



# WSNetwork News

December 15, 2003

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

Click on these WSN priority issue section links or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation](#)
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- \* Environmental rollbacks forum...
- \* Tribal awards presentation...
- \* Michael Furtman keynote speech...
- \* Presidential candidate visits?

Click [here](#) for an overview of the WSN annual conference Feb. 6-7 at UW-Stevens Point.

**Reserve the dates!**

## Arrowhead-Weston Line

WSN issue chair: Logan Edinger, Save Our Unique Lands, [edinger@centurytel.net](mailto:edinger@centurytel.net)

### Doyle signs bill to speed energy projects

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle signed into law a bill to speed the regulatory approval process for new electrical transmission lines and natural gas pipelines — changes that officials say could cut in half a complex, frustrating process that now takes two years or more. The goal would be to have the reviews done in one year. The bill would speed up approval by creating a joint, seven-employee unit of the Public Service Commission and Department of Natural Resources that works exclusively on applications to build transmission lines or energy pipelines and targeting existing public rights of way for new transmission lines — areas that would not cause any new environmental damage. The bill is part of an overall economic package to create and project jobs, while providing electricity for the growing demand. Doyle also added he did not anticipate the creation of any new nuclear plants in Wisconsin. More at <http://www.jsonline.com/bym/news/dec03/189957.asp>.

SOURCE: SERC "Wildlines Report," Dec. 8, 2003, [wildlines@serconline.org](mailto:wildlines@serconline.org).

### Mining activists could find home on A-W line

Heads up! Just as SOUL (the grassroots landowners opposing the Arrowhead line) predicted new transmission lines will start showing up in everyone's backyard! Well, here is the line that would

connect the Arrowhead with Chicago, Milwaukee and other points east and south. Manitoba Hydro announced it's intention back in 1997 to sell the electricity from the flooded Cree homelands across lines to be built through NW WI on into SE WI to sell bulk electricity to "more profitable energy markets" (their words). Four months AFTER that report Tommy Thompson announces the state has an energy crisis. NOT. It does, however have a huge desire to run 2.8 BILLION dollars worth of high voltage lines all over the state. (California deregulation anyone?) Well, its time to make sure that the anti-mine folks pay solid attention to the line folks. We have a common future and we've already got four and half years of information and experience to offer. Please pass this information along to groups that are located in this area. Thanks.

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

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## Story recaps widespread opposition at Ladysmith A-W hearing

A Dec. 3 story by Terrell Boettcher, news editor of the *Sawyer County Record*, reports that "only three of 120 people at the nine-hour Ladysmith [Public Service Commission] hearing spoke in favor of the [Arrowhead-Weston] project. Representatives of the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers and Commerce, municipal utilities in Wausau and Columbus, and Midwest Food Processors said the line is needed to improve electrical reliability in Wisconsin."

The *Sawyer County Record* story is very comprehensive and worth reading, particularly for its extensive discussion about individuals like Peggy Tierney, a Minneapolis resident who has a home on Ham Lake east of Stone Lake. Tierney's property values are expected to plummet if the line crosses nearby as planned. Unfortunately, this story is not being picked up by the web site that normally covers this stories in this newspaper. To receive a copy of the story, contact the WSN at [www.wsn.org](http://www.wsn.org).

SOURCE: *Sawyer County Record* via Sandy Lyon.

**DNR Independence & Public  
Intervenor Office Restoration**

WSN issue chair: Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club —  
John Muir Chapter, [cterrell@execpc.com](mailto:cterrell@execpc.com)

## WSN PIO study nearing completion

A report commissioned by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network on lost opportunities from Wisconsin not having the Public Intervenor Office in recent years is nearing completion. The WSN commissioned Midwest Environmental Advocates in Madison to research and write the report. The report's findings will be the subject of a session at the WSN's annual conference at UW-Stevens Point Feb. 7, 2004.

SOURCE: WSN.

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**Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation**

WSN issue chair: open  
Contact the WSN

## DATCP livestock siting recommendations summarized

The following are the conclusions of DATCP's recent advisory committee charged with reviewing the siting of livestock facilities:

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### Advisory Committee on Siting Livestock Facilities

#### Summary of Final Recommendations November 15, 2003

- Counties and municipalities should continue to be the governmental entities with authority to decide whether to approve or deny a farmer's application to site a new or expand an existing livestock farm.
- The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) should determine the best management practices and performance standards that livestock farmers will be required to use if they choose to site a new or expand an existing livestock farm. These practices and standards should be promulgated as administrative code.
- The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection should appoint a panel of technical experts to identify the best management practices and performance standards for livestock farming that are based on the best available and applicable science, are cost-effective and practical, and result in the long-term economic viability of livestock farming in Wisconsin, while protecting our natural resources and local community interests.
- Counties and municipalities that have chosen, or choose in the future, to regulate the expansion or siting of a livestock farm must use the DATCP best management practices and performance standards to determine whether an application to expand or site the farm should be approved or denied.
- Livestock farmers who choose to site or expand their farms to more than 500 animal units must use the DATCP best management practices and performance standards, except where counties and municipalities choose not to regulate or where counties or municipalities already have ordinances with lower thresholds.
- Counties and municipalities may adopt practices and standards for livestock farms that are more stringent than the DATCP practices and standards only if the provisions are necessary for public health and safety, are supported by findings of fact, and codified in municipal or county regulations.
- A county or municipality must approve a livestock farmer's application to site a new or expand an existing livestock farm if it meets the DATCP practices and standards and is consistent with the county or municipal regulations.
- A State Review Board should be created with authority to review county and municipal decisions that have been made on an application to expand an existing or site a new livestock farm to determine whether the county or municipality properly applied the DATCP practices and standards when it made its decision.
- A county or municipality must follow a clear process and meet specific deadlines as it makes its decision on a livestock farmer's application to site a new or expand an existing livestock farm, as well as providing notice to the farmer acknowledging receipt of a complete application.

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### Bush set to adopt mercury emission cap-and-trade plan

Please read the article below describing the Bush administration's proposal to regulate mercury pollution from power plants. This proposal would very likely allow many power plants in Wisconsin to avoid making any mercury reductions and would allow some power plants to increase mercury emissions. Many Wisconsin elected officials, policy-makers, and utility lobbyists have argued that we should wait for the federal government to solve our mercury contamination problem. This is a compelling reason for Wisconsin to take action. Check out the story by A-P writer Josef Hebert at [http://www.independent-media.tv/item.cfm?fmedia\\_id=4147&fcategory\\_desc=Environment](http://www.independent-media.tv/item.cfm?fmedia_id=4147&fcategory_desc=Environment).

SOURCE: Marc Looze, Clean Wisconsin, [mlooze@CleanWisconsin.org](mailto:mlooze@CleanWisconsin.org).

### WDNR awarded EPA mercury thermometer grant

Good news! You may recall WDNR was applying for an EPA grant to help fund mercury thermometer collections. We just got word that the grant was accepted! There is enough money to fund at least 20 collections statewide. The money can be used to reimburse actual costs for publicity (letters, posters, flyers, radio spots, etc.). The grant will cover disposal; DNR will hire a mercury recycler to come pick up the waste, or for small amounts, will provide a mailing container. The grant money may not be used for incentives (e.g., food, replacement thermometers) or for recycling mercury from medical facilities. You may decide to pay for the incentives yourself or find a sponsor.

You may collect thermometers from homes and schools, from your employees, patients, the public or all these. No collection will be too small because mercury in homes can be a significant health risk. (However, if you collect only a few thermometers, you might as well take them to your local household hazardous waste collection site.)

Although the final date range for eligible collections has not been set, I would encourage you to schedule your collection in the first half of 2004, maybe as an Earth Day activity in April. If you are interested in collecting thermometers, please e-mail Barb Derflinger at [barbara.derflinger@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:barbara.derflinger@dnr.state.wi.us) or call her at (608) 267-3548 to discuss the details. She's in Tues., Wed and Thur. every week except late December.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Dane County recycling, [Reindl@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:Reindl@co.dane.wi.us).

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includes an agreement between the tribes and Nicolet Hardwood Corp. of Laona to cooperatively manage the forested land for at least 15 years, with the tribes owning the timber rights.

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*.

## Plaintiffs continue pushing WDNR on mining applicant rules

The plaintiffs who filed a Notice of Intent to File Citizen Suit against the WDNR are continuing their efforts to have the agency write mining applicant rules despite the recent purchase of the Crandon Mine by two Wisconsin tribes. A recent letter outlines the request as it stands:

December 5, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE 267-3579 & REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Ms. Elizabeth M. Kluesner  
Executive Assistant  
Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Re: Follow-up to Notice of Intent to File Citizen Suit Under Wis. Stat. § 293.89(1)(b); Response to 8/13/03 Letter from DNR Attorney Charles Hammer & Nominees for Metallic Mining Council

Dear Secretary Hassett & Ms. Kluesner:

This letter is to follow-up, once again, on our earlier Notice of Intent to File Citizen Suit under Wis. Stat. § 293.89(1)(b). Unfortunately, we have not yet received a response from either of you to our letter of September 4, 2003.

Although NMC has withdrawn its mining permit application for the proposed Crandon Mine, it is still necessary for DNR to address the issues we raised in our Notice of Intent to File Citizen Suit under Wis. Stat. § 293.89(1)(b), and we have not changed our original position on those issues.

Therefore, we are still anticipating that Secretary Hassett will appoint a new Metallic Mining Council, which will, at a minimum, have the responsibility of developing proposed mining permit applicant qualification rules. Additionally, we strongly urge you to give the new Metallic Mining Council a slightly broader charge that would allow it to develop administrative rules to clarify the manner in which the Mining

Moratorium Law and related DNR procedures under WEPA and Ch. 227 will be handled if another mining permit application is submitted to the agency in the future. In our view, this is a particularly good time for a new Council and for DNR legal staff to step back and think through these issues without the pressure of a pending mining permit application before the agency.

As requested by Ms. Kluesner and Mr. Charles Hammer, we have already provided a list of people whom we propose Secretary Hassett consider appointing to the new Metallic Mining Council. That list has not changed since the Crandon application has been withdrawn and we respectfully urge you to appoint the Council as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you on these issues and to working with the new Metallic Mining Council once it is appointed. We also look forward to receiving a response to this letter.

Sincerely,

**GARVEY & STODDARD, S.C.**

Glenn M. Stoddard

cc : Mr. Harald Jordahl, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Charles R. Hammer, DNR

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## **Governor's office negotiating changes to Job Creation Act**

The WSN has received the following update on efforts in the Governor's office to work with Senators Panzer and Stepp to modify objectionable portions of the Job Creation Act of 2003:

On Friday, the lobbyists for WMC and the builders were finally told to leave the negotiating table. Unfortunately the DNR was booted as well. On Saturday and Sunday the administration and Sens Panzer and Stepp worked with LRB bill drafters to put together a bill that will be passed later this week. I have tried to get some feedback from the Administration on our comments and to find out what is in the new bill, but my requests for more information were ignored. I asked the DNR if they knew what is in the bill but they said that they were not told what is in the new bill and they are not a part of the drafting.

I am told that the new bill will be in the form of a substitute amendment and there will be no hearing on the new legislation. I also understand that there is a side deal that includes some kind of mercury emissions limitations and Senate confirmation of some appointments. (I don't know how the Senate can promise any limits on mercury when the Assembly is apparently not in on this deal.)

On a separate note, the AG has opined (see Wheeler Report) that legislators violate the open records law when they share confidential bill drafts exclusively with a single party (e.g., the builders.) Senator Stepp has stated that she did not share the draft with lobbyists, that she merely got input from the lobbyists. Only a records search of Sen Stepp's office and the Legislative Reference Bureau would verify such a claim.

SOURCE: WSN source.

## **AG asked if "Job Creation Act" violated open records law**

Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy group founded as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, asked Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager to comment on a seeming violation of Wisconsin's Open Records Law by the authors of the so called "Jobs Creation Act." Wisconsin's Open Records Law is intended to keep the voters of Wisconsin informed on the affairs of the government. It appears the Drafter's Notes on the "Jobs Creation Act" indicate the authors intended to grant access to the bill to certain industry lobbyists while denying the same access to the public. It also appears that industry attorneys submitted large portions of the bill language directly to the Legislative Council, bypassing the supposed authors.

This denial of access put the public at a distinct disadvantage. This was readily apparent at hearings held on the topic in November 12th, one day after the 114 page bill was introduced. The third party drafters used the information regarding both the content of the legislation and the timing of its introduction to their advantage. This allowed them to recruit testimony in support of their legislation far in advance of any opposition. The public was left trying to absorb the large document in less than a day.

“If this is not a violation of Wisconsin’s Open Records Law it should be” said Derek Scheer, Water Policy Director for Clean Wisconsin. “It is the intent of the law that Government dealings occur out in the open so that the public can make informed decisions.” Clean Wisconsin hopes for a quick response from the Attorney General’s office, because the “Job Creations Act” is likely to be decided before the winter legislative break.

SOURCE: Derek Scheer, Clean Wisconsin, (608) 251-7020, [info@cleanwisconsin.org](mailto:info@cleanwisconsin.org).

## **Waukesha NR115 listening session full of protection supporters**

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The hearings in Waukesha went well yesterday — here’s the scoop. AFTERNOON — 100 people present — attentive during presentation — lots of active questions — mostly looking for clarification — 46 stayed to listen to comments speaking — 12 spoke with 8 in favor of strictest options — 2 voicing concerns, neither pro nor con — 2 against (one of those just bashing DNR in general). EVENING — 55 at the info session — again lots of active questions — 35 stayed for hearing speaking — 6 speakers 3 for A options, 2 for B options, 1 for special considerations for lake Michigan and lake superior properties.

Most people seemed impressed with this proposals, and DNR even got a few comments like “I can’t believe I’m supporting the DNR on anything, but this is good.”

SOURCE: Lisa Conley, WI Assn. Of Lakes, [lconley@usa.com](mailto:lconley@usa.com).

## **Wausau hearing brings more concern over “Jobs Bill” enviro impacts**

I was at the Wausau [Job Creation Act of 2003] hearing yesterday. It was directly stated more than once by legislators that there was a compromise in the works with the Governor’s office. The WMC representative claimed to have seen it and openly talked about it, but NO SPECIFICS where mentioned. Just a quick recap on the hearing. There where 27 comments against the bill and 9 in favor. The vast majority of those opposed to the bill were opposed to Chapter 30 [navigable waters] revisions. The 9 who spoke in favor of the bill were all in favor of air permit streamlining — which makes sense since it was mostly paper and packaging industries represented.

Also, all the Democratic legislators who were there only asked questions about air permitting, mercury, and labor issues — as well as general comments about the fact that the bill was probably misnamed. They did not mention water issues, at least that I have notes about.

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SOURCE: Jennifer Giegerich, WISPIRG State Director, 1050 Regent Street. Suite L2 Madison, WI 53715

## **Sierra Club TV ads call upon Legislature to reject ‘Dirty Water Bill’**

The Sierra Club [recently ran] TV ads in Milwaukee, Madison, Racine and Kenosha calling attention to Republican legislators’ efforts to weaken clean water rules and threaten fish and wildlife habitat. The ad titled “Polluted Politics,” highlights a bill cosponsor, Senator Bob Welch of Redgranite.

“The ad shows my family fishing. We love Wisconsin’s river, lakes, and fishing, and want to protect them,” said Brett Hulsey, Sierra Club Senior Midwest Representative. “But the ‘Dirty Water Act,’ SB 313/AB655, would lower standards designed to protect fish and wildlife habitat, according to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. We need clean water and clean jobs.”

The ad shows the link between campaign money and Senator Welch’s efforts to weaken the state’s Clean Water laws. The Club released the ad before a special session of the Legislature to consider the so-called “Jobs Creation Act of 2003.” The Welch campaign took \$300,000 from big business, polluters and developers from 1995-2003, according to the non-partisan Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

SOURCE: Brett Hulsey, Sierra Club Midwest Office, (608) 257-4994.

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## **EPA rule would OK partially treated sewage releases**

The EPA recently proposed a new policy that would allow partially treated sewage to be released directly into rivers and streams during heavy rains. Tell the EPA to keep sewage out of our clean waters at: <http://amriversaction.ctsg.com/ctt.asp?u=28802&l=10771>. Comments are due by January 9th.

On November 3rd, the EPA proposed a “sewage blending” policy that would allow wastewater treatment plants to divert sewer flows during periods of heavy rains and snowmelts to bypass an important required biological treatment phase. The partially treated water would then be mixed with properly treated wastewater and poured back into rivers and streams nationwide. This blending policy poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. Blending treated and untreated wastewater fails to remove deadly disease producing pathogens from the water. These pathogens can cause illnesses such as respiratory infections, hepatitis, and dysentery. Releasing partially treated wastewater would also lead to fish kills, beach closings, and the destruction of shellfish beds.

SOURCE: American Rivers, [action@action.amrivers.org](mailto:action@action.amrivers.org).

## **New BFI landfill in Washburn County drawing concern**

[I was] contacted me a few weeks ago about the proposed expansion of the BFI landfill ... in Washburn County. I believe this is a serious threat that needs support and attention. It seems particularly egregious for BFI to be constructing a facility in Wisconsin for Minnesota waste. I will not be surprised if the material for lining the site will be removed from red clay deposits in the Lake Superior Basin. Please take a few minutes to look at the web site and pass it along to anyone you feel may be interested or able to provide support for Laurel and her small band of concerned citizens. More at <http://sarona.info/>.

SOURCE: Bruce Lindgren, WSN NW Hub Regional Coordinator, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, PO Box 46, Herbster WI 54844 (715)774-3325 [bflind@cheqnet.net](mailto:bflind@cheqnet.net).

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## Michigan judge's ruling a wake-up call for water pumpers

A Nov. 29 story by George Weeks in *The Detroit News* gives an overview of the judge who decided the recent Nestle spring water pumping case in Mecosta County, Michigan. According to the story, "It's no play on words that Mecosta County Circuit Judge Lawrence Root, a 55-year-old veteran of nearly 28 years on the bench, ventures from it to get to the root of matters before him. Like other judges, he conducts such 'views' as taking juries to accident scenes. But how many judges have paddled for long hours in a canoe before crafting an opinion on a murky issue key to the Water Wonderland that is Michigan? Root did that before issuing a ruling last week that will be an important bench mark in helping resolve what he quite properly laments as 'the dearth of controlling authority' on the use of Michigan's groundwater. Root's ruling that Nestle Waters North America must stop pumping groundwater from a shallow aquifer near Big Rapids delighted environmentalists, stunned the company, and delivered a wake-up call to regulators and politicians in Lansing who have been feeble in developing a comprehensive approach to use of groundwater." Read the complete account at [http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/mi/112903\\_great\\_lakes.htm](http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/mi/112903_great_lakes.htm).

**WSN QUIZ: How many new wells — both high-capacity and regular — are drilled each year in Wisconsin?**

- A. 1,000
- B. 2,500
- C. 5,000
- D. 15,000

ANSWER: About 15,000. —SOURCE: WDNR

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## Michigan water ruling concerns farmers

A Dec. 3 story by John Flesher of the Associated Press reports that "A court order to halt groundwater withdrawals for a bottled-water operation in Mecosta County has some Michigan farmers wondering whether they'll be next. ... The case dealt solely with the water bottling plant. But as the Michigan Farm Bureau convened its annual meeting Wednesday, some delegates wondered whether the ruling might lead to restrictions on groundwater use for irrigation and other agricultural purposes." Complete story at [www.greatlakesdirectory.org/mi/120403\\_great\\_lakes.htm](http://www.greatlakesdirectory.org/mi/120403_great_lakes.htm). SOURCE: Associated Press via Great Lakes Directory.

## Dec. 10 water grants workshop moved to Dec. 17

The December 10 workshop was postponed due to weather. Mark your calendars for the new date, December 17, from 6-9 p.m. at Safari Steak House & Candleglow Banquet Facility, 3080 County Road EE, Abrams, WI 54101 (Abrams proper is just north of Green Bay at the Hwy 141/41 split). For workshop info online, visit <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/uppergb/GrantsWkshp.htm>.

The workshop is FREE. There will be light snacks.

- Learn basics about these grant programs, and how to apply
- Get tips on how to plan, and who is eligible (lake and river organizations, tribes and local governments are all eligible)
- Get your questions answered by DNR grant staff, and staff from the River Alliance and Wisconsin Association of Lakes

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- These grants can provide funding for YOUR project
- Grant deadline, May 1, 2004. NOW is a great time to start planning.

This is a great opportunity to learn about these grant programs. They can help fund organizations' and communities' river and lake projects.

SOURCE: Kendra Axness, (715) 582-1002, [kendra.axness@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kendra.axness@ces.uwex.edu).

## Milwaukee basin partnership launches watershed web site

The Milwaukee River Basin Partnership announces a website that provides local governments, developers and citizens with a planning guide that encourages sensible land-use decisions to protect the Milwaukee River Basin Resources. While this website focuses on the 900 square mile drainage area of the Milwaukee River, including the Menomonee and Kinnickinnic watersheds, the information in the website can be applied to any township, village, county, or municipality experiencing deteriorating surface water conditions. The website is divided into 12 sections that cover a wide variety of topics like rain gardens, illicit discharges, non-point source pollution and subdivision design.

SOURCE: Jenny Erickson, Basin Educator Milwaukee and Sheboygan River Basins Southeast Area UW-Extension, West Allis, (414) 290-2434 via WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-12-03.

## ECCOLA receives GLAHN grant for shoreland campaign

A multi-media advocacy campaign will be implemented to protect shoreland habitats in the Great Lakes watershed in Wisconsin. Timely and accurate information on the relationship of shorelands to clean water, good fishing, scenic beauty, and a healthy economy will be disseminated through a CD and web site, *The Shoreland Connection*. This toolkit will be publicized via press releases, PSAs, ads, displays, and presentations. An outreach specialist will develop advocates. Project goals are to promote individual shoreland stewardship actions and to activate constituencies for more protective local and statewide shoreland zoning rules. This project builds on a successful pilot in the Headwaters Basin of northern Wisconsin involving several partner organizations.

SOURCE: John Schwarzmann, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland Areas, [eccola@newnorth.net](mailto:eccola@newnorth.net).

## Video/DVD explores water connections above and below ground

In a new video/DVD titled *Above ground — below ground: The connection between Wisconsin's waters*, Clean Wisconsin educates us about water connections, shows existing threats to Wisconsin's water, and demonstrates solutions to protecting it. The video/DVD begins with defining the water cycle. Along the way it details groundwater's key role in the cycle, which is something not typically taught in schools.

Clean Wisconsin's video/DVD offers some solutions and highlights Wisconsin communities, like Cross Plains and the Fields Neighborhood of East Troy, as models for innovative and successful attempts to minimize water pollution. Suggestions are also made for how individuals can mini-

mize water consumption and pollution at home and asks for assistance in helping to persuade Wisconsin's legislature to strengthen groundwater protection so we can keep using and enjoying the state's lakes and streams for fishing and other recreation.

For a copy of the video/DVD contact Derek Scheer at Clean Wisconsin at (608) 251-7020 or [dscheer@cleanwisconsin.org](mailto:dscheer@cleanwisconsin.org). A suggested donation of \$10 helps cover shipping and handling.

SOURCE: Clean Wisconsin.

## Wooded wetlands science forum Jan. 30-31

The WI Wetlands Association with help from the WI Woodland Owners Association is presenting their 9th annual "Wooded Wetlands" wetland science forum Jan. 30-31 at Stoney Creek Inn in Mosinee. The event covers a wide range of topics relating to floodplain forests, wetland animals, and plant communities, plus several field trips to nearby sites. For information contact the WWA at (608) 250-9971.

SOURCE: WI Wetlands Assn., (608) 250-9971.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Clean Wisconsin seeking part-time communications assistant

Do you know someone who has communications experience or is seeking a paid communications internship? Clean Wisconsin is actively seeking a part-time communications assistant to begin in January, 2004. If you are familiar with someone who is available to work in our Madison office and is seeking 12-16 hours a week (pay range between \$7 - \$9/hour), please ask them to contact me as soon as possible for consideration in joining Clean Wisconsin.

SOURCE: Shauna Cook Communications Director Clean Wisconsin (formerly Wisconsin's Environmental Decade), 122 State Street, Suite 200 Madison WI 53703-2500 (608) 251-7020

### Biodiversity Project seeks fulltime office manager

The Biodiversity Project, a nonprofit environmental communications organization, located in Madison, WI, seeks a full-time office manager. Applicants must possess strong accounting skills and have experience with multi-tiered budgets and multiple funding sources. Proficiency with Quick Books, Excel, and Access required. Nonprofit experience very helpful. Responsibilities include grants/budget management, bookkeeping, payroll, benefits, IT systems maintenance, database management, and support services for small staff. See the full job description and learn more about us at [www.biodiversityproject.org](http://www.biodiversityproject.org).

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## AG office joins seven states in FOIA Clean Air Act request

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager announced that seven states, including Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia today submitted Freedom of Information Act requests to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality for documents relating to the recent rollback of New Source Review (NSR) standards of the Clean Air Act. Wisconsin, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Connecticut made the requests. Wisconsin, 12 other states and the District of Columbia sued EPA on October 27 to overturn the new NSR rule, which would allow power plants and other heavy polluters to increase harmful emissions without installing new anti-pollution devices. Under the new rule, a large number of major facility modifications that increase pollution would be classified as “routine maintenance,” exempting them from requirements to install additional anti-pollution equipment.

SOURCE: Brian Rieselman, Attorney General’s office, (608) 266-7876.

## Groups invited to attend recycling meeting Jan. 21

I would like to invite everyone to attend the next Council on Recycling meeting, which is being scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st as part of the Winter Solid Waste Conference in the Wisconsin Dells, and to share their concerns and recommendations about waste reduction and recycling with the Council members.

SOURCE: John Reindl, [Reindl@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:Reindl@co.dane.wi.us).

## Supreme Court upholds campaign finance law

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the major parts of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (better known as the McCain-Feingold law). In particular, the Court rejected challenges brought by a diverse coalition of organizations against the new law’s ban of unregulated “soft-money” contributions and the law’s restrictions on so-called “electioneering communications” — broadcast ads that feature federal candidates close to an election. The Court did strike down lesser portions of the new law, including the law’s ban on political contributions by minors.

The Alliance for Justice will release a more detailed analysis of the 300-page opinion in the coming days. In the meantime, the full opinion is available online at [www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/03pdf/02-1674.pdf](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/03pdf/02-1674.pdf). More on the ruling at the AFJ web site at [www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/public\\_policy/alerts/Comments\\_Finance\\_Memo.html](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/nonprofit/public_policy/alerts/Comments_Finance_Memo.html).

### WSN Member Groups

Get connected...join the WSN

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society  
 Aldo Leopold Foundation  
 Anishinaabe Nijiji/ Protect the Earth  
 Badger Fly Fishers, Inc.  
 Brown County Conservation Alliance  
 Central WI Chapter of SOUL  
 Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin  
 Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
 Clean Wisconsin  
 Concerned Citizens of Newport  
 Coulee Region Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Door County Environmental Council  
 Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland  
 Areas  
 Families and Friends for Social Responsibility  
 Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Friends of the Jump River  
 Friends of Milwaukee's River  
 Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen  
 Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Groundwater Guardians  
 Habitat Education Center  
 Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Inland Sea Society  
 Izaak Walton League of America - WI Division  
 John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club  
 Lake Superior Alliance  
 Lake Superior Greens  
 Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Madison Audubon Society  
 Menomonee Valley Partners  
 Midwest Environmental Advocates  
 Mining Impact Coalition of WI, Inc.  
 Neighbors Standing United  
 Northern Thunder  
 Pheasants Forever - Sugar River Valley Chapter  
 Plover River Alliance  
 Random Lake Association  
 River Alliance of Wisconsin

Save Our Unique Lands  
 Shaw-Paca Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Smallmouth Alliance Southern WI Chapter  
 SOUL of Kennan/Catawba  
 SOUL of Lake Superior  
 SOUL of Rusk County  
 SOUL of Sawyer County  
 Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 The Muskellunge Club of WI  
 Twin Lakes Conservancy  
 Waterkeepers of Wisconsin  
 WI Association of Lakes  
 WI Conservation Voters Institute  
 Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association  
 WI Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG)  
 WI Resources Protection Council  
 WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society  
 WI State B.A.S.S Federation  
 WI State Council of Trout Unlimited  
 WI Wetlands Association  
 Winnebago Audubon Society  
 Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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*WSN Network News* is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups interested in protecting and preserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

The WSN's **Board of Directors** consists of representatives from the following organizations: Brown County Conservation Alliance, Clean Wisconsin, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., Musky Club of WI, Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter,

Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State B.A.S.S. Federation, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, plus individuals who serve as at-large members.

The WSN's **mission** is to build a cooperative network that strengthens Wisconsin's stewardship ethic for the betterment of its people and natural resources.

**Editorial contributions** to this e-newsletter are welcome. Send news of your group's activities relating to the WSN's priority issues to WSN Exec. Director Todd Hanson at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).

**Subscriptions** to *WSN Network News* are free. To opt in or out of this distribution list, e-mail us at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).



Reserve the date and find several of your group members to attend...

# WSN 2004 Annual Conference

## Feb. 6-7, 2004

University Center, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI



### Michael Furtman keynote speaker at conference

Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited have each given Michael Furtman their top awards for outdoor writing. Michael sees the value in sporting, conservation, and environmental groups working together for their increased effectiveness. His nationwide reporting gives him a unique perspective on the current state of conservation and the environment. Hear Michael at both our Friday forum and the Saturday conference.

### Tribal thank-you

Join a ceremony with Gov. Doyle honoring the Mole Lake Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi for their heroic purchase of the Crandon Mine.



AL SHARPTON 2004



### Presidential candidate visits?

We have invited all the major party presidential candidates to speak. Who might drop by just days before the WI primary?



### Friday forum looks at environmental rollbacks

Our Friday night forum addresses the growing trend toward environmental and conservation rollbacks and retrenchments in conservation and the environment at the state and federal levels. Panelists include *George Meyer* of the WI Wildlife Federation, *Steve Hiniker* of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, *Melissa Scanlan* of Midwest Environmental Advocates, and writer *Michael Furtman*.