

Clean Water Action Council

OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF WORKING TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

SPRING 2017

Citizens are Mad as Hell and Don't Want to Take it Anymore



Introduction by CWAC President Dean Hoegger

Citizens in northeast Wisconsin are indeed angry. Many are working tirelessly to protect their environment, their water, and their health, and they are doing so in the face of a lack of action by the very agencies charged with doing so. According to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the number of DNR referrals to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) reached an all-time low in 2011, the first year under Governor Walker. That trend continued in the next five years. 2016 had the lowest amount of environmental violation forfeitures since at least 2006.

Rather than taking on polluters, the WI DOJ continues to be an advocate, not for citizens, but for big business, such as Wisconsin v. EPA, in which Wisconsin leads the challenge to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS (CSPAR II). In May, 2016, Attorney General Brad Schimel issued an opinion that again favored big business. Ignoring decades of legal precedence, he ruled the DNR did not have the authority to limit high capacity wells, regardless of their impacts to the groundwater.

Anger turned to action when the DNR failed to protect the groundwater in Kewaunee County. Citizen groups filed a formal request with the EPA: The Petition for Emergency Action under provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The petition asked the EPA to order the DNR to act to protect drinking water. After countless hours of workgroup

meetings, there still has been no state or federal action to provide safe drinking water to the hundreds of residents with contaminated well water.

Why simply be “mad as hell,” thought 16 residents from across Wisconsin, including six from northeast Wisconsin. Instead, they turned to action and signed the Petition for Corrective Action to the EPA to force Wisconsin to correct 75 deficiencies with the federal Clean Water Act. Individually, they told their story about how the deficiencies affect them, and then they were joined by scores of retired DNR employees writing in support of the petition. However, the EPA enforcement wheels turn slowly. At last count, Wisconsin has only satisfied six of the deficiencies.

Now concerns are being raised at the federal level as serious threats to staffing at the EPA are being proposed by the Trump Administration. It has become clear to the residents of northeast Wisconsin who are most affected by the recent cuts to the DNR, that a weakened EPA will leave them with few options for enforcement of environmental laws.

Now is the time to join one of the many environmental organizations working to protect human health and the environment. Read more about these concerns in this issue, and join us on March 29 to lobby our state legislators to put citizens above polluters.

See Conservation Lobby Days on page 11.

Editor's note: Residents near CAFOs have expressed their anger about the effects of CAFOs on their quality of life to representatives of local, county, state, and the federal government, often with minimal results. We invited Sandy to share her story, which is typical of many others we have heard, but without her passion! She has been a tireless defender for the waters of northeast Wisconsin. Thank you Sandy!

Kewaunee County Resident Angry About Continued CAFO Expansion

A letter submitted by Sandy Winnemueller, Town of Lincoln, Kewaunee County

I'm pissed off that ANOTHER CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) is expanding in our area. It doesn't matter that it isn't in my township, or my county. When one expands, all the others start upping the ante too. It's a pissing match for these guys as they compete to see who's going to get the biggest?

These factory farms present assaults not just upon our environment, (and those are truly egregious), they are also an affront to our very democracy and way of life. They have co-opted all of our protections put in place many years ago by people much wiser than they. They have bought off our public office holders—Governor Walker, Cathy Stepp (head of the DNR) who should be protecting the public's health and safety and instead are kowtowing to the industry and the Dairy Business Association lobbyists—groveling for their piece of the pie.

They have proven time and time again, that they don't care about us, the people who live here and have to suffer the ill effects of the manure produced by "farms" with too many cows, little to no oversight from the Dept. of Natural Resources or the EPA, no restrictions on how fast or how big they can expand, and no way to demand their accountability. Our watchdog agencies have fallen into hostile hands.

These businesses are true parasites upon society—they internalize their profits and externalize the costs. They keep the profits, and we end up paying for the messes they make. WE fix our roads that they destroy. Their 120,000 lb. manure tankers rip up the roads, and never have to pay for them. They pay no licensing fees, no impact fees, no wheel taxes, and no registration fees. NADA. Not a dime.

Their manure fouls our wells. It



Agriculture's effect on ground and surface waters.

pollutes our streams, our rivers and Lake Michigan. And we pay to monitor this pollution (see Kewaunee Cares website <https://kewaunee cares.wordpress.com/>). WE pay for our lost revenue from tourists that no longer show up in Kewaunee County because of the equivalent raw cow sewage of 1,960,000 humans. None of its treated, and it's full of pathogens, full of nitrates, phosphorus and chlorides. Businesses are leaving Kewaunee County and moving to areas not already swimming in manure.

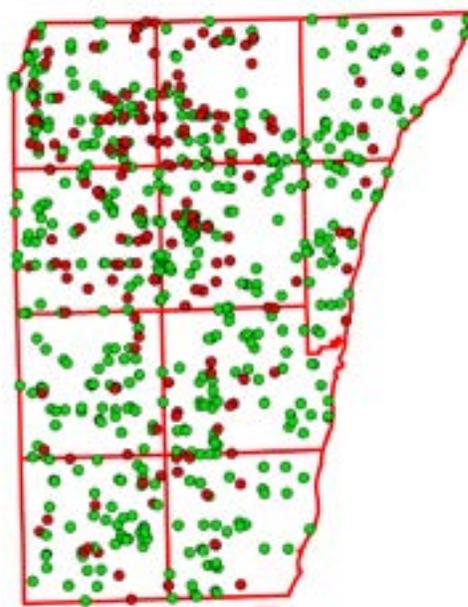
They've also co-opted the media. Our lone newspaper in the area that used to cover manure spills, brown water events (raw manure coming out of our taps), dead and dying rivers, people who can no longer use their own wells because of underground manure contamination, has been largely dissolved. The responsible reporters reassigned, or laid-off completely. We no longer have any voice.

And the government's solution to this growing mess hasn't been to limit the amount of the cows these factories can have. It isn't to force them to behave responsibly or ethically. It isn't even to encourage them to use conservation

methods that might help lessen the damage that they do to the rest of us, like using cover crops on all fields or putting a 100 ft. buffer strip between all fields and streams and wetlands like the Minnesota governor did. Nooooo. It was to approve \$20 million dollars in taxpayer funds to be given to THEM to build a not yet invented (so non-existent) "manure-water treatment—underground pipeline—methane digester" extravaganza. Using technology that doesn't exist, hasn't been tested, but will still be paid for using taxpayer money to help private, wealthy, factory farms get even bigger and create even more manure for us to deal with.

And still the "farms" expand and grow, unchecked, unregulated, and unaccountable. Yeah, I'm pissed off.

Well Sample Locations
Kewaunee County
Red = Unsafe due to Bacteria and/or Nitrates

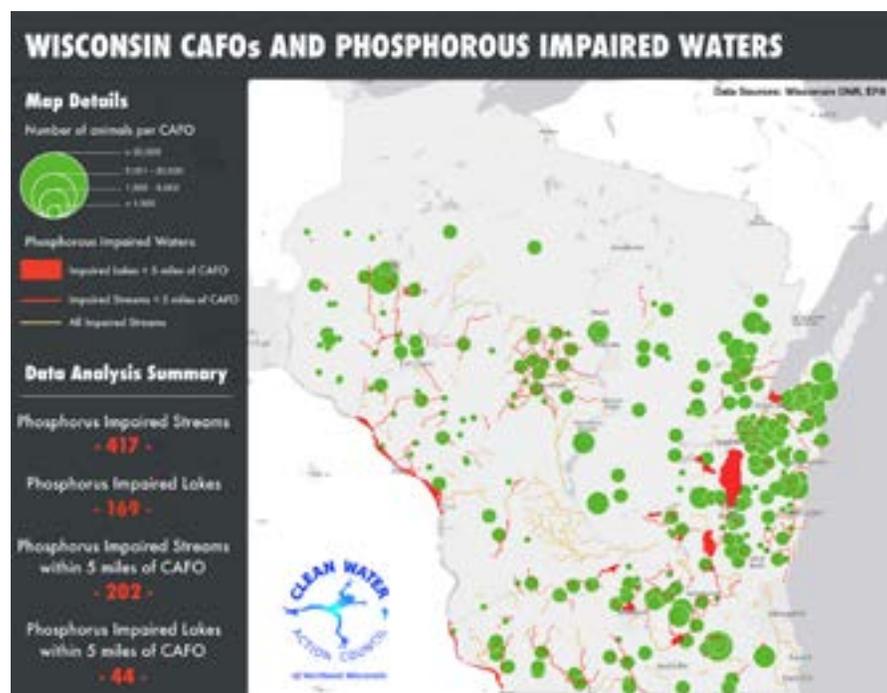


Created by Davina Bonness (Water Quality Specialist) County Boundary

Editor's note: Residents of rural Northeast Wisconsin would tell you that when it comes to manure spreading, the carrying capacity of the land has been exceeded. The turnout of residents at CAFO expansion hearings, and the anger and frustration with the DNR and lawmakers they express, makes for no surprise by the number of groups being organized to fight for clean water. Read Steve Oberle's article below to better understand why folks are mad as hell, and doing something about it.

CAFOs, Carrying Capacity, and Cumulative Effects

by Steve Oberle, Ph.D.



Interactive CAFO map: <http://arcg.is/2bR4OTL>

You may be asking yourself, what do Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and the concepts of carrying capacity and cumulative effects have in common? Let me explain.

The main “by-products” of our livestock (eg. dairy, hogs, poultry) production are manure and process wastewater. Over time, especially in regions and watersheds with high densities of larger-scale livestock farms and CAFOs, excessive amounts of plant nutrients (eg. nitrogen, phosphorus) are added to farm fields with consecutive (eg. annual, biannual) manure and wastewater applications, especially on fields adjacent and nearest to the production area(s). In some cases, multiple facilities are spreading on the same fields.

Use of livestock manure to enhance soil fertility and to promote plant health and proper plant nutrition are sustainable agricultural practices. Use of the land as a means of livestock waste disposal is not only unsustainable; it is a direct threat to the groundwater and surface water of everyone downstream. In other words, excessive plant nutrient applications (loading) to farm fields (soils) from livestock manure, process wastewater, and synthetic fertilizers makes no agronomic, economic, or environmental sense.

Put another way, in the words of the University of Wisconsin's nutrient recommendation program, the “optimum” level of plant nutrients in soils (fields) is “economically and environmentally the most desirable soil test

category,” and “yields are optimized at nutrient additions approximately equal to amounts removed in the harvested portion of the crop. There is no profit in applying nutrients that will not be used.”

Now the only explanation one is left with for these excessive nutrient applications to farm fields is that (in general) many livestock producers choose to treat their by-products as waste materials, and the land (soil) as their means of waste disposal. And undoubtedly there are several reasons for this including the massive quantities of manure and process wastewater produced, especially with larger-scale and CAFO-sized operations; the associated excessive amounts of plant nutrients generated relative to actual plant (crop) needs; limited land base available/used for spreading purposes; and storage, transportation, and spreading costs.

So one may ask, what are the short- and longer-term consequences of all of this resource/waste material going on the land in our watersheds, or even next door to our home and/or private well? And what are the likely impacts to the land, to the groundwater and surface water, and to human health and safety? In my own research and work with the public on these matters, I have found that the concepts of carrying capacity and cumulative effects come in really handy when making sense of, and confronting, these issues/problems.

The concept of carrying capacity is a relatively old one and, in a general sense, can be defined as the maximum population size (of a particular species) that the environment can sustain indefinitely. In the context of agriculture, this concept can be applied at many levels including watershed, farm, and field. In fact, the concept of carrying capacity can easily be extended to the soils (within a particular field) level. And this is where it mostly applies to the issues around excessive livestock waste spreading in and around our landscapes, watersheds, homes, and wells.

So, just as a field has an associated carrying capacity for crops and/or livestock, soils have a carrying capacity

for plant nutrients. And one could argue that the soil types within a particular field are a primary factor in determining the carrying capacity of that field. Many have recognized that good soil fertility is a key to our longevity as a species, when you consider that soil fertility is the capacity of the soil to sustain life (eg. microscopic to humankind).

Although the concept of carrying capacity is usually framed in a biological (eg. population, species) context, as it pertains to agriculture and crop/livestock production, one must also consider the soil and chemical aspects of these land uses. In this context, the concept of carrying capacity refers to the capacity of a particular soil, and in turn field, to carry (hold) plant nutrients. If our soils were not able to carry or hold plant nutrients, it would be impossible to grow the crops (feed) necessary for livestock production, which in turn would limit populations (ie. crops, livestock, people) a particular field (soil) could support. Thus, the carrying capacity would be limited.

In the cases where there are massive quantities of livestock wastes (and the associated excessive amounts of plant nutrients) going on fields, the end result is that the capacity of the soils associated with these fields to carry (hold) all of these nutrients, is quickly exceeded. Put another way, a particular soil, and in turn field, will have a much lower “carrying capacity” for additional plant nutrients (from consecutive livestock manure-wastewater and fertilizer applications) when nutrient levels are already excessively high; and far in excess of crop (plant) demands.

And it's mostly in these cases where I would expect to see relatively high nutrient (eg. nitrogen, phosphorus) losses from fields, in some cases over a considerable period of time. And in turn, in some cases, severe degradation of groundwater and surface water quality downstream, especially down gradient from fields adjacent and nearest to production area(s), and/or fields that are being spread on by multiple facilities.

So, where does the concept of cumulative effects come in? Cumulative

(environmental) effects can be defined as effects on the environment (at any scale) which are caused by the combined results of past, current, and future activities—in this case, agricultural activities. To get a better handle on the concept of cumulative effects as it applies to agriculture and carrying capacity, one must consider these land use/management activities (and the resulting environmental impacts) at scales larger than field and farm (eg. watershed).

Cumulative effects analyses of CAFO-sized livestock operations at larger scales (eg. watershed, region) reveals that the impacts to groundwater and surface water, especially in regions with high densities of (or improperly-sited) facilities, can be devastating. Environmental indicators of this include, but are not limited to, nutrient/sediment plumes, algal blooms, and dead zones (hypoxia) in surface waters; nitrate, manure/wastewater, phosphorus, bacteria, viruses in groundwater and private wells.

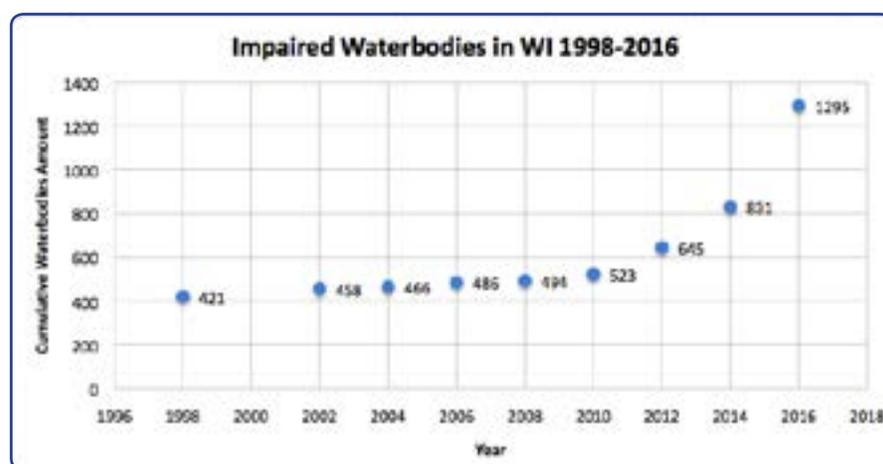
Note: This article was originally published under the title “*Pork chops, carrying capacity, and cumulative effects.*”

Steve Oberle, Ph.D., Soil Science, is currently an organic apple and lavender grower and part-time consultant in Bayfield, Wisconsin. His consulting/assistance services include partnering with local citizens' groups and local units of government to provide environmental analysis, review, and monitoring of larger-scale and concentrated animal feeding operations in Wisconsin. He grew up in the woods and water of the Wolf River watershed in NE Wisconsin.

Resist the Weakening of Environmental Laws

by Andy Wallander

A couple of weeks ago President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to review the existing rule entitled, “Clean Water Rule: Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”, and to publish a proposed rule rescinding or revising the existing rule. Is this the start of the Trump administration's wholesale tearing down of environmental regulations that have protected the groundwater we drink, the surface waters we swim and fish in, and the air we breathe?



It has become fashionable to say that environmental regulations are the cause of our economic woes. We are losing sight of what our main economic resources really are. Our “natural” resources are the very resources on which our economic system truly relies.

“Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water.”

- Carl Sagan, Astronomer

“We do not face a choice between protecting our environment or protecting our economy. We face a choice between protecting our economy by protecting our environment—or allowing environmental havoc to create economic havoc”

- Robert E. Rubin, Former Secretary of the Treasury

“The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soils, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, biodiversity. That’s all there is. That’s the whole economy. These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world.”

- Senator Gaylord Nelson

Doing away with environmental regulations is a short-sighted answer to the baseless mantra we have heard over and over again, that government environmental regulations are stifling businesses, job growth and the economy. Actually, however, if we are to survive as a species we cannot continue to believe we have an “unalienable right” to life, liberty, happiness (and profits) in spite of the environmental consequences we shift to our fellow residents in the neighborhood, county, state, country, or anywhere else on this planet.

“Sometimes people say climate change threatens the planet. Well, actually, the planet itself will survive. What is at stake here is humanity’s ability to live on this planet.”

- Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Greenpeace

“The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think.”

- Gregory Bateson, British Anthropologist

We have got to start realizing that environmental regulations are not drafted to be used as weapons against business and commerce; and they are certainly not intended to lessen the number of available jobs in our economy. The intent of environmental regulations is the protection of the health and welfare of society as a whole. That includes each and every one of us!

As a society, do we really want to “do business” unfettered from environmental regulations. We are at a tipping point at this time in history. The negative impacts we have on our environment today will be the environmental nightmares of future generations. Our children and grandchildren will have to live in the environment that we leave them.

“Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.”

- Jacques Cousteau, Conservationist

If we truly care about the world future generations will have to contend with, we should constantly be on guard, and oppose the weakening of any of our important environmental regulations. If not, will those future generations curse ours?

“The first sign of tyranny is government’s complicity in privatizing the commons for private gain.”

- Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

“Pollution is a classic example of one common form of market failure: externalities. Externalities are created when decisions by businesses cause costs to groups outside of the business. Since businesses don’t have to bear these costs, they typically ignore these side effects—but the public is harmed by them. So a company has no incentive to clean up air or water pollution caused by its production facilities, even though it will do great harm to the environment and to humans... Voluntarily assuming the costs of cleaning up its own pollution would be irrational for a business—it would lower profits and put it at a competitive disadvantage with rival companies. Only government can effectively address this problem by devising policies to ban or discourage pollution. Without government, a laissez-faire capitalist economy is inherently and inevitably bad for the environment.”

- From “Capitalism Requires Government”, a web project of Douglas J. Amy, Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College. <http://www.governmentisgood.com/articles.php?aid=13&p=1>



What would life be like without the EPA?

By Charlie Frisk

Throughout my high school years our favorite canoeing river was the Iowa River in North Central Iowa. The Iowa was a beautiful river, surrounded by hardwood forests, rolling hills and tall bluffs. For an Iowa stream the water was also pretty clear because most of the riparian area had been protected by a wealthy man who had purchased as much of the land as possible and donated it the state. The area was named after its benefactor and called the Mann Wilderness.

Some summers we would canoe the Iowa almost once a week. The Iowa had almost everything a teenage boy could want with its beautiful scenery and deep swimming holes. But it was totally missing one very important item—fish. Upstream about 20 miles was a hog processing plant and, prior to the passage of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA), it was entirely up to the states to regulate polluting industries and most of the states did a very poor job of it.

The packing plant didn’t dump a lot of sewage into the Iowa—I don’t ever recall the water being turbid or having a foul odor—but what they did dump had a very high biological oxygen demand, and without oxygen fish can’t live. I graduated from high school in 1971 and it took a few years after the passage of the CWA for fish populations to recover but I remember coming home to visit after I had graduated from college and the local paper had an article about the fantastic smallmouth bass and northern pike

fishing in the Iowa. How we would have loved that.

In those days, we just took it for granted that many bodies of water would be polluted to the point where they would either not support fish or only support pollution-tolerant species like bullhead and carp. The Little Sioux River in Northwest Iowa had so many packing plants that there were times when the sewage volume in the river actually exceeded the natural water flow. The Fox River in Green Bay was famous for its “alligators”, which were actually floating masses of pulp waste that would rise to the surface due to gases produced during their decomposition. The Fox was neither swimmable nor fishable and stunk so bad Green Bay city officials tried using fans to blow perfume across the river to cover the stench.



The most infamous of all was the Cuyahoga River in Ohio, which would periodically burst into flames because of all of the oil floating on the surface. Lake Erie was polluted so badly that it was nicknamed the “Dead Sea”. None of these were extreme examples; any river flowing past a major city was essentially a flowing sewer.

The 1970s were a breakthrough period for environmental legislation. The federal government created the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, passed the Clean Air Act in 1971, the CWA in 1972, the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974.

The major impetus for this environmental juggernaut was the first Earth Day, held April 22, 1970. Earth Day was the brainchild of Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin. Nelson was incensed by the rapidly declining air and water quality of American cities and the seeming unwillingness of the federal government and state and local governments to do anything about it. On that first Earth Day, 20 million Americans took to the streets to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Earth Day momentum led

to Democrats and Republicans working together to craft effective environmental regulations.

The 1970s may represent the last time that environmental protection could truly be considered a bipartisan issue. In 1981, Ronald Reagan became president and appointed Anne Gorsuch, a lawyer who had spent her entire professional life fighting the very regulations she was now supposed to uphold, as Secretary of the EPA; and James Watt, (leader of the Sagebrush rebellion, a movement to sell off public lands), as Secretary of the Interior. According to Greg Whetstone, the chief Environmental Counsel of the House Energy and Commerce Committee during the Reagan years, “Watt and Gorsuch were the most intensely controversial and blatantly anti-environmental political appointees in U.S. history.

Today in “Republican speak” all environmental regulations are referred to as “burdensome”, as if they were put in place just to be a hindrance to good Americans trying to make a living. During his campaign, Trump threatened to completely eliminate the EPA, but has now backed off to merely cutting its funding and enforcement powers drastically.

Trump’s selection for Secretary of the EPA, former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt is a pro-industry, anti-regulation type who may actually be the first head of the EPA to be more hostile to the environment than Anne Gorsuch. As Oklahoma Attorney General, Pruitt sued the EPA multiple times over environmental regulations, and is also a climate change denier. He has stated that he intends to dismantle the “Clean Power Plan”, the EPA’s attempt to address global climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Pruitt insists that the states can regulate pollution better than the federal government. This reasoning entirely ignores the lessons of history. Prior to the creation of the EPA and the passage of federal environmental regulations most of our rivers were rolling sewers and air quality was rapidly declining. The problem with turning regulations over to the states is that it triggers a race to the bottom as the states compete to attract industry.

For example, if Wisconsin attempts to keep strong regulations in place, industry will threaten to move to states with more lax regulations, and there will always be states eager to provide weaker regulations in order to attract industry. Federal regulations and a strong EPA ensure a level playing field so that states don’t have to promote environmental degradation as a ploy to attract industry.

We are now facing an anti-environmental blitzkrieg both on the state and national level. Conservatives argue that environmental regulations stifle job creation by driving away industry. This is only true if we destroy the power of the EPA and eliminate the level playing field. In the 1970s, there were conservatives who argued that the Clean Air and Water Acts would plunge America into a deep dark depression. Instead the country entered into a period of

unprecedented prosperity. When regulations were passed to control acid rain, conservatives said we would all “freeze in the dark” and once again the economy kept on chugging.

Gaylord Nelson once said, “*The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around*”. The worst thing we could do for the economic potential of future generations is to put a halt to environmental progress. America is facing environmental challenges that weren’t even heard of in the 1970s.

There were no factory farms at that time, high capacity wells weren’t depleting aquifers, and we didn’t understand the huge threat global climate change was going to be for our future. We need to build onto the regulations we already have to face the new threats, not destroy our present regulations. We have a moral responsibility to pass on a world that is in at least as good of shape as the one we inherited, not a world that is so degraded that future economic options are limited.

With the antipathy that conservatives have toward environmental regulations it is going to be a battle. People who believe in the value of a clean, healthy environment are going to have to draw a line in the sand, and fight to not be pushed back off of that line. Our children and their children are depending on us.

Taking a Stand for Wisconsin's Natural Resources

By Jim Wagner

Like the famous con where the dupe customer is asked to pick the shell holding the pea, the citizens of Wisconsin can expect years of finding nothing but empty shells, and promises, when it comes to environmental protections of our air and waters from most of our elected officials.

Former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, brought in to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) he’s been trying to sue for the past decade and who’s filled his staff with climate change deniers, is going to spend the next four years taking a weed whacker to our bedrock environmental protections—the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, their Amendments, and anything else they can get away with in a court of law. See Charlie Frisk’s story beginning on page 5 for more on what’s in store for the EPA.

Pruitt is going to do his best to create a business-friendly environment, all under the guise of “putting regulation back in the hands of the states” and eliminate the “overreaching” hand of the EPA. If air and water pollution respected state & national borders like Pruitt does, there might not be an issue, but alas, externalities are just as relevant today as they were the past 100 or so years.

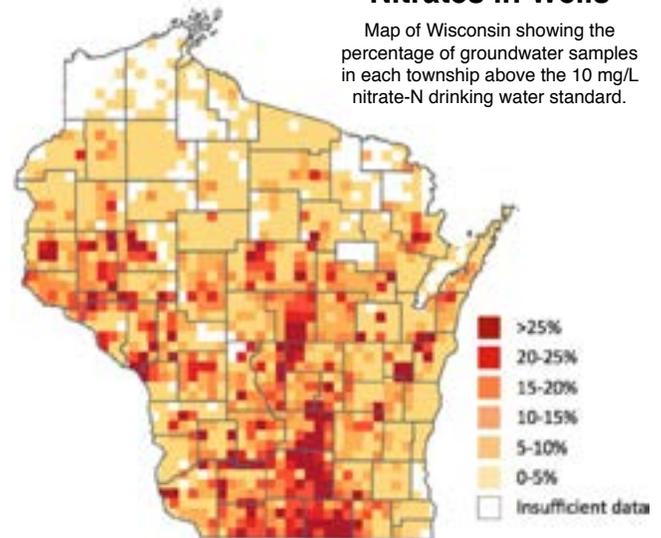
But the biggest issue with putting regulations back in the hands of the states, in Wisconsin’s case notably, is that the aforementioned weed whacker has been warming up at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for years now under the constant barrage of deregulation

and defunding from Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican-dominated Assembly and Senate. They are ably assisted by Cathy Stepp, appointed more for her realty acumen and customer service skills than any scientific knowledge.

Since the Walker administration came on board, the DNR has seen its budget cut \$59 million and 200 of its positions were eliminated (half of which were research positions), resulting in a significant drop in enforcement. Because of this self-inflicted wound, Republicans and the DNR had their excuse to reorganize the agency to even further erode regulatory compliance for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and other business activities that pollute our waters and air.

Nitrates in Wells

Map of Wisconsin showing the percentage of groundwater samples in each township above the 10 mg/L nitrate-N drinking water standard.



Source: <http://www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/4/2/323/htm>

An audit conducted last year shows the WDNR is woefully behind—as in 94 percent behind—in their enforcement over the past decade and in many cases, inspect an operation after the permit has been issued, or renewed, a violation of state law. The solution to this quandary? Reorganize and let outside consultants write up the permits instead of WDNR permit writers. In theory, it’s a great idea for a “customer service agency that regulates the customer”, according to Stepp, but it sets a frightening precedence for an agency that’s actually there to enforce protection of our state’s natural resources.

Oh, and Governor Walker is now considering moving CAFO regulation over to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the agency that *promotes* agriculture.

This seemingly never-ending cavalcade of environmental degradation can be overwhelming, and it wouldn’t be a surprise if it leaves Wisconsin residents wondering what they could possibly do to staunch the bleeding. But there is in fact something every individual can do.

Get mad. Take action!

While state Republicans have done their level best to whittle out citizen advocacy—first way back in the 1990s when Gov. Tommy Thompson defanged the Public Intervenor's Office and more recently with reduced citizen input at WDNR or DATCP meetings—there are plenty of other ways to have your voice heard. The tried-and-true method of calling, writing or e-mailing your Congressman has the effect of constantly reminding them, even if they reply with a boilerplate noncommittal answer, that you are paying attention and aren't going to let them get away with it.



And if you need proof of the power of the individual Wisconsin resident, consider for a moment Paul Ryan and his glaring non-appearance in

Wisconsin during the latest Congressional recess. With Republicans throughout the country getting lambasted by their constituents in similar town halls, Ryan has not shown up to speak in any public venue...in Wisconsin, that is. Janesville residents ponied up the money for a billboard, and even posted a Craigslist ad looking for their Representative. While the antics were mostly conducted for their humor value, it sparked memes that found their way around social media networks everywhere, a powerful message delivered nationally by just a few people.

Take a stand!

Another way you can get mad and get things done is by taking a stand. Last year, Midwest Environmental Advocates, along with 16 petitioners from throughout Wisconsin (including two CWAC board members), filed a Petition for Corrective Action with the EPA to force the DNR to correct 75 violations of the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System that have sat idle in the state's hands since the EPA warned them in 2011. Because of rewritten laws and defunding, the DNR seemed unable to fulfill its central mission of protecting our waters. Individual Wisconsin citizens, in this case, forced the EPA to force the DNR to take action.

Attend city council meetings.

Barring that, **attend city council meetings.** The often-slow-paced meetings deal with issues that directly affect your back yard. CWAC has spent the past year helping residents fight back at city council meetings to fight the spread of aerial manure spraying and high-capacity wells, CAFO permits and other business-friendly ordinances.

It's time to get mad, Wisconsin, and it's time to reassert the state's reputation as a popular destination spot for nature enthusiasts, anglers and hunters – not industrial farming, sand and iron mines, and polluted rivers and groundwater-depleted lakes.

Resources:

"Changes scale back Wisconsin DNR", Jan. 16, 2017, http://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/local/article_ee93cd9-598b-5842-a65a-6016f8809efb.html

"State audit finds DNR ignoring own rules on water pollution", June 4, 2016, http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/state-audit-finds-dnr-ignoring-own-rules-on-water-pollution/article_b4471e0f-538d-5a4e-938e-2972a65d071f.html

"Wisconsin DNR changes aim to speed up permit reviews", Nov. 30, 2016, <http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2016/11/30/wisconsin-dnr-changes-aim-to-speed-up-permit.html>

"Wisconsin governor's proposal for CAFOs draws scrutiny", Feb. 11, 2017, <http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/news/4216180-wisconsin-governors-proposal-cafos-draws-scrutiny>

Wisconsin Map image showing % of groundwater samples in each township above the 10 mg/L nitrate-N drinking water standard. <http://www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/4/2/323/htm>

Trout Fishing Endangered Throughout Wisconsin

Anglers will need to choose between the fearmongering of politicians and the very real threat to the existence of trout fishing in the state by these same politicians

By Charlie Frisk



If there is any one group that should be hopping mad about the direction both the Wisconsin and the federal government are trending in

regards to environmental protection, it is trout anglers. Trout require extremely clean, cold water with high oxygen levels. Wisconsin, and the nation as a whole, have many streams that are now known as "former" trout streams and with our present governmental trajectory there will soon be many more added to the list.

The only native stream trout in Wisconsin are the brook trout. Of all North America's trout species, the brook trout is the most sensitive in regard to water quality. Brook trout thrive best in water temps below 68 degrees F and cannot survive above 77 degrees. Brown trout and rainbow trout, both species introduced to Wisconsin, can tolerate slightly higher temps but anything into the 80s will start to stress them. In order for a stream to maintain a temp below 68 degrees throughout the summer months, it must receive a substantial amount of its flow from groundwater.

The greatest threat to groundwater flow is the rapid proliferation of high capacity wells (HCW) throughout the state. Groundwater that is used for irrigating crops, diluting manure at Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) style dairy farms, and bottled as pure spring water for sale by companies such as Perrier, will not make it into trout streams.

Existing regulations in regards to HCWs are inadequate to protect stream flows and lake levels, and yet the current direction in state government is to weaken rather than strengthen those regulations. One of the major areas of contention is whether the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can consider cumulative impacts of all of the wells in an area when granting permits. Common sense would indicate that the more straws pulling water out of the glass, the quicker it will go empty, but Wisconsin legislators are arguing the DNR cannot consider cumulative impacts. Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel has even argued the DNR should have no authority over HCWs.

The Little Plover River, a Class 1 trout stream, (Class I streams are those that support reproduction of wild brook trout), now dries up completely in its upper reaches most summers. The Little Plover is in the Central Sands region of the state, the area with the highest concentration of HCWs in the state.

The Wolf River, formerly one of the top trout rivers in Wisconsin, no longer supports reproduction of brook trout. My wife remembers her father bringing home brook trout from his fishing forays on the Wolf, 40 years ago. She also remembers that even on the hottest summer days the water in the Wolf was frigid. She recalls jumping in the water and within 5 minutes her lips and fingers were blue. Today on a hot summer day a person can swim in the Wolf without getting chilled.

Herb Buettner ran a raft rental on the Wolf for decades. In the early years, he cannot remember the Wolf ever getting too low for rafting but now it gets too low several times every summer.

The most likely explanation for these changes are the large number of HCWs in the Antigo flats region, which makes up a major portion of the upper watershed of the Wolf. Drawing down groundwater levels would not only increase water temps but would also reduce base flow levels in area streams during dry periods.

Another threat to trout streams are the growing number of CAFOs throughout the state. Trout are among the most pollution-intolerant fish and will not survive in streams receiving any quantity of manure. Portions of the East Twin River that formerly supported reproducing brook

trout are now completely devoid of fish. Whether that is due to the CAFOs is difficult to prove but the introduction of CAFOs into the watershed coincides with the decline in fish populations.

The DNR has never denied a startup or expansion permit for a CAFO. If CAFO-style agriculture moves into areas of the state with large numbers of trout streams, it logically follows that many of those trout streams will become former trout streams.

However, in the long haul it won't really matter if Wisconsin were to completely stop groundwater depletion and water pollution if something isn't done to slow global climate change. The DNR has predicted that most brook trout streams will be too warm for brook trout by 2050 if drastic changes aren't made to curb warming.

Today the majority party in both the U.S. Senate and the

House of Representatives is dominated by climate change deniers. Pres. Donald Trump has stated that, "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive". This is not a government that will take aggressive action to curb global climate change.

Trout anglers should be furious about our current state and federal government's lack of regard for protecting trout streams, but ironically many of these



A dry Little Plover River

same anglers voted for the very politicians that through their actions and inactions are destroying the future of the sport. Why? you ask; the answer can be summed up in three letters, NRA, (does that stand for National Rifle Association or National Republican Association?).

Many of these anglers also hunt, and the NRA has convinced them if the Democrats take control of Congress and the White House they will confiscate their guns, despite the fact that when the Democrats have had control they have never attempted confiscation. If trout anglers want to get serious about protecting the future of their sport they need to hold politicians feet to the fire and let them know that they will not get their votes unless they protect water quality, stop the depletion of groundwater, and develop serious programs to combat global climate change.

Act for the Climate

By John Hermanson

The emotions that have been evoked by the recent election and its aftermath have led to citizens' action. When it comes to the citizens of Northeast Wisconsin, several strategies to fight for climate change action seem most fruitful.

First, ask our newly-elected U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher to join the bipartisan House Climate Change Solutions Caucus. An even more powerful ask would be for him to consider supporting the proposal of Climate Leadership Council made up of Republican elder statesman Secretary of State James A. Baker III, with former Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Henry M. Paulson Jr., a former secretary of the Treasury.

The Climate Leadership Council is championing a carbon fee and household dividend plan that creates wealth and jobs, reduces health care costs with cleaner air, reduces the risk of military engagement and does not increase the size of government, while being more effective than command-and-control regulatory methods in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They consider such a plan as insurance against what 97% of climate scientists say is primarily human-induced global warming.

<https://www.clcouncil.org>

Another reason for the Republican Party to embrace such legislation is that according to the Yale Program on Climate Communication, in their most recent poll, found "that about half to a majority of Trump voters think global warming is happening and support a variety of climate and clean energy policies." <http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/trump-voters-global-warming/>

There are also Tea Party groups that have been labeled the Green Tea Coalition, whose members are strong renewable energy and individual rights advocates that feel that large utilities are no better than large government. <https://climatechangedoorcounty.com/2017/01/17/qa-bright-spots-and-opportunities-for-solar-in-wisconsin/>

Our former U.S. Representative Reid Ribble's parting words to fellow Republicans was not to overreach in their rule. The Republican Party can own such a proposal of a carbon fee and household dividend while remaining true to their values of less government and letting the marketplace determine winners and losers.

With a climate change skeptic leading the EPA and our own state government discouraging communication on the subject of climate change, it forces us to be our own climate champions, focusing attention on voting with our dollars, along with lowering our carbon footprints of our households, businesses, cities and counties.

Last November, Dane County passed a progressive budget for 2017 with numerous climate-friendly actions, while the town of Middleton passed two resolutions that support action to climate threats.

With a climate change skeptic leading the EPA and our own state government discouraging communication on the subject of climate change, it forces us to be our own climate champions, focusing attention on voting with our dollars, along with lowering our carbon footprints of our households, businesses, cities and counties.

Another hopeful trend, beyond local policy efforts, is the rate of the price drop and current installed cost for solar. According to the Department of Energy's (DOE)

SunShot Initiative, the cost of solar electric systems has dropped 70% since 2010.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) finds it is currently cost effective for households to shift to solar in a quarter to half of the states without factoring in local incentives. They go on to explain that based on their recent analysis the community solar business model is currently competitive in 35-48 states.

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/new-analysis-shows-national-potential-for-solar-power-in-low-income-communi>

The health care costs that Wisconsin shoulders with the creation of 65% of our electricity by coal (health care costs triple the real cost of coal electrical generation) along with the nearly \$16 billion that leaves our states economy to purchase fossil fuels, leaves solar power to be all the more attractive. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2015/mar/18/fossil-fuels-are-way-more-expensive-than-you-think>

Two Rivers is soon to be the home of a new 100-megawatt solar energy plant, the largest in Wisconsin, which will serve 23,000 households with electricity. WPPI Energy is a non-profit, regional power company that serves 51 locally owned electric utilities and has entered into a 20-year power purchase contract. The plant is due to be online in 2021. <http://www.htrnews.com/story/news/2017/01/31/two-rivers-point-beach-solar-plant-nextera-wppi/97296006/>

Solutions exist, now we need the political will. Along with the help of labor, environmental justice, faith- and science-based organizations supporting the growing calls for action, climate change begs to be addressed at multiple levels if we can create enough common ground to stand on.

Resources:

- www.indivisibleguide.com A Practical Guide for Resisting The Trump Agenda
- Door County Climate Change Coalition
- Peoples Climate March, April 29th
- 350.org
- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- RENEW
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association
- The Solutions Project

Empowering Acts Within Reach

By John Hermanson

The potential for despair lurks for many of us who try to change the system from afar. While there is always the danger of failure when you try “to be the change you want”, there are actions you can do that are personally nurturing and significant regarding the reduction of our environmental footprint.

Ask CWAC member Reed Hardy what gets him excited and he explains that with his electric-powered Leaf vehicle, he has saved the burning of 3,000 gallons of gasoline since 2012.

His recently purchased solar array has already prevented the burning of 1,000 pounds of coal in just two months since its installation in January.

Part of what has helped Reed find so much satisfaction in his personal behavior change is his home energy and solar monitor that “reads both my solar energy production AND my off-the-grid energy use”, he said. “And it does so very precisely. I can watch the graphic rise when I turn on a 6-watt LED light bulb! I can watch the solar energy graph rise and fall as clouds pass by.”

The adage that we become what we measure works for Reed and others and it has become a game for his household to find out how they can conserve resources.

Reed is also quick to defend his choices as good long-term investments, with the price of solar and tax credits making his personally-empowering choices an antidote to the nightly news.

The Action in CWAC

By Dean Hoegger

THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES.

PLEASE RENEW.

Membership dues are based on a calendar year, so our membership drive for 2017 began with our Winter Newsletter. Please consider a more generous donation in 2017 if you missed last year. Thank you to the many members who already made a 2017 membership donation. Our membership donations make up a significant part of our budget. Please see your newsletter label or e-mail notice for the last year that you donated.

VOLUNTEER!

Please contact Dean at 920-421-8885 to volunteer at the office. **We are located at A307 MAC Hall, UWGB.** You can help us with issue research, grant writing, newsletter mailing, and office work. We have no interns this semester and need member volunteers on weekly basis, or to help to prep for the banquet. Internships are available for college students for summer and fall semesters. E-mail us for the internship description.

Read below about actions we have taken in the last three months.

Be sure to contact us if an environmental issue arises in your community. CWAC is here to support citizen action. The following are our most significant activities since September.

LEGAL ACTIONS

As a citizen organization, an important function of CWAC is to take legal actions on behalf of our members to protect human health and the environment. Because individual members may be reluctant to file a legal action, the CWAC board believes this is an important part of our mission as an organization. Here are some current legal actions.

CWAC SERVES ON DNR'S NR 151 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

CWAC board members Dean Hoegger and Andy Wallander have served on the committee since its inception in October, 2016. Although not a typical legal action, influencing the rule changes will have legal implications in the form of administrative rules. CWAC has pushed for stricter manure spreading rules including:

- a) No liquid manure spreading by any farms where there is less than 24" of top soil over karst bedrock. There are many farms that have 100's of cows but do not fall under the current CAFO rule of 24".
- b) For CAFOs, which produce millions of gallons of liquid manure, the minimum soil depth should be raised to no less than 36".

Ride the Bus to **Conservation Lobby Day** **Wednesday, March 29**

Clean Water Action Council and Brown County Conservation Alliance will be sponsoring a bus from Northeast Wisconsin to Conservation Lobby Day in Madison on Wednesday, March 29th!

Scheduled Bus Stops:

Green Bay - 6:00 a.m.- Park and Ride 54/57 & Maloney Rd.

De Pere - 6:30 a.m. The bus will leave the De Pere Park and Ride lot 05-02 at US 41 and County G (W. Main St.)

Appleton - 7:00 a.m. The bus will leave the Appleton North Park and Ride lot 44-02 at US 41 and County E (Ballard Rd.)

Oshkosh - 7:45 a.m. The bus will leave the Oshkosh South Park and Ride lot 70-01 at US41 and WIS 44/91 (S. Washburn)

The bus will return after Lobby Day events have concluded.

Sign up to ride the bus today!

For questions: e-mail Seth Hoffmeister,
WI League of Conservation Voters
seth@conservationvoters.org or call 920-249-7400



c) The manure spreading setback to private wells needs to be raised from 75' to 250', the same as for community wells.

d) Spreading of liquid manure to be limited to 3,500 gallons per acre. In the alternative, 3,500 should be the limit per application with sufficient number of days before a second application totaling no more than 7,000 gallons.

e) Liquid manure spreading in areas of closed depressions should not be allowed as they can be direct conduits to groundwater, even when 24" of soil is present.

After the final rules are formulated and published by the DNR, we will need to oppose the expected Wisconsin Dairy Business Association lobby to weaken the rules. More information about the rule revisions can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nonpoint/nr151strategy.html>

UPDATE ON SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (SDWA) PETITION FOR EMERGENCY ACTION, FILED WITH EPA OCTOBER, 2014.

Petitioners include CWAC, Midwest Environmental Defense Center, Environmental Integrity Project, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Clean Wisconsin, and Kewaunee CARES.

Little movement has been made by the EPA on previous requests by the Petitioners for the EPA to take action on non-point pollution sources contaminating wells and to order an entity to provide safe water to affected citizens. A meeting is scheduled with the EPA on March 23 in Chicago at the Region 5 headquarters.

The petition and supporting documents can be found at: www.cleanwisconsin.org/kewaunee-safe-drinking-water

CITIZEN PETITION FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION, FILED OCTOBER 2015.

The 16 petitioners, including CWAC Board members Dean Hoegger and Jim Wagner, and members Bill Iwen, Nancy Utesch, Lynn Utesch, and Elaine Swanson, are represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates.

MEA reports that the EPA considered Petitioners' comments before providing a final investigation protocol in June 2016. Petitioners and MEA are confident that the protocol is a tool with great possibility, but both the DNR and the Wisconsin Legislature must be willing to respond promptly to the EPA's findings if this tool is going to make a real difference.

The EPA spent the remainder of 2016 investigating the Petition and we were hopeful that they would provide the initial findings to DNR and Citizen Petitioners early in 2017. This has not yet happened.

Currently there are only six deficiencies that are now considered resolved. To see the current status of EPA's

review, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-07/documents/wi-lar-status-20160728.pdf>

See petition documents and letters of support at: <https://www.epa.gov/wi/npdes-petition-program-withdrawal-wisconsin-0>

UPDATE ON COAL PILE DUST ACTION

In recent years, complaints of coal pile dust causing air quality concerns in Green Bay near the C Reiss coal piles were increasingly coming to CWAC. In August, CWAC began discussing this concern with attorney Heather Govern, Staff Attorney with the National Environmental Law Center and worked with area residents in the fall to collect dust samples that tested positive for coal dust. (see Winter 2016-2017 for more details.)

After the first test was positive, we determined a second test was needed and sought a donation of \$300 which was provided by state assemblyman Eric Genrich and member Brian Madigan. Follow-up testing will occur in early spring.

Contact us if you have concerns about coal dust pollution in your neighborhood.

S&S AG ENTERPRISES LLC, DOOR COUNTY, PERMIT RENEWAL AND EXPANSION OPPOSITION.

An overflow crowd, many CWAC members turned out for the hearing on March 2 to express their opposition to the expansion. Twenty-six people spoke against the permit renewal including CWAC president Dean Hoegger and resident Sandy Winnemueller whose story we will feature in the Spring CWAC Newsletter. Others wrote opposition letters. Six people spoke in favor of the permit at the hearing.

Here's the link to view further information, including the public notices and proposed permit documents: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

CITIZEN ORGANIZING TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

CWAC sponsored a presentation, "Become Part of the Clean Water Act Enforcement Network on February 6 in Green Bay. Attorneys Barry Blonien and Jimmy Parra gave a presentation to members of the Clean Water, Healthy Communities group and the public about how to monitor pollution permits. The next meeting will be held March 21.

CWAC'S EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Contact us to schedule a presentation for your group on a variety of environmental issues including The Hazards of Manure Spraying, Protect the Waters of the Northeast Wisconsin, The Hazards of Burn Barrels, Communities on the Road to Zero Waste and more. The presentations can be tailored to your group's age and available time. Also, contact us if you would like us promote or co-sponsor your event or presentation.

EXHIBITS

CWAC exhibited at the Citizens Water Lobby Day in Madison on February 3.

PRESENTATIONS

CWAC sponsored a health forum, “Breast Cancer and the Environment” with Dawn Anderson from the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition on February 11. CWAC president Dean Hoegger presented “The Hazards of Manure Spraying” at the Making the Connections 2017 conference in Madison on February 17, and he presented “Protecting the Waters of NE Wisconsin” to the Sunrise Optimists in Green Bay on March 2.



Has your town passed a ban on manure spraying?

WORKSHOPS

CWAC, with support from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and NOAA, hosted a one day workshop, “Improving Your Farm’s Bottom Line with



Managed grazing panelists included Scott Brandenburg, Andy Wallander, David Heidl, Tom Kriegl, and moderator Molly Meyers (not pictured).

Managed Grazing,” which provided dairy and beef farmers the information needed to consider managed grazing as a way to improve profits and reduce workloads, while protecting water resources.

Help us obtain a grant for Health Forums: Protecting Your Family from Toxins in the Home and Environment

CWAC is seeking Thrivent Financial members who will request a community grant for a health forum. One member completed the application in a matter of minutes and received notice of the award in just a few days. Or, you can sponsor a health forum directly at a cost of \$200.

See page 15 for details about our March 30th Health Forum: Gardening with Mother Nature.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Links found on the website have been recently updated and the fall and winter newsletters added. We are working on resolving an issue with some links in newsletters that become inactive once posted to the website.

OUTREACH THROUGH NEWSPAPER AND RADIO

CWAC President Dean Hoegger commented to Green Bay Press Gazette’s Paul Srubas for an article published about water pollution trading and to Scott Williams for an upcoming article regarding the Oconto Water Utility’s request for mercury emission variance eight times the EPA standard. CWAC Vice President Charlie Frisk had two letters to the Press Gazette published: “Alt-right’ term is not all right,” Feb. 5, 2017. “Proposal splits already weakened DNR,” January 8, 2017. He is willing to write an article for you. Just send us an e-mail request.

WEEKLY CWAC UPDATES

Each Tuesday we e-mail a weekly update of actions, alerts, events, and the latest information on topics of concern. Send your postings by Monday evening. If you are a member with an e-mail address and you are not getting the CWAC Weekly Update, check your spam folder before e-mailing us to request to be put on the mailing list. E-mails are sent via Bcc to protect your privacy.



Managed grazing, organic farmer presenter David Heidl

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Meetings, Events and Happenings

Wednesday, March 29

Conservation Lobby Day

Join hundreds from around the state to lobby legislators for action on protecting our water and other natural resources. Training to do so will be provided.

Register or get more information here:

<http://conservationvoters.org/conservation-lobby-day-2017/>

Lobby Day Bus: BCCA and CWAC are sponsoring a bus from Northeast Wisconsin. We will have stops in Green Bay, De Pere, Appleton, and Oshkosh. You can Register for Conservation Lobby Day bus here.

March 29, 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing on the Oconto Utility Commission's Request for Mercury Discharge Increase

DNR Green Bay Service Center, Lake Michigan Room
2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay

Based on a twenty-year old study about the economic efficacy of requiring pollution dischargers to meet the EPA standard of 1.3 ng/L, the DNR proposes to grant a variance to allow up to 9.1 ng/L in the discharge.

Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

CWAC Health Forum: Gardening with "Mother Nature"

Lyric Room, 233 N. Broadway, Green Bay

Learn about converting lawns into productive, bountiful, low maintenance nature preserves that are safe, sensible and WATERWISE with this presentation by Margaret Mary Gerhard. Free garden materials and supplies are available. Please RSVP contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org, call or text 920-421-8885.

Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.

Kewaunee CARES presents water and sediment research results

Algoma Grade School Auditorium, next to City Hall

Come join Kewaunee CARES with a presentation on what has been found by researchers in Kewaunee/Door County water & sediment samples taken from our local rivers and waterways.

Saturday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Astronomy Night

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive

The public is invited to come out and join the Neville Astronomy Club for a night of star gazing. Telescopes and volunteers will be set up on Resch Falls at the Sanctuary. This event is free for everyone. For event details visit http://www.baybeachwildlife.com/events/large-calendar-display/?mc_id=3040

Saturday, April 8, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.

Annual CWAC Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction

Riverside Ballroom, 1560 Main St., Green Bay

Advanced dinner tickets \$25. Dance only tickets \$15.

Call us to arrange pickup or delivery of your silent auction item. See page15 for more information.

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Backstage at the Meyer, 117 South Washington St., Green Bay

The River Alliance of Wisconsin is hosting a touring version of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. It is a collection of films from the annual festival held the third week of January in Nevada City, CA which is now in its 14th year. Wild & Scenic focuses on films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. Join us for an evening of breathtaking, provocative and inspiring films and good company. General admission tickets are \$12 in advance/\$15 day of show and films begin at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Or, upgrade to our VIP tickets and join us for a pre-party at 5:30 p.m. featuring dinner and one free drink.

Learn more at <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/home/events>

Sunday, April 23, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Earth Day at the Wildlife Sanctuary

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Dr., Green Bay

Come enjoy Earth Day at the Sanctuary. Daily events include, Critter Counter 11:00 - 3:00

Enrichment Table 12:00 - 3:00

Quill Thrills 12:00 - 1:00

Otter Odyssey 12:30 - 1:30

Fox Trots 1:00 - 2:00

Wolf Feeding 1:30 - 2:30

Bird of Prey Tour 2:00 - 3:00

3:00 Animal Release

All events are free and open to the public.

For event information visit http://www.baybeachwildlife.com/events/large-calendar-display/?cid=mc-1fa4a091cc05d31edb3f379445e829fc&mc_id=3051

Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Healthy Kids Day

Manitowoc/Two Rivers YMCA

Exhibits and programs will cover the entire 2nd floor of the YMCA, utilizing both gymnasiums and connecting hallways. The County Recycling Facility will once again be holding their drug recycling project on the first floor. The past two years with the YMCA have been a great success, with lots of visitors.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

They will have exhibits, music, food, interactive programs for the kids, door prizes, and a whole lot more.

Friday, May 5, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

May Exhibition: Water

James May Gallery, 213 Steele St., Algoma

An exhibition about WATER. Please join us in this opening that features artists who deal with water in their work and celebrate its importance in our community. A percentage of sales from the night will go to Friends of Crescent Beach and others focused on protecting the water of our area. Admission is free. For event details visit <http://jamesmaygallery.com/art-of-water.html>

Friday, May 12, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

70th Alice in Dairyland Candidate Social, Dinner and Discussion Panel

Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., Green Bay

Wisconsin's Agricultural Ambassador, Alice in Dairyland, has been an iconic figure in our state's history for 69 years. For the first time in over three decades, Brown County is proud to host the selection of the new "Alice." Come meet the candidates vying for this professional public relations and communications position at the Green Bay Botanical Garden Cornerstone Foundation Hall. For event details visit <https://www.greenbay.com/events-calendar/70th-alice-in-dairyland-banquet-and-finale-celebration/>

Monday, May 22, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Family Nature Night: Frogs & Toads

Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Rd., Green Bay

Learn about the plants and animals at the Garden! Wear your walking shoes and let us guide you through a family adventure. Register by May 17. Free for Green Bay Botanical Member Family, \$5/Non-Member Family. For event details visit <http://www.gbbg.org/event/frogstoads/>

It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2017!

(See pg. 17 for our membership form or register online at www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org)

Join Our Planned Giving Circle of Friends

Without planned giving donations or legacies, our organization would not be able to do the work of protecting human health and the environment at its current level. Please consider supporting our endowment fund at the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation with a gift in your will or bequest.

Contact us for a
Planned Giving Brochure.



Yardening with Mother Nature

Sponsored by Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin

Thursday, March 30 6:30-8PM

Lyric Room

233 N. Broadway, Green Bay
RSVP contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org
Call or Text 920-421-8885



Silent Auction, Dinner & Dance for the Environment

Saturday, April 8 @ 5:00 p.m.

Our annual dinner, dance and silent auction will be held at the Riverside Ballroom at 1560 Main St., Green Bay. The program will feature Mark Walter, Business Development Manager at Brown County Port & Resource Recovery and CWAC's *Environmental Citizen of Year*. He will speak about his work to move Brown County and northeast Wisconsin along the path to "zero waste."

There will Door Prizes, a Silent Auction and Zoomie & the Sonics will play for the dance. Please consider ordering a block of tickets to sell to friends. Buy 5 tickets, get one free! Current members are eligible for door prizes at the dinner!

Ticket Order Form for \$25 Advance Tickets (Please place your order by Saturday, April 1)

of tickets _____ @ \$25 each for a total of \$ _____

Send tickets to (name/address):

Please indicate the # of your dinner preference(s):

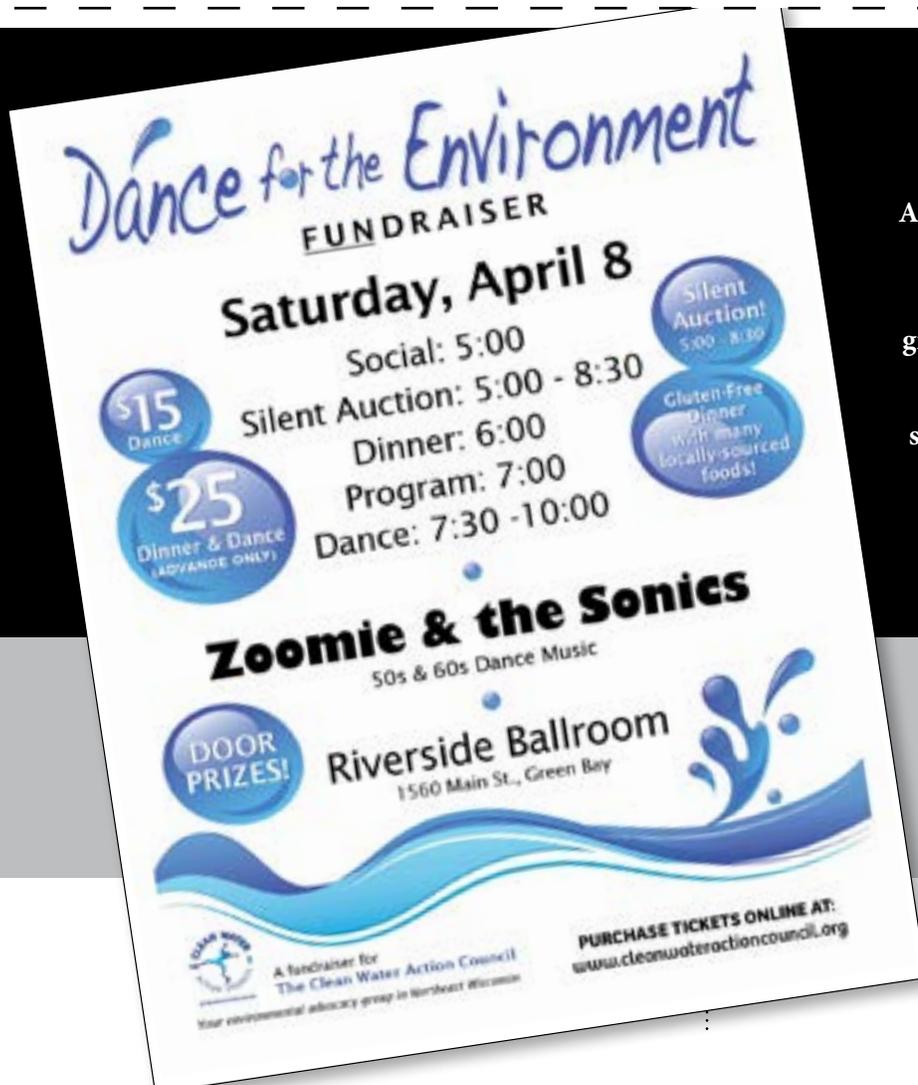
- Chicken Breast (Gluten-free)
 Vegetarian Portabella (Gluten-free)

Phone #: _____ (in case we have a question)

_____ Yes, I have an item for the silent art auction/door prizes. I will bring it by 5:00 or call Dean at 920-421-8885 for prior pickup (preferred).

Please include payment with your order.

Checks payable to: *Clean Water Action Council*
P.O. Box 9144, Green Bay, WI 54308



A NOTE ON THIS YEAR'S TICKET PRICE

After many years of holding the banquet tickets to \$20, we found that we were just breaking even on ticket sales. As we continued to support local and organic growers for banquet food, and to provide vegetarian and gluten free options, the cost of the meal has increased. We will still offer the "Buy 5 tickets, get one free" offer which will bring ticket price close to \$20. As this is our only fundraiser of the year, we hope you will support this ticket price increase.

For free posters, please e-mail us at contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org or call Dean @ 920-421-8885.



Join or Renew Your Membership to Clean Water Action Council for 2017!

Renewal New Member Date _____

() \$20 Individual () \$30 Family (**this amount would really help**)

() \$50 Sustaining () \$100 Donor () \$500 Benefactor

() Non-member donation of \$ _____ for _____

() Other \$ _____

() Please send me information about making a planned gift to CWAC

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Receive FREE newsletters with each membership.

Please choose one...

Printed version E-mailed version

PLEASE VOLUNTEER! (BE SURE TO PROVIDE PHONE NUMBER ABOVE)

the newsletter events work at office mailings

joining or leading one of the committees other

Send check or money order to: **Clean Water Action Council**
P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

*CWAC is a registered non-profit organization.
Your contributions may be tax-deductible. **Thank you!***

COMMITTEES

Non-Point Pollution: Charles Frisk

Special Events: Bev Watkins

Public Health: Dean Hoegger

Membership, Finance and Fund-raising: John Hermanson

Phone numbers are listed under Board Members



Find us on Facebook for updates on hearings and current or upcoming events.

www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org

The newsletter, "Clean Water Action Council of N.E. WI" is published quarterly by the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., P.O. Box 9144, Green Bay, WI 54308, a registered non-profit charitable, educational organization. *Contributions may be tax-deductible.*

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Clean Water Action Council
of Northeast Wisconsin
P. O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

of Northeast Wisconsin

Silent Auction, Dinner & Dance for the Environment

Saturday, April 8
@ 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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For previous newsletters, go to: www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org