



WSNetwork News

November 15, 2002

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

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Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

ATC: line to cost double original approved estimate

The American Transmission Company (ATC) has announced that the cost of the Arrowhead Weston line will more realistically cost at least \$396 million, more than double the original \$165 million approved by the Public Service Commission last year and a far cry from the \$125 million dollar figure publicly toted by the Wisconsin Public Service and Minnesota Power just three years ago.

“This is no surprise”, stated Tom Kreager, President of SOUL, “This transmission line proposal was poorly conceived and planned from the very beginning. The budget estimate that the utilities used to cost-justify this abomination was based on nothing more than pie-in-the-sky accounting. Their original cost estimate to the state resembles an Arthur Anderson spreadsheet for Enron.”

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

International water rights activist Maude Barlow to headline WSN conference

The WSN is pleased to announce that international water protection authority Maude Barlow will be



the featured speaker at a "Wisconsin Year of Water" forum Friday, Feb. 14, in the Alumni Room of the UW-Stevens Point University Center.

Maude Barlow is chair of the Council of Canadians, a citizens' group with 100,000 members. She is the Joan of Arc of those opposed to the sale of Canadian water.

[Click for more](#)

CUB calls for new review of A-W line

The Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) today called on the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) to start a new review of the Duluth-Wausau (Arrowhead) Transmission Line in light of the revelation that the line will cost more than double the amount approved just one year ago.

"The American Transmission Company is playing a clear game of bait and switch. The project sponsors claimed a cost of \$165 million just one year ago. Today they announced that they are seeking a quick PSC approval to spend up to \$550 million for the project," said Steve Hiniker, Executive Director of CUB.

"The commissioners should admit that they were derelict in their duty to protect the public interest and withdraw their actions of one year ago to approve Arrowhead and begin the process all over again from square one. That is the only way that the public will have any confidence of any action taken by the PSC on this project," concluded Hiniker.

SOURCE: CUB, 16 N. Carroll St., Suite 720 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251.3322.

New review of line by PSC a victory for SOUL

Having the Arrowhead/Weston line sent back to the PSC is a major victory for SOUL and others that have worked against the line. We need to keep up our association with all the county boards and townships along the route. We need to keep pressure on the ATC by continuing to have our events like the Citizen's Energy Forum and the Namekagon River event coming up this spring to show that the public will continue to be active in its fight against the A-W line. We also need to keep one step ahead of them with our press releases that show how closely the ATC is associated with the current corruption in Madison.

I hope we can educate our new governor about all of the new generation that is going to come online soon that will make the A-W line obsolete.

SOURCE: Logan Edinger, edinger@centurytel.net.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Factory Farming

MEA publishes model livestock ordinance

MEA has recently published *The Balance Between Agriculture, Economy and Environment*, a model livestock ordinance. There are two documents, one of which is Guidance and Information for Citizens and Local Governments. The other consists of Sample Zoning Provisions for consideration and adoption by local governments. The Guidance and Information document is available

on our website, and the Sample Zoning Provisions document is coming soon. To obtain either Model Zoning Ordinance document, contact MEA.

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

Florida voters give factory hog farms the boot

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Florida voters effectively curtailed the expansion of some factory farms into their state by approving a landmark measure outlawing the use of gestation crates for pregnant sows. Gestation crates are two foot wide metal enclosures where pregnant female pigs at factory farms are kept. Factory farmed sows endure as many as ten pregnancies in gestation crates, which are so small the sows cannot turn around. This important victory will prevent industrial hog factories that use gestation crates from ever moving into the state. The measure will have little or no effect on Florida's existing hog farmers, as no large-scale industrial operations are currently located in the state. Instead, passage will prevent the harm to rural communities and to the environment that industrial hog operations bring with them. The ban is a boon to the state's wildlife, which is critically important because Florida is home to 117 species that are considered threatened, endangered, or of special concern, the third highest concentration of such species in any state.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Pork checkoff ruled unconstitutional

The U.S. District Court of Western Michigan has ruled that the pork checkoff unconstitutional on the grounds that it violates the right to free speech. The suit was filed by small Midwestern pork producers last year after Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman overturned the results of a producer referendum that sought to end the program. In his ruling, Judge Richard A. Enslen wrote: "The government has been made tyrannical by forcing men and women to pay for messages they detest. Such a system is at the bottom unconstitutional and rotten." The pork checkoff charged 40 cents on every \$100 of hog sales, and small producers have long charged that the checkoff programs benefit large hog producers at their expense. Secretary Veneman expressed disappointment in the ruling, and the National Pork Producers Council, which administers the checkoff funds, is expected to appeal. More at <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/29/national/29PORK.html>.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

Forest Fragmentation

Maine educates landowners on forest management

The *Kennebec Journal* 11/5 reports that the Maine Forest Service has taken steps to educate landowners on sustainable forestry and land management strategies. The program 'Be Woods Wise' provides free advice from foresters and a free educational kit that illustrates woodlot management

techniques. 5.5 million acres of Maine forest land is owned by private individuals, with a growing percentage of that land in smaller parcels. To see Maine's program, see <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/woodwise/>. To learn more about forest management legislation, see <http://www.serconline.org/forestrystateinfo.html>.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," Nov. 11, 2002.

Groundwater Protection

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Alaskan earthquake affects Wisconsin well owners

Rural Wisconsin residents who experienced a malfunction of their drinking water well pump or the appearance of sediment in their tap water [last] week were probably not likely to associate the problems with news of an earthquake in a sparsely populated area of Alaska. But state drinking water and groundwater specialists say the Alaskan earthquake, occurring nearly 2,000 miles away, may be the cause of recent private well drinking water woes in Wisconsin.

Department of Natural Resources drinking water and groundwater specialists report receiving calls from licensed well drillers and pump installers statewide since the early morning of Monday, Nov. 4, who have been seeking guidance and assistance due to the large number of service calls received from private well owners. The stories are essentially the same: high amounts of dark sediment that is clogging pumps, filters and water softeners. In a few cases well pumps have become completely clogged, leaving homeowners temporarily without water.

SOURCE: Tom Riewe, DNR hydrogeologist, (608) 266-8697, tom.riewe@dnr.state.wi.us.

DATCP approves warning-ridden Balance Pro for use in Wisconsin

DATCP has issued an order allowing the registration of the corn herbicide Balance Pro herbicide in Wisconsin beginning in 2003, based on a determination of special local need. Balance Pro contains the active ingredient isoxaflutole. The manufacturer of isoxaflutole, Bayer CropScience LP (doing business as Aventis CropScience USA LP) must agree with a number of restrictions and requirements of the order before Balance Pro may be distributed, sold or used in Wisconsin.

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Balance Pro is currently used in 18 states but not in Wisconsin. It has been under a conditional registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1999. The additional use restrictions to be included on each label of product sold for use in Wisconsin include:

- Isoxaflutole may not be used in eight counties (Adams, Juneau, Langlade, Marathon, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood) and the lower Wisconsin river valley which have proven susceptible to groundwater contamination;
- Isoxaflutole may not be used on coarse soils with low organic matter, less than 25 feet to groundwater;
- Isoxaflutole use under irrigation requires an irrigation management plan;
- Isoxaflutole may not be applied before April 15th or after July 31st of any crop year; and

- No use of isoxaflutole will be allowed on tile-drained fields.

For more information on isoxaflutole or other water quality issues, contact the DNR.

SOURCE: Jim Vanden Brook, (608) 224-4501 jim.vandenbrook@datcp.state.wi.us.

Mercury Reduction

New risk group for mercury poisoning

A new study [reported in the 11/5/02 in the San Francisco *Chronicle*] shows that affluent, health conscious people may have high levels of toxic mercury in their bodies. Anyone who eats a lot of fish, whether by choice or necessity, is at risk for mercury poisoning. Mercury from airborne pollution precipitates into bodies of water, where it is absorbed by microorganisms and passed up the food chain. Popular fish like tuna and swordfish are high on the food chain, and thus have high amounts of mercury in their tissues. Many health conscious people have increased the amount of fish in their diet in an effort to reduce their fat intake, not realizing that they're increasing their mercury intake at the same time. The study highlights the need to increase public awareness about mercury and to reduce mercury pollution. For more information about how your state can reduce mercury poisoning, see <http://www.serconline.org/mercury/>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report*, Nov. 11, 2002.

Metallic Mining

Mining Science Advisory Council to meet Nov. 20

The Wisconsin Science Advisory Council on Metallic Mining, will meet Nov. 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Aquatic Sciences Center on the UW-Madison campus. The Center is located on the second floor of Goodnight Hall, 1975 Willow Drive, Madison. The Council will continue its discussion of the proposed Crandon Mine project. Limited time will also be set aside for interested members of the public to briefly present technical information concerning the Crandon Project to the Council. If you intend to formally address the Council or if you need additional information, contact Larry Lynch at (608) 267-7553.

SOURCE: WDNR.

Wolf Watershed Educational Project meeting Nov. 16

The next meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project will be on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Mole Lake in the Mole Lake Environmental Center on Sand Lake Road from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. We will discuss the proposed public acquisition of the Crandon Mine site, and the campaign to pass the

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cyanide ban and “no special treatment” bills in January, now complicated by the shift in the State Senate.

Jim Doyle visited with mine opponents on Sunday, Oct. 13 in White Lake. Doyle pledged to re-open discussions on a public acquisition that had been dropped by Governor McCallum. The company reacted favorably to Governor-elect Doyle’s statement. For information see <http://www.treatyland.com>.

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

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Shoreland/Wetlands

DNR Shoreland Management Advisory Committee first meeting Nov. 21

The first meeting of the DNR’s Shoreland Management Advisory Committee will take place Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Wisconsin Lions Camp near Stevens Point to begin considering revi-

NR-115 SHORELAND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The 25 people on the advisory committee and the group or interest they represent are:

- Todd Ambs, Wisconsin River Alliance
- Ken Anderson, Wisconsin Conservation Congress
- Miles Benson, Governor’s Council on Forestry
- William Pielsticker, Trout Unlimited
- Earl Cook, Springbrook, waterfront property representative
- Scott Craven, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Wildlife Ecology
- Jerry Deschane, Wisconsin Builders Association
- Michael Dresen, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Center for Land Use Education
- Phillip Gaudet, Wisconsin County Code Administrators, Washington County
- Jill Geisthardt, waterfront property representative
- Elmer Goetsch, Wisconsin Association of Lakes
- Karl Kastrosky, Wisconsin County Code Administrators, Bayfield County
- Paul Kent, attorney, Davis & Kuelthau, S.C., Madison
- Pam LaBine, Wisconsin County Code Administrators, Forest County
- John Larson, Applied Ecological Services, Inc.
- Tom Larson, Wisconsin Realtors Association
- Paul McGinley, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point College of Natural Resources
- Chip Nielsen, Vilas County Planning & Zoning Committee
- Mark O’Connell, Wisconsin Counties Association
- Nancy Russell, Walworth County Planning & Zoning Committee
- Glenn Schiffmann, Natural Resources Board appointee
- Richard Stadelman, Wisconsin Towns Association
- Roland O. Tonn, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Jim Wise, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland Areas
- Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

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sions to Wis. Adm. Code NR 115 (Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program). The agenda will focus on expectations, sideboards, and overall conduct of the committee with presentations on the background and intent of the shoreland management program in the afternoon.

SOURCE: Al Shea, WDNR, (608) 267-2759.

Citizen monitoring links posted at WSN website

The WSN's website has given a home to a list of citizen monitoring links and information compiled by Lisa Conley and others. Besides resources on citizen stream monitoring, you will find links to other grassroots monitoring efforts underway by a broad range of groups and individuals. You are encouraged to make this list grow by sending any corrections, additions, and suggestions to Lisa Conley at lconley@yahoo.com. The monitoring page is at http://www.wsn.org/issues/wisconsin_ecosystem_volunteer2.html. Bookmark it!

SOURCE: WSN.

River Alliances names 2002 'River Champions'

State Senator James Baumgart, a Trout Unlimited leader, the Pewaukee Middle School Sixth Grade Class, the Brown County Conservationist, the former owner of the Rutabaga Paddlesports Shop in Madison, and a University Extension employee are this year's "River Champions" as named by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Winners were announced at the organization's Fifth Annual Awards Dinner and Auction on Sat., Nov. 9.

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI.

River Alliance 2002 awardees

Elected Official — State Senator Jim Baumgart
Local Guardian — Bill Pielsticker
Local Guardian — Pewaukee Middle School Sixth Grade Class
Public Sector — Bill Hafz
Private Sector — Rutabaga, Gordy Sussman
River Alliance Volunteer of the Year — Catherine Neiswender
Lifetime Achievement Award — Roscoe and Evelyn Churchill

Requests support for federal Clean Water Revolving Fund

Please ask your Senator to sign the attached letter, which requests that the President provide an increase in Clean Water State Revolving Funds by \$3.2 billion and in Drinking Water State Revolving Funds by \$2 billion in the FY 2004 budget. As you probably already know, these funds are desperately needed to address sewage, stormwater, and non-point needs in watersheds across the country. Contact info for the Northeast Midwest Senate Coalition that is circulating the letter follows it. Thanks for your help.

SOURCE: Nancy Stoner, Clean Water Project, NRDC, (202) 289-2394, nstoner@nrdc.org.

More beach closings along L. Michigan predicted

If recent history is any indication, 2003 will see even more beach closings, according to an October 29 article in the Manitowoc *Herald Times Reporter*. Beaches in Manitowoc County (including Red Arrow, Warm Waters, and Neshotah Park Beach) closed 42 times in 2001 as a result of e. coli counts in excess of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. The number of beach closings in Manitowoc County for 2002 are being compiled and are expected to be even higher, according to James Blaha, county health department director. There were 156 beach closings along Wisconsin's Lake Michigan coast in 2001; in 2002, there have been at least 394 reported closings in Wisconsin. And while the exact number isn't known as yet, Manitowoc County (being compiled) will be ranked second in beach closings to Milwaukee County, according to Blaha. More at http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local_6786691.shtml.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 11-06-02.

Northern WI lakeshore dwellings up 216% since 1966

Since 1966 (the year Gov. Warren Knowles signed the law creating the shoreland protection program), the number of dwellings on northern Wisconsin lakes of all sizes has increased an average of 216 percent, with some areas seeing an increase as high as 800 percent, according to a November 5 column in the Green Bay News-Chronicle by Mitch Bent. "The scarcity of desirable waterfront property has pushed development into sensitive, small lakes, steeply-sloped areas, and wetlands," according to Bent. "Such trends have overwhelmed the minimum state standards and counties' abilities to enforce them." A total of 30 out of 72 Wisconsin counties have taken steps to update local shoreland zoning ordinances, but, according to Bent, the statewide standards have hampered some counties' efforts to provide more flexibility to homeowners while better protecting resources. An advisory committee will hold its first meeting in mid-November to assist the DNR in updating NR 115. A series of statewide listening sessions are expected to be held by fall of next year, with a final rules package expected to go to public hearing by the fall of 2004. More at <http://www.greenbaynewschron.com/page.html?article=116666>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 11-06-02.

Iowa polluted water list incomplete

Iowa Department of Natural Resources' list of polluted waters is dangerously incomplete, according to state environmental groups. The comment period for the state's latest draft list ended Friday, November 8th with only 159 waterways identified as needing federal Clean Water Act (CAA) regulation. CAA requires states to set standards to stop sources of pollution in listed streams, wetlands and rivers. Farm groups lobbied heavily in 2000 to pass a law limiting the data used to compile the list. According to the DNR, similar 1998 data restrictions caused the removal of protections for 111 waterways. Iowa's list awaits comments from the U.S. EPA before finalization.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," Nov. 11, 2002.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

State conservationists meeting Dec. 4-6 in Manitowoc

Conservationists from across the state will meet in Manitowoc, Dec. 4-6 for the 49th Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA). “This year’s theme, ‘Charting the Course for Conservation,’ is particularly relevant as conservation issues move to the forefront. This conference is an opportunity to learn, share and improve skills needed to promote and implement conservation programs statewide,” said Wilbur Petroskey, WLWCA President.

BACKGROUND: About the WLWCA

The WLWCA is a not-for-profit organization representing Wisconsin’s 72 County Land Conservation Committees and Departments. The Land Conservation Committees (LCCs) are responsible for controlling erosion and runoff problems and overall resource protection at the local level. The LCCs and their department staff set land use policies and work with farmers, landowners, and businesses to reduce sources of nonpoint pollution.

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Polluted runoff from agriculture and urban areas is the leading cause of water pollution in Wisconsin. New state rules to control and abate polluted runoff became law as of October, 2002. The County Land Conservation Committee Supervisors will be discussing the impact of these new rules and how they might be implemented. Additionally, the Federal Farm Bill has increased funding available for conservation programs, and County Supervisors will have the opportunity to learn more about what will be needed to utilize federal funds to achieve their county land and water conservation goals. Approximately 500 conservationists, including county board supervisors, land conservation department staff, and agency personnel will attend the conference at the Manitowoc Holiday Inn.

SOURCE: Chris Schlutt, Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Assoc., (608) 833-1833 chrisschlutt@wlwca.org.

Two WI Wal-Mart protests announced

On November 21, thousands of activists and union members will gather at Wal-Mart stores all over the country to support Wal-Mart workers in the struggle for a decent life and to demand that Wal-Mart join the ranks of responsible corporate citizens. We request your presence and participation in the first National Day of Action. This event will take place at approximately 100 locations across the nation. For the first time, activists from across the nation and across the spectrum of organized labor, women’s rights, religious groups, human rights, environmental issues, etc., will gather together in solidarity for this historic event.

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Sponsored by: Faith Community For Worker Justice, Jobs With Justice, Milwaukee County Labor Council, Students For Corporate Responsibility, United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1444, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Wisconsin Fair Trade Campaign, and Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

- Thur., Nov. 21, 4-7 p.m., Sam’s Club, Westhill Blvd., Appleton.

- Thur., Nov. 21, 4:30 p.m., Wal-Mart, 401 E. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee.

SOURCE: Sam Gieryn, Wisconsin Citizen Action.

SWCS land use planning conference Jan. 23

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 23-24 at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, WI, with the goals:

- to encourage integration of conservation tools and techniques into the planning process,
- to foster dialogue among land use decision makers and resource managers, and
- to promote preservation of the rural landscape and protection of natural resources through wise land use planning.

SOURCE: Laura Paine, UWEX-Columbia County, (608) 742-9682 or laura.paine@ces.uwex.edu.

Biomass research meeting Nov. 19

USDA NRCS is holding a public meeting on Nov 19 in Madison to get input on a process to fund biomass research. Up to \$14 million per year is authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill for this initiative. The meeting is in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Conference at the Marriott.

SOURCE: Renae Anderson, renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov.

Party honoring Keith Reopelle Nov. 19

Please come to the Great Dane Brewpub in Madison on Nov. 19 to celebrate all the years of Keith Reopelle's work at Wisconsin's Environmental Decade. We will be there from 4:30 until 6:30. Also, please submit something for the memory book we are putting together for him! It could be anything — a quick note, a press clipping, a photo etc. These should go to 122 State Street, Suite 200, by Monday the 18th.

SOURCE: Liz Wessel, lwessel@environmentaldecade.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.

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"There is a common assumption that the world's water supply is huge and infinite," Barlow has said. "This assumption is false. At some time in the near future, water bankruptcy will result."

She cites a United Nations study that says by the year 2025 – less than 25 years – two-thirds of the world will be "water-poor."

"The wars of the future are going to be fought over water," Barlow has declared. She endorses a 1999 paper from the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) that says: "Water is an essential need, a public trust, not a commodity. It belongs to everyone and to no one."

The CELA paper continues: "Even

large-scale water exports cannot possibly satisfy the social and economic needs of distant societies. Water shipped halfway around the world will only be affordable to the privileged and will deepen inequities between rich and poor. International trade in bulk water will allow elites to assure the quality of their own drinking water supplies, while permitting them to ignore the pollution of their local waters."

(Barlow will be appearing with several other national and regional water authorities to bring additional expertise to the panel discussion to follow her speech.

Mark your calendars for this annual WSN event! For more information, contact the WSN at (608) 268-1210.