

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Policy Resource Is Good News for Natural Resources

Madison, WI—The first-ever *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* was unveiled today at the state capitol. The *Briefing Book* details the most important conservation issues facing legislators this session. The 52 page document provides comprehensive background information on a variety of conservation issues followed by detailed policy recommendations and resource directories.

Coordinated by the Wisconsin Conservation Voters Institute, the book represents the collaborative effort of over thirty environmental and conservation groups, land trusts, government advisors and academics. Donna Sefton of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes was impressed by the variety of organizations involved in the project, “I am proud to be part of a coalition that succeeded in accomplishing what it set out to do. We really were able to create a document that not only lays out the issues fairly, but also offers viable policy solutions that are sensitive to the state’s current budget crisis.”

The *Briefing Book* covers a broad range of issues from water and land use to agriculture and energy. Already, several issues in the book are receiving legislative attention including mercury bans, restoring the Office of the Public Intervenor, and campaign finance reform.

The *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* could serve as the primary guide to discussions of conservation issues for legislators throughout the session. Kathy Pielsticker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, is confident that legislators will draft and introduce legislation based on the book’s information, “Wisconsin’s legislators want to do what is right for the protection of clean air, water, and open spaces, but it can sometimes be difficult to know what the best approach is. The *Briefing Book* makes conservation solutions accessible to decision makers, which is something they’ve been seeking for a long time.”

In addition to elected officials and other decision makers, the book will be an important resource for citizens seeking ways to effectively participate in natural resource policy making at the state level.

The *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* will be produced every other year. To view a complete copy of the book, please visit, www.conservationvoters.org.

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