



WSNetwork News

December 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:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Factory Farming](#)
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Groundwater Protection](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland/Wetland Protection](#)

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

SOUL and Lac Courte Oreilles seek NPS protocol on Namekagon crossing

We here at SOUL wanted to let everyone know about what is happening with "Wisconsin's most unpopular transmission line" and the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa (LCO) tribe [on the proposed Arrowhead-Weston crossing of the Namekagon River]. LCO needs to have people write to the National Parks Service (whose address is listed below) and demand that the NPS honor LCO's requests for proper protocol to be met on a "government to government" basis. A simple letter from each group member and a formal letter will help. The more the merrier.

We will notify you when our rallies, demonstrations and river flotilla will be. Additionally we will notify you of other ways that we may work together over the course of many months this newest action will take. Thank you most sincerely for all your help.

SOURCE: Sandy Lyon, for Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL), <http://www.wakeupwisconsin.com>.

Water Follies author Robert Glennon to join Feb. 14 WSN water event

The WSN is pleased to announce that our "Year of Water" forum Feb. 14 at UW-Stevens Point will include *Water Follies* author Robert Glennon.



Glennon is the Morris Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy at James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Glennon joins international water rights advocate Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians, on the WSN water issues panel.

For more information about the WSN annual conference, contact the WSN at wsn@chorus.net.

DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Factory Farming

***Cap Times* editorial offers direction for Doyle's new ag secretary**

Some of you concerned about the impacts of industrial scale agriculture in Wisconsin may find this Nov. 24 *Capital Times* editorial interesting. An excerpt follows:

“Some of the most important decisions Gov.-elect James Doyle will soon make involve questions of farm policy and food quality. For the sake of Wisconsin’s economy, and his own long-term political viability, Doyle would be wise to focus very seriously at the start of his tenure on questions of who should serve as the state’s secretary of agriculture; how the state can reassert its commitment to consumer protection; and what the state can do to promote itself as a source of safe, healthful food. So important are these tasks that Doyle might want to delegate his lieutenant governor, Barbara Lawton, who has championed the concerns of rural Wisconsin, to serve as the point person for a unified rural strategy.

“That’s what the governor-elect of Minnesota has done, and his lieutenant governor is already making moves to position that state as a leader on agricultural issues. Wisconsin can be a leader, as well, but first: Doyle and Lawton must appoint a Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection secretary and a board that are in touch with the real-world needs of Wisconsin’s working farmers; that respect rural values; and that serve the interests of consumers of the state’s milk, cheese, meat, grain, fruits and vegetables.”

SOURCE: WSN.

California mega dairies pledge upgrades to avoid enviro suits

A Los Angeles *Times* story by Scott Gold notes that “five large dairies in the Chino area have entered legal agreements to modernize operations and reduce pollution, particularly from giant waste ‘lagoons,’ to stave off litigation by environmentalists. The agreements...are designed to curb contamination that spreads through the air and water, both on the surface and underground.”

“Though they did not admit any liability, the dairy farms agreed to work with an independent engineer to develop an environmental management plan for the earthen lagoons and other pollution sources.”

SOURCE: Los Angeles *Times* via Midwest Environmental Advocates.

To p.1

To p.1

Forest Fragmentation

Woodland Leadership Institute candidates sought

Do you know someone who is a leader in your community on forestry issues, is active in a woodland owners organization or local government? We are recruiting candidates for the Wisconsin Woodland Leadership Institute. The Institute is designed to educate and build the capacity of Wisconsin's woodland owners to become leaders in their local communities on issues related to forestry, sustainable forest management and public policy.

The participants will hopefully become more active in these issues on the local, regional and state levels. I would be glad to talk to any nominees that you might suggest and let them know about the program and discuss the commitment.

SOURCE: Suzanne Wade, suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu, (920) 674-7443.

To p.1

Groundwater Protection

Glennon *Water Follies* book available at discount

CCN can now offer Robert Glennon's book *Water Follies* for about half price. It cost us \$13.30, a saving which we will pass on to you. In his introduction, he writes about the Mekan Springs fight against Perrier. He then gives a number of case studies around the country where the extraction of groundwater has affected surface waters and the environment. It is an important book which I hope you will read. If you're in the Madison area, I have left some copies at the WSN office. Let me know if you are interested and I will send you a copy (even if you are not able to pay right away.) You can send the check for \$13.30 to: CCN, N9947 Thompson Drive, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Glennon and Maude Barlow will be at the WSN annual conference at UW Stevens Point on Feb. 14 in the evening. So you can come and meet both outstanding authorities on regional and global water issues.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, CCN, (608) 253-7266.

To p.1

Report says sprawl compounds water crisis in drought-stricken cities

Nationwide, paved-over land sends billions of gallons of water into streams and rivers as polluted runoff, rather than into the soil to replenish groundwater. This groundbreaking report, published jointly by American Rivers, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Smart Growth America, *Paving our Way to Water Shortages: How Sprawl Aggravates the Effects of Drought*, estimates the extent of this phenomenon in 18 rapidly growing cities.

The report is available on-line at: www.amrivers.org/landuse/sprawldroughtreport.htm and will also be on the WSN 2003 conference CD free to all attending the WSN annual conference.

SOURCE: Ryan Hamilton, cleanwaternt@igc.org.

New Great Lakes leaders said to support protection efforts

A story in the Toledo Blade by Tom Henry reports “A member of Gov. Bob Taft’s cabinet involved in efforts to curb diversions and bulk exports of Great Lakes water said...that officials will tread lightly on the subject until they get more feedback from the region’s new governors.

“Sam Speck, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, said at a water conference at the University of Toledo that he has no doubt the new mix of leadership will support such efforts. But he admitted that progress toward implementing an international pact signed in Niagara Falls last year is in a holding pattern. ‘Let’s not kid ourselves — we are facing enormous challenges,’ Mr. Speck said. The governor assigned him to help work out details of the Annex 2001 agreement signed on June 18, 2001, by Great Lakes governors and two Canadian premiers.” The complete story is at www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/artikkel?SearchID=73117255691234&Avis=TO&Dato=20021116&Kategori=NEWS06&Lopenr=111160067&Ref=AR.

Report critiques U.S. water system privatization experiments

In the United States, several cities are experimenting with private water systems. Privatizing water systems is supposed to provide incentive for conservation, improve delivery systems, and (not incidentally) make a profit for the corporations controlling the water. However, there are some serious concerns about the privatization of water systems. If water becomes a private commodity, economically poor communities may be unable to afford this basic necessity. In addition, when there’s money to be made off of the volume of water sold, there’s little incentive for a corporation to promote water conservation.

Private water companies also have little reason to leave sufficient water for ecological needs, endangered species, and other downstream uses. Privatization agreements may also result in reduced water quality, because private water companies have little incentive to address low levels of pollutants that may result in long term health problems, and plenty of incentive to understate the severity of existing pollution.

Finally, privatization agreements are often put into place with little or no public input, review or oversight. It may, however, be possible to design privatization agreements that improve existing public systems and still protect the basic human right to clean, safe water.

The Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security released a report earlier this year titled “The New Economy of Water,” which addresses the dangers and benefits of water privatization, and outlines ways to improve privatization deals. Their suggestions include guaranteeing all residents basic access to water, reserving water for ecosystems, and maintaining

To p.1

To p.1

strong government oversight of private companies. The report can be found at http://www.pacinst.org/reports/new_economy_press_release.htm.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #46, November 18, 2002, Trevor@serconline.org.

Mercury Reduction

Metallic Mining

UW starts Flambeau Mine web site

UW Libraries have created a Kennecott Flambeau Mine Project web site which provides researchers access to the documents that relate to the permit process for the mine. Approximately 25 documents describe the mine and its natural and cultural environments. The documents contain numerous color maps and illustrations. Access to approx. 130 drawings from a series of original blueprints will be available in the near future. The site is at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/reslist.search/search.cgi?resourcesubtype=multimedia&resourcesubtype=text&local=yes&context=etext>.

SOURCE: Zoltan Grossman, mtn@igc.org.

Shoreland/Wetlands

WWA/Prairie Enthusiasts prairie restoration event Jan. 25-26

Wisconsin Wetlands Association and The Prairie Enthusiasts announce “Prairie Wetlands: Restoring Connections,” a two-day conference on the interactions between wetlands and prairies and the implications for restoration and management, on January 25 and 26, at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. “Prairie Wetlands” will include the following topics and discussions:

- ways in which animal groups depend upon prairie wetland landscapes,
- plant communities and hydrology that characterize prairie wetlands,
- selection of restoration sites for selected watershed functions,
- practical values of prairie wetlands and the allocation of WRP funds in the Farm Bill, and
- regional strategy for addressing watershed conservation.

For more information, contact Wisconsin Wetlands Association at (608) 250-9971 or derek@wiswetlands.org, or see WWA or TPE's websites, www.wiswetlands.org or www.theprairieenthusiasts.org.

SOURCE: Derek Strohl Program Director Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton St., Ste. 1 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 252-8505 - direct (608) 250-9971.

Skunk-Foster Lakes Natural Area hits roadblock in Jt. Finance Committee

The Fredrick Property is 224.7 acres of "wild" land, located in Waupaca Co., that includes 2 complete lakes and part of a third lake, and one feeder stream that runs from one of the lakes into the Sannes Creek. Natural reproduction of both brook and brown trout takes place in these creeks. The lakes contain pan fish, large mouth bass, northern pike, and trout. Much of the property is of kettle topography and the highlands is old growth timber (both hard and soft wood) and there are numerous large springs located in the low areas.

The DNR presently has an option to purchase the 224 acres at \$1,250,000.00, which will expire on December 10, 2002. The Natural Resources Board approved the purchase (using 46% LAW-CON (federal monies) and 54% WI Stewardship Funds) at the October Board meeting. This area would then become The Skunk-Foster Lakes Natural Area and a portion of the Ice Age Trail would pass thru this unique area and the entire natural area would be used for public recreation and natural area research and education and would be open to hunting and fishing. Since the proposed purchase is over \$250,000, the Joint Committee on Finance needs to approve the purchase before the proposal goes to the Governor for approval or rejection.

Presently, a member of the Joint Committee on Finance (Sheryl Albers, Reedsburg) has submitted an "objection" to the proposal; which means the Committee will need to conduct a hearing on the proposed purchase. To date, the Committee has not set a hearing date to consider action. If a hearing is not scheduled — or the objection dropped — and the Governor does not approve the purchase prior to the option expiration date of December 10th, we can only assume the property owner will put the property back on the market for residential development. We will have lost an opportunity to protect 224 acres of land, lakes and trout water/habitat and open this very scenic area to public use and enjoyment forever. If you would like to help protect this area from development please contact your State Senator and Representative as well as the Governor and let them know that this is important to you.

SOURCE: Tom Deer, (920)725-6077, troutricks@netzero.net.

WIN alert calls for letters on piecemeal PCB cleanup

The latest Wisconsin InterNetwork (WIN) alert concerns PCB cleanup proposals for the Fox River in Wisconsin. According to the alert, "The toxic PCBs polluting the Fox River and Green Bay have been studied for over 30 years. We have more than enough accurate and reliable information to clean up the Fox River. There have been two successful dredging demonstrations illustrating the best way to clean up Fox River PCBs. Still, the Environmental Protection Agency and

the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources want to split the cleanup plan into several pieces, a move that will add many more years to the time that citizens must be exposed to PCBs. Please personalize and send the sample letter below to EPA Administrator Skinner and WDNR Secretary Bazzell insisting that cleanup is timely, comprehensive and ensures adequate cleanup to protect public health.”

You can view this alert at http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/PCB_cleanup/wxuex34h78xkkw.

SOURCE: WIN network.

To p.1

Phosphorus research seminar Dec. 2 at UW-GB

Sound resource management decisions start with understanding the processes and realities of rural and urban ecosystems. A full-day seminar Monday, December 2, in room 1965 of the UW-GB Student Union from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. will bring together the latest research in non-point phosphorus movement from the landscape.

Pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate handouts for all participants. You can attend the entire day or pick and choose the sessions of greatest interest. Co-sponsors for this event include UW-GB Dept of Natural and Applied Science and Graduate Studies Office, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, UW-Extension NPM, UW Extension Basin Educator Program, UW Sea Grant and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

SOURCE: Kevin Fermanich, UW-Green Bay, (920) 465.2240, fermanik@uwgb.edu.

MMSD renewal permit available for review

Every five years, the DNR must re-issue a discharge permit to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). Renewal time is here, and the DNR has just issued a draft of the new permit. The permit is very lengthy, but a summary can be found at the following link: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/water/wm/ww/drafts/milw_summ.htm.

It's important that the DNR hear from those who are the voice for clean water in this region — that we care about the permit, and we care about DNR's enforcement of the permit. Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers will be at the hearing on Dec 16, emphasizing the importance of this permit and its enforcement. As you probably know, FMR and Lake Michigan Federation are co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit against MMSD for Clean Water Act violations.

To p.1

SOURCE: Lynn Broaddus, Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, (414) 771-8368, lebroaddus@aol.com.

WDNR moving to tighten sewage overflow rules

Hoping to reduce the growing number of sewage overflows to lakes and rivers and protect the multi-billion dollar investment in municipal treatment plants, state water quality officials are moving to tighten rules governing the aging systems of pipes that collect and carry sewage from

Wisconsin homes and businesses to municipal treatment plants. Separate but coordinating teams of DNR wastewater and financial staff and external advisory groups are now developing rules that propose to extend to collection systems the same annual reporting and operation and maintenance requirements treatment systems must now meet. In addition, the proposed changes would extend these collection system requirements to 250 communities that now send their wastewater to another community for treatment. The groups hope to have proposed rules to take to public hearing in 2003.

SOURCE: Paul Luebke, WDNR, (608) 266-0234

To p.1

Indiana bans invasive fish

In emergency rulemaking last week, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources banned possession of three invasive fish. The Asian carp, snakehead fish, and white perch will be illegal to buy, sell or possess starting December 1. Officials fear the spread of these fish will upset the balance of state ecosystems, quickly out-competing native fish with their voracious appetites. The Asian carp and white perch have already been found in state waterways. Hundreds of snakehead fish were discovered in a pond in Maryland this July, following the release of two snakeheads from a personal aquarium in 2000. To learn how your state can prevent and manage introductions of invasive species, see www.serconline.org/invasives/stateactivity.html.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* #47, Nov. 25, 2002.

FERC hydropower licensing rulemaking comments due Dec. 6

In August, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff announced the agency's intention to undertake a rulemaking reforming the hydropower licensing process, and posted notice in September. This rule will have far reaching impacts on the way that FERC regulates hydropower dams affecting fish and wildlife, public lands, recreational economies, tribal resources, and other public interests.

Six outreach meetings for the rule were scheduled for October and November in Milwaukee, Washington DC, Atlanta, New Hampshire, Sacramento, and Tacoma. The Commission asked nine questions in its notice of the rule, and it elected to allow oral comment for those attending the meetings. Written comments will be accepted through December 6.

To p.1

If you are interested in writing comments, send an email to coordinator@hydroreform.org for instructions or ideas about message and substance. A second round of outreach meetings will take place in March and April, 2003. For the meeting structure and what our general comments are: http://www.amrivers.org/docs/Factsheet_for_the_Rulemaking_meetings.pdf.

SOURCE: American Rivers and the HRC, hydroreform@action.amrivers.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FMR annual dinner Dec. 8 at Turner Hall

Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers is holding its annual membership and awards dinner Sunday, Dec. 8, at historic Turner Hall in downtown Milwaukee. You're invited to meet FMR's new leadership and celebrate the past year's successes.

SOURCE: FMR, 7028 W. State St., Wauwatosa, (414) 476-6042.

To p.1

MEA announces legal assistant position opening

Midwest Environmental Advocates is a non-profit environmental law center in Madison, Wisconsin, that provides legal services to communities across Wisconsin. We are a small, dynamic office of two attorneys and up to two law student clerks. We are looking for a Legal Assistant to:

- Provide administrative, research, and legal support to MEA attorneys.
- Troubleshoot technical and computer problems.
- Maintain office computers and server and back up files nightly.
- Organize and maintain all office files.
- Provide any additional support that may be needed to help the office run smoothly and ensure that MEA is providing high quality legal services to our clients.

Send resume, cover letter and three references to Melissa K. Scanlan via e-mail to mscanlan@midwestadvocates.org or regular mail to 702 East Johnson Street, Madison, WI 53703

SOURCE: MEA.

Wolf Basin Partnership team to meet Dec. 5

The Wolf Basin Partnership team full partnership workgroup will meet at 5 p.m. at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center on Dec. 5. Agenda items include partner Team priorities/challenges, workgroup updates, Chronic Wasting Disease and Comments from the public (limited to three minutes for each person/organization). For more information, contact Daniel Helf at (920) 492-5841.

SOURCE: WDNR.

To p.1

FEC lifts ban on use of campaign funds for candidate salaries

Today the Federal Election Commission (FEC) lifted its long-time prohibition on the use of campaign funds to pay candidates' salaries. The Alliance for Justice and other organizations including the AFL-CIO and the conservative James Madison Center for Free Speech had requested this change. The new rule opens the door for persons of lower- to moderate- income to seek federal public office. Now, a candidate with limited personal resources could take time off from a full-

time job so that he or she could participate in campaign activity without forgoing his or her income.

This new regulation caps a candidate's salary at either the candidate's current salary or the salary of the office for which the candidate is running, whichever is less. This action marks the latest FEC rulemaking action pursuant to the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002 (better known as the McCain-Feingold law) that went into effect on November 6, 2002.

SOURCE: John Pomeranz, Alliance for Justice, pomeranz@afj.org.

EPA launches online facility database

The Environmental Protection Agency last week announced the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO), a searchable database "that gives the public and industry direct access to the current environmental compliance record of more than 800,000 regulated facilities nationwide." ECHO's web site allows users to search for facilities in their community to determine whether:

- EPA or State/local governments have conducted compliance inspections,
- violations were detected, or
- enforcement actions were taken and penalties were assessed in response to environmental law violations.

The website searches by zip code or city and state, with advanced search options that allow searches by facility name, county, EPA region, and specific permit type or violation history criteria. The EPA is accepting comments on the database until January 19, 2002. ECHO is available at <http://www.epa.gov/echo/>.

To p.1

NOTICE: This newsletter may contain portions of copyrighted material. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, such attributed material is sent without profit to people expressing a prior interest in this information for research and educational purposes.

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.

To p.1