).

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*.

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## Wolf Watershed group meeting Nov. 16

The next meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project will be on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Mole Lake, in the environmental center on Sand Lake Road, one block east of Hwy. 55, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The meeting will discuss the post-election status of the public acquisition of the mine site and the campaign to pass the cyanide ban and “no special treatment” bills in January.

## Milwaukee talk show host criticizes Potawatomi cyanide spot

This morning [Oct. 24] Charlie Sykes, a conservative talk show host in Milwaukee, lambasted the Potawatomi for their “cynical and hypocritical” commercials. He and several pre-selected guests said the Potawatomi had no commitment to the environment that the tribes were only running the TV spots because they know that Jim Doyle is more likely to “give the Indians expanded gambling.”

These outrageous comments of course ignore the more than 10 year effort by the Potawatomi and other tribes to stop the Crandon mine. It is too bad that Charlie Sykes ignores the commercials, billboards, and direct mail the Potawatomi began late last year. Just because Charlie Sykes is late to this issue it is no reason for him to believe the Potawatomi are.

SOURCE: Tom Krajewski.

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## Shoreland/Wetlands

### McCallum declares 2003 ‘Year of Water’ in Wisconsin

Governor’s McCallum has proclaimed 2003 the “Year of Water in Wisconsin” in recognition of the role the state’s precious water resources have in the everyday lives of its residents. McCallum’s announcement was delivered by WDNR Sec. Darrell Bazzell at the Waters of Wisconsin conference in Madison Oct. 21. More at <http://thewheelerreport.com/releases/Oct02/1021govwaterproclam.PDF>.

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### SE Wisconsin gas pipeline criticized for roughshod wetland impacts

The formidable giant is loose on the landscape, and its name is Guardian Pipeline. The construction of this creature is in full tilt, and it’s not a pretty sight. A total of 149 miles in southeastern Wisconsin. 75 foot wide swath, across hill and dale, into wetlands, across riverways. A deep trench, deep enough to accommodate a 3-foot tube, buried.

According to the DNR permit, 45 wetland sites, totaling 60 acres, will be directly impacted. Indirect impacts are ignored all together. The pipeline is crossing innumerable waterways (at least 80 crossings), tearing up streambanks and contributing to erosion into waterways. There is no mitigation required or even agreed upon with this pipeline, and the permit is extremely weak, at best.

WWA and local landowners requested a contested case hearing challenging the permit, and this has been granted.

Although the hearing is granted (sometime in November or December), the work continues unabated — something like three miles a day. A crew of 700 is in the field tearing up farms, destroying wetlands, and in many cases ignoring permit conditions, as we speak. By the time we get our hearing, it will be too late to deal with the devastation.

We have documented significant permit violations — massive erosion on cut sites, washing into wetlands and waterbodies, and have reported these to the DNR. Guardian took DNR staff to the sites after they “fixed them,” and the DNR concurs that there are no problems. We disagree. And we’re MAD.

It is unfortunate that citizens are having to assume the role of inspectors, and it is disconcerting that the DNR has not been able to “up-staff” or even direct existing staff time to pay due diligence to this massive earth-moving and landscape altering project. We are seeing a clear double standard -- small permitted projects are carefully monitored for compliance, but this big project is “too big” for any meaningful oversight, and there is no direct DNR involvement.

We have requested site visits with our experienced consultants, together with DNR staff and Guardian staff, to document and discuss on-site problems. We have indicated that we will take permit violations to the media -- with photos and landowner contacts — if there isn’t better oversight of the construction. I think we’re starting to get some attention....

If anybody can provide some insight, assistance or strategic suggestions on this issue, please let me know. The pace of construction is so incredibly fast, we could spend 24/7 working on monitoring the damage by this project.

SOURCE: Charlie Luthin, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite #1, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 250-9971, [charlie@wiscwetlands.org](mailto:charlie@wiscwetlands.org).

## Lake grant program change would allow private shoreline restoration grants

Proposed changes to a state grant program aim to better protect Wisconsin lakes by expanding the range of activities the grants cover and updating the rules to reflect the maturing of the widely popular program. They are the topic of public hearings in mid-November in Waukesha, Wausau, and Shell Lake.

Under the proposed changes to the Department of Natural Resources’ Lake Protection and Classification Grant Program, local governments and lake management organizations could use their grants to provide financial incentives to private lakefront property owners to restore native plants and trees to their shorelines. The rules would require most shoreline restorations to be at least 35 feet in depth, and to be recorded as permanent deed restrictions applying to participating properties. Carroll Schaal, DNR lakes team leader, says the proposed changes respond to a growing interest in restoring shorelines and also put in place legislation passed in 2001 to expand the wetland restoration activities paid for under the program.

Public hearings to gather comment on the proposed changes are set for:

- **November 14** Waukesha, 7 p.m., Waukesha DNR Office, 407 Pilot Court, Suite 100.

- **November 19** Shell Lake, 7 p.m., Law Enforcement Room, Washburn County Courthouse, 10 West 4th Ave.,
- **November 20** Wausau, 7 p.m., Maple Room, Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant St.

Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted to Carroll Schaal, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 no later than Dec. 4, 2002. For a copy of the proposed rule, go to [www.fishingWisconsin.org](http://www.fishingWisconsin.org) and look under the headlines section.

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

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## **Zebra mussels confirmed in Wisconsin River watershed**

Zebra mussels, an exotic, invasive species capable of rapidly colonizing an area, disrupting aquatic ecosystems and decimating native mussel populations, have been found for the first time in the Wisconsin River watershed.

SOURCE: WDNR.

## **Free workshops on rearing and releasing purple loosestrife-eating beetles**

Free upcoming workshops will provide landowners, wetland enthusiasts, and educators with all the training and most equipment necessary to raise and release beetles to control purple loosestrife in their local wetlands. The workshops seek to build on the growing success that conservation organizations, schools, and other groups are experiencing in raising and releasing *Galerucella* beetles to combat the invasive plant, according to Brock Woods, purple loosestrife control coordinator for the WDNR and University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service. Participants may sign up for one session or the whole day. Lunch is included. For more information and to register, e-mail [See.Cella.CHOW@wiswetlands.org](mailto:See.Cella.CHOW@wiswetlands.org).

SOURCE: WDNR.

## **Groups working cooperatively for Lake Superior watershed health**

According to an Oct. 16 story in the *Ashland Daily Press*, “Some 25 people from industry, environmental groups, and government agencies attended a short meeting at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center that ended in celebration, complete with cake and coffee. ‘This is the first time I’ve ever seen a group this diverse come together and generate anything,’ said Tom Salzman, DNR Lake Superior land-team leader.”

“Members of the group were skeptical when thrown together four years ago by then DNR secretary George Meyer with a charge to advise the state on the Lake Superior Binational Program, an agreement between Canada and the United States to restore and protect the lake. A similar group had disbanded in a deadlock after three years. The new group took two years to learn to work

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together and the last two to ‘get down to brass tacks,’ said Kenneth Bro of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.”

“A working group will spend the next year exploring what’s already out there and what works and what doesn’t. DNR Lake Superior Water Team Supervisor Duane Lahti commended the busy group for showing up for four years, and for sticking with the process. ‘Is it what everyone wanted? No, but through a lot of pain and anguish and gnashing of teeth, we’ve come to consensus and that’s worth celebrating,’ he said. Complete story at [http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/101602\\_great\\_lakes1.htm](http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/zarticles/101602_great_lakes1.htm).

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## DOJ files suit against Milwaukee crushed rock company

From the October 24 Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*: The state Department of Justice has filed a water pollution enforcement lawsuit against Halquist Stone Company of Lisbon in Waukesha County for discharging wastewater containing excessive amounts of pollutants into Spring Creek. According to the complaint, the company, which produces building stone and crushed rock, has “severely underestimated” its average daily flow into the creek. According to the complaint, flows have been 15 to 60 times higher than the company’s permit allowed, even though the company is required to provide estimates on a quarterly basis. The DOJ complaint seeks an order requiring Halquist to restore the damaged portions of Spring Creek. An investigation continues into how many times the company allegedly has exceeded its discharge permit requirements between 1990 and 2000. More at <http://thewheelerreport.com/releases/Oct02/1023dojhalquist.PDF>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 10-23-02.

## Fond du Lac shoreland zoning may look to ‘degree’ of development

From the October 20 Fond du Lac *Reporter*: The Dodge County Planning and Development Department has recently received a grant for \$18,900 to classify bodies of water, while looking at the degree of development of shoreland. It is hoped the process will help officials determine whether stricter shoreland zoning regulations should be put in place. Fond du Lac County Code Enforcement Officer Ernst Clarenbach said he didn’t see the need to apply for such a grant “at this point in time” and that grants alone are not the solution to water quality problems. But David Carpenter, director of the Dodge County planning agency, said the condition of the Rock River “has deteriorated dramatically” and that water conditions in the county “for the most part are not very good.” More at [http://www.wisinfo.com/thereporter/news/archive/local\\_6624829.shtml](http://www.wisinfo.com/thereporter/news/archive/local_6624829.shtml).

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SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 10-23-02.

## Most companies, treatment plants exceed EPA pollution permits

The EPA and publicly owned sewage treatment plants were criticized Thursday after a U.S. Public Interest Research Group report based on EPA data found that four of five wastewater treatment plants and chemical and industrial facilities in the U.S. pollute waterways beyond federal allow-

ances. Excesses averaged 10 times permit limits with 81 percent of 6,332 major facilities exceeding permits at least once between 1999 and 2001, releasing toxic chemicals linked to cancer and serious health effects about eight times more than the Clean Water Act permits. The report examines monthly rates which the EPA says exaggerates the risks — the EPA checks every six months to discount unintentional violations from storm water runoff or equipment upgrades.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #42, October 21, 2002.

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### **MN agencies, groups propose ‘Half A Cent For Nature’ funding plan**

A coalition of state agencies and citizen groups on Oct. 22 called for a new approach to what they maintain is one of the most critical issues facing Minnesota: The growing threats to the state’s natural environment. In a series of four press conferences held around the state, officials from state natural resource and environmental agencies detailed the need for a long-term stable funding source if the state is to maintain its outdoors heritage and quality of life. They were joined by representatives from a range of interest groups representing hunters, anglers, park users, lake associations, conservationists and the forest products industry, among others.

Dubbed “Half A Cent For Nature,” the groups’ proposal calls for dedicating half a cent of the sales tax on each dollar’s purchases to Minnesota’s natural environment. If approved by voters as a constitutional amendment, it would replace money from the state’s general fund for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA), and the Metropolitan Council’s park system. Complete story at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/releases/index.html?id=1035294236>.

SOURCE: Minnesota DNR web site.

### **TU/UW-Extension holding stream monitoring celebration Nov. 16**

A day of fun and learning relating to volunteer stream monitoring, stream invasives, and other topics will be held Saturday, Nov. 16, from 9:00-3:30 at the UW-Richland Campus in Richland Center. The event is being sponsored by the UW-Extension and the Harry and Laura Nohr and Ocooch Creeks chapters of Trout Unlimited. For more information contact Peggy Compton at (608) 342-1633 or Dave Fritz at (608) 943-8454.

SOURCE: UW-X and Trout Unlimited.

### **FMR seeking Milwaukee River Corridor Project Director**

Friends of Milwaukee’s Rivers has an immediate job opening for the Milwaukee River Corridor Project Director. We ask your help in getting the word out about this job. Please forward it on to

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anyone you think might be interested, or any appropriate listserves. We had previously posted a position of Executive Director. The FMR Board has decided to hold off on filling that position for the time being, and will instead focus its search on the MRCP Director.

SOURCE: Lynn Broaddus, FMR Co-President, (414) 771-8368 or 414-476-6042 (FMR office).

## Great Lakes wilderness campaign presentation Nov. 8 in Milwaukee

Some of the most inspiring landscapes in our region, places such as the stunning UP ridgeline known as the Trap Hills, are at risk. If you are interested in helping to expand wilderness protection in the Upper Midwest, join us for a rousing evening of slides and strategy. Three wilderness activities — author Eric Hansen, Wilderness Society organizer Susan Czopek, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness member Karen Fischer — will share their vision of renewal for our North Country. The event will be Friday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Urban Ecology Center in Riverside Park, 2808 N. Bartlett Ave

SOURCE: Susan Czopek, (414) 964-8505.

## Wind energy symposium Nov. 14 in Manitowoc

An upcoming symposium will familiarize farmers, rural homeowners, and small business owners with wind energy assessment and installation topics. The goal is to provide basic information to help a property owner make an informed decision about wind energy at their site. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, WI. Manitowoc County is one of the counties for which the Wisconsin Division of Energy is developing a detailed wind map. Samples of this wind map will be available at the symposium.

For more information or to register, contact Focus on Energy at (888) 598-4376. The event is organized by the Focus on Energy program and is free to Wisconsin residents. Lunch is provided for symposium attendees. The cost for registrants from outside of Wisconsin is \$50.

SOURCE: Christine Hulet, [chulet@revolutionearth.com](mailto:chulet@revolutionearth.com) via Linda Caylor.

## Nonprofits get help through discount software

A recent *New York Times* story profiled [www.DiscounTech.com](http://www.DiscounTech.com), an online software store created by CompuMentor, a company that “provides discounted software solutions to non-profit organizations. According to the story, “Software such as Microsoft XP from DiscounTech [sells] at prices as low as \$60, compared to the current retail price of \$500. DiscounTech saves clinics, community service agencies, homeless shelters and other organizations time by allowing them to purchase directly from the company opposed to the long process of applying for grants.”

SOURCE: Bob Schaeffer, Public Policy Communications, (239) 395-6773.

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## LCV releases national environmental scorecard

Today the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) released its National Environmental Scorecard for the 107th Congress. Congress finished 2002 with a 47 percent average score for the House and 43 percent average score for the Senate, but individual candidates locked in close races fared far worse, threatening their chances on Election Day. In the 107th Congress, LCV recorded the positions of members on 46 different votes, from promoting renewable energy and protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling, to helping farmers conserve farmland and improve water quality. The Scorecard, released after every congress since 1970, evaluates the environmental voting record of every representative and senator based on the most important legislative actions to hit the floor of each chamber. For all the votes and scores of the 107th Congress, visit [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org).

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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](mailto: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](http://www.wsn.org) or e-mail us at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).

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## Proposed DRAFT WSN 2003 Priority Issues

The following priority issues for the WSN were proposed at the Oct. 26 WSN Board of Directors meeting:

**Arrowhead-Weston:** The WSN opposes the Arrowhead-to-Weston transmission line.

**Billboard Limits:** The WSN supports preserving Wisconsin's scenery, one of our most precious resources, by passing legislation to limit billboard construction.

**Farm Runoff:** The WSN supports full implementation of the Clean Water Act's goal of zero discharge of animal wastes and excess nutrients to ground and surface waters from livestock facilities.

**Forest Fragmentation:** The WSN will promote public policies that prevent forest fragmentation by producing a database of critical private lands to help land trusts better target areas for conservation programs; defending the integrity of our last remaining natural areas in the forest plans for state and federal forests; urging our elected officials to support the Forest Legacy & Stewardship programs; and working with concerned citizens to protect our public forests from ATV abuse.

**Mercury Reduction:** The WSN supports a 90% reduction in mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants and other large industrial sources to help make fish from Wisconsin waters safe to eat for everyone in the future.

**Metallic Mining:** The WSN will work to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from unsafe mining practices, including opposition to the Crandon mine as currently proposed, by working to strengthen mining laws, being actively involved in the ongoing permit process, exploring options to purchase the mine site, and maintaining mining as a statewide issue.

**Polluted Runoff:** The WSN supports the effective implementation of the new state rules to control polluted runoff by the end of 2004.

**Water Protection:** The WSN supports celebrating 2003 as the "Year of Water" by engaging in efforts to educate the public on the need for legislation to protect Wisconsin's waters.

**Wetland/Shoreland #1:** The WSN supports improving shoreland habitat protection at the statewide level by participating in the DNR rewrite of NR 115 and strengthening local shoreland ordinances.

**Wetland/Shoreland #2:** The WSN supports adjustment of the motor gas tax allocation formula to reflect average annual consumption of 100 gallons gasoline per motorboat in the 2004-2005 biennial budget, with the allocation targeted primarily toward the traditional mix of activities funded by the Water Resources Account, including grants to local entities for lake, river, and wetland planning protection, and restoration.

***NEXT STEPS** — Not all of these priority issue proposals will be adopted. In November the WSN Board will select those that move forward for a member organization vote at the Feb. 15 WSN annual meeting. Groups are asked to tell WSN Board members which of these natural resources concerns they feel are the most important in 2003. And if you wish to take part in selecting the WSN's 2003 priority issues, become a member organization! You've worked with the WSN for years...**make your membership official** and take part in our efforts to fight for Wisconsin's natural resources.*

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