

**Testimony before the
Joint Finance Committee
April 14, 1999
Pam Saunders
representing CROPP/Organic Valley**

I employed by Coulee Region Organic Produce Pool (CROPP), headquartered in LaFarge, WI, which markets certified organic dairy, egg, vegetable and meat products under the brand Organic Valley™. I serve as Meat Pool Coordinator. Over our 10 years of existence, CROPP Cooperative has been substantially assisted by the Agricultural Diversification and Development Grant program within DATCP. This program has effectively leveraged state monies by awarding small matching grants to innovative projects spawned by the sustainable and organic agriculture community within this state. In our case, assistance from ADDG has helped in the development of a value-added cooperative, marketing over \$30 million dollars of product nationwide in 1998, from predominately Wisconsin farmers, and creating 250 agriculture related on and off farm jobs in Wisconsin. We are seen as a national leader in the organic food sector. Governor Thompson recently named CROPP the top Rural Development Initiative over the past decade.

The ADDG program is a good start. But the organic industry is poised for more growth. Consumers are increasingly interested in sustainably raised and organic products, reflected in 20% growth in organic sales during every year of the 90s. This represents significant opportunity for Wisconsin farmers. The USDA recently changed their policy to allow organic labeling of meat and poultry products, largely as a result of Organic Valley's efforts. In response we are launching new meat programs within our Cooperative, and we need assistance to support our projected growth.

When we look to our neighbors to the west, we see a startling disparity in assistance available to sustainable agriculture. Minnesota and Iowa both have programs that dwarf Wisconsin's commitment to this sector of our ag economy. Minnesota has a Sustainable Ag program that is staffed by 5.5 FTE employees, with a budget of about \$400,000. In addition, they have a demonstration grant program, similar to our ADDG program, funded at \$210,000. Their program also includes a \$200,000 low interest loan program for farmers.

Iowa also supports a sustainable agriculture program within their Department of Agriculture. This year Iowa unveiled a \$1 million dollar economic development loan program, up to \$200,000 forgivable, targeted to support Iowa food processors engaged in value-added processing, along with a seed money grant and loan program.

Wisconsin can be proud of the assistance it has provided to farmers through the ADDG program. It has clearly resulted in successful, ongoing projects such as CROPP. It is clearly not enough. With \$500,000 allocated to the program for each of the last two years, a portion of that going for direct grants, and no increase proposed, the number of deserving projects that can be supported is severely limited. We need Wisconsin loan programs that can help to support the kind of impressive growth experienced by CROPP in the last few years, with the accompanying need for capital. We need allocated staff within DATCP to serve the needs of the sustainable/organic agriculture community. The farmers are ready to produce, processors to add value, consumers to purchase – the State of Wisconsin needs to become more involved on behalf of our sustainable/organic farmers.



Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy

Protecting the Character of the Rural Countryside

Testimony Regarding Farmland Preservation Provisions In State Budget (AB - 133 /SB - 45)

Finance Committee Hearing - Osceola, WI

4/14/99

Thomas Quinn, Director

When it was first initiated, Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation program was intended to be a partnership between farmers and the citizens of Wisconsin. The program's goals reflected a shared understanding that protecting our base of diversified farms and farmland was important to the economy, environment, and social welfare of our state.

The partnership was straight forward. Farmers would agree to follow sound conservation practices and restrict development on their land, and in exchange the citizens of the state would provide property tax relief and some level of security for farm operations in areas that were designated for exclusive agriculture.

There is no question that over the past decade this sense of partnership has been weakened, and the Farmland Preservation Program has become less effective than it was hoped it would be. The conservation provisions of the program are generally seen as being effective. The land use provisions have been far less effective. In part, this is because over the years they have been weakened and not adequately enforced. But it is also true that times have changed and the economic and social forces affecting farmland protection, especially development pressure, have changed significantly.

The budget proposes a major overhaul of Farmland Protection. Some of these changes are positive, but unfortunately much of the plan misses the mark - especially in the areas of land protection.

What is most discouraging is that for the most part the budget plan misses an historic opportunity to reframe the Farmland Preservation Program in ways that could deal with the most important land use issues we will face in the future - balancing the need for growth with the value of maintaining farming opportunities, and providing security to farmers in long-term planning for their farm operation.

Over the past few years, our organization has been working with a number of communities that want very much to find a fair solution to the development pressures facing farmers and farmland. They are looking at options for establishing purchase of development rights programs, or providing special zoning options for farmers who want to develop a portion of their land. In every case their goals have been to provide fairness to landowners, while finding ways to permanently protect and support their base of farms.

500 East Main Street, Suite 307 ~ Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

Phone (715) 235-8850

FAX (715) 235-8910

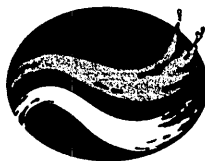
In a sense, they are working to reshape the partnership between farmers and citizens that was the original base of the our Farmland Preservation program. They are working very hard to develop approaches to permanent farmland protection that fit the unique circumstance of Wisconsin's agriculture and rural culture. What these communities need are tools that can help them succeed - most importantly, access to funding. Unfortunately, the budget plan, as currently presented, provides no real tools, and very little leadership.

There are several provisions that if added to the program that could provide support to communities that are looking for options to deal fairly with development pressure.

- Require that local governments include a plan for farmland preservation as part of their comprehensive plan as a condition for having Farmland Preservation Agreements released. It is reasonable to expect that after decades of public commitment to this program, we should at least take the time to plan thoughtfully about farming and farm security.
- Provide for targeting of benefits to areas facing the most serious development pressure, and consider provisions to assist farmers in establishing agriculture security areas.
- Provide that any funds not expended under the proposed \$35 million annual budget be allocated into a special fund for purchasing permanent agricultural conservation easements from farmers.
- Provide an opportunity for several local communities and counties to establish model farmland protection programs. These model programs would provide Wisconsin with a chance to gain valuable experience for future policy initiatives. Model programs could qualify for matching funds from the state if they observed certain requirements: provide for permanent protection of farmland, voluntary participation by farmers, raise matching funds from local and non-state sources, and encourage innovative options and partnerships.
- Provide local governments that have qualified farmland protection programs, that provide for purchasing development rights from willing sellers, with the statutory authority to assess reasonable farmland conversion or mitigation fees when land that was in exclusive agriculture is converted into residential use.

LANDFILL / ADMINISTRATION
(920) 232-1800
FOX CITIES
(920) 727-2884
FAX
(920) 424-1189

100 W. COUNTY RD. Y
OSHKOSH, WI 54901



Winnebago County

Solid Waste
Management Board

The Wave of the Future

RECYCLING FACILITY
(920) 232-1850
FOX CITIES
(920) 727-2896
FAX
(920) 424-4955

LANDFILL GAS FACILITY
(920) 424-4154
LANDFILL GAS FAX
(920) 424-7761

March 26, 1999

Joint Finance Committee
Public Hearing
Brown County Library
Green Bay, Wisconsin

RE: Future Funding of Recycling

AB91 provided for a temporary surtax on businesses to raise 200 million dollars over a period of eight years, ending in April of 1999. The intent of this funding was to cover the learning curve, so to speak, of recycling.

In the early '90's, everyone thought that markets would develop for the banned-from-landfill-materials and that recycling programs would be self-sufficient by 1999. This did not happen.

With the grants to Responsible Units and a tipping fee of \$29.00 per ton for recyclables, Winnebago County has not reached a break-even point after eight years.

Winnebago County has agreements with 15 of the 21 Responsible Units in the county to process their recyclables which terminate December 31, 2007. These agreements were drafted to cover the 4 million dollar cost of the Recycling Facility. The Recycling Facility has a debt service of 2.6 million dollars with a P & I payment of \$275,000 per year at present.

Grant dollars to the Winnebago County Responsible Units were \$794,870 for the year 1999. Under the Governor's Budget Bill for continuance through 2001, these dollars would drop to \$662,000 for year 2000 and \$496,500 for the year 2001 using the present grant structure.

Without a viable funding program to fund the recycling mandate, the individual taxpayer will be hit hard. **Unfunded mandated programs cannot be tolerated in our society.**

Various solid waste and recycling organizations are working on proposals for long-term funding at this time. The theme of most of them is a per ton landfill/transfer station surcharge on all waste and the extending of the sales tax to include solid waste services.

The issue of recycling has the support of the people and there are good ideas out there on how to fund the program in a fair and equitable manner.

Enclosed are some documents for your perusal:

- A. Winnebago County 1999 Responsible Units Grant Dollars
- B. Revenue Per Ton of Recyclables 1994 to Date
- C. Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) Proposal for Funding
- D. Tax Fax – 1/25/99 and 2/01/99

Thank you.



Jim Pennau
Recycling Manager

1999 WINNEBAGO COUNTY R.U. GRANT DOLLARS

Responsible Unit	Population	Grant Dollars	DNR Responsible Unit #
Town of Algoma	4,728	\$13,738	70002
Town of Black Wolf	2,189	\$5,045	70004
Town of Clayton	2,617	\$7,814	70006
Town of Menasha	15,468	\$70,055	70008
Town of Neenah	2,911	\$10,892	70010
Town of Nekimi	1,511	\$3,171	70012
Town of Nepeuskun	680	\$923	70014
Town of Omro	1,745	\$3,468	70016
Town of Oshkosh	3,435	\$11,644	70018
Town of Poygan	911	\$2,326	70020
Town of Rushford	1,416	\$3,683	70022
Town of Utica	1,104	\$3,694	70024
Town of Vinland	1,762	\$3,441	70026
Town of Winchester	1,649	\$2,578	70028
Town of Winneconne	1,860	\$8,424	70030
Town of Wolf River	1,121	\$4,004	70032
Village of Winneconne	2,322	\$10,173	70191
City of Menasha	16,104	\$84,000	70251
City of Neenah	24,606	\$250,079	70261
City of Omro	3,158	\$14,079	70265
City of Oshkosh	62,185	\$281,639	70266
TOTALS	153,482	\$794,870	

Winnebago County Recycling Facility

Revenues Per Ton

JANUARY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
PAPER	17.48	93.33	40.84	31.53	45.73	32.48
CONTAINERS	78.62	112.13	90.24	94.16	102.82	42.18
TOTAL	41.38	100.43	57.88	50.71	61.90	35.61
FEBRUARY						
PAPER	27.90	105.74	44.89	35.50	42.24	38.73
CONTAINERS	53.41	128.24	74.34	83.30	75.30	49.38
TOTAL	36.60	112.83	56.60	49.19	51.45	42.16
MARCH						
PAPER	19.17	124.55	42.53	36.57	46.80	
CONTAINERS	70.92	116.44	62.10	94.87	79.51	
TOTAL	47.45	122.00	51.14	56.40	55.83	
APRIL						
PAPER	38.02	154.10	34.97	30.69	43.52	
CONTAINERS	67.80	127.04	74.51	77.34	85.36	
TOTAL	44.75	145.52	53.39	44.12	55.95	
MAY						
PAPER	38.34	209.60	35.68	32.83	39.46	
CONTAINERS	47.60	132.13	66.82	103.69	97.50	
TOTAL	40.88	183.84	49.57	54.49	50.10	
JUNE						
PAPER	40.05	195.09	13.04	38.94	37.95	
CONTAINERS	72.23	111.78	81.84	109.78	85.21	
TOTAL	49.06	166.64	28.17	59.54	52.06	
JULY						
PAPER	N/A	157.44	15.34	39.54	38.96	
CONTAINERS	N/A	152.13	78.56	90.91	91.57	
TOTAL	N/A	155.54	25.33	54.86	52.77	
AUGUST						
PAPER	N/A	123.95	18.52	53.94	48.80	
CONTAINERS	N/A	114.99	74.35	104.44	67.10	
TOTAL	N/A	121.32	34.13	68.56	48.82	
SEPTEMBER						
PAPER	N/A	108.76	27.69	50.33	36.32	
CONTAINERS	N/A	120.45	77.18	93.08	73.71	
TOTAL	N/A	112.53	44.53	64.25	46.33	
OCTOBER						
PAPER	77.01	81.88	28.07	47.68	35.94	
CONTAINERS	84.90	95.76	58.46	129.78	71.10	
TOTAL	79.29	86.11	36.51	68.34	44.55	
NOVEMBER						
PAPER	83.55	47.51	29.33	44.17	32.50	
CONTAINERS	110.90	82.49	67.08	82.82	58.63	
TOTAL	89.64	59.27	41.10	55.54	39.77	
DECEMBER						
PAPER	95.53	33.75	30.22	42.62	29.38	
CONTAINERS	95.16	77.91	96.52	104.59	40.97	
TOTAL	95.42	52.21	48.90	59.90	32.61	

Proposal for State Funding of Recycling Adopted by the Board of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin January 21, 1999

Proposal

Use the following sources to raise funds for cost sharing grants to RUs and to provide funding for existing state agency programs:

1. Extend the sales tax to solid waste services, maintaining the current exemption for waste reduction and recycling services.
2. Add a per ton landfill/transfer station surcharge on all waste.
3. For the disbursement of funds, provide uniform per capita grants to RUs, rather than the current percentage cost sharing grants.

Disadvantages of this Proposal

1. Like most forms of funding, these sources are expected to be opposed by the solid waste industry and waste generators, which generally favor GPR funding.
2. The Dept of Revenue will oppose segregating sales taxes, although other state sales taxes are segregated.
3. The solid waste industry will feel that sales tax exemption for municipalities will create an unlevel playing field, but they have already privatized almost all the municipal systems that they can. Sales taxes will be charged at municipally-owned landfills, just as at private sites.

Advantages of this Proposal

1. Landfill fees were strongly supported by surveys of AROW and WCSWMA members.
2. Provides a source of funding related to waste produced.
3. Provides an incentive for waste reduction and recycling.
4. The sales tax adds stability to the revenue source.
5. Both sources of revenue will be easy to administer.
6. The sales tax will be easier for the solid waste industry to sell to customers than a large tipping fee increase.
7. Use of the sales tax will reduce need for the tipping fee, making it easier for municipalities to afford.
8. Use of the sales tax will largely exempt the high volume industrial waste, since they often use their own landfills or their own transportation services.
9. These sources of funding are similar to what is in use in Minnesota, which was previously supported by WMC.
10. Illinois and Iowa also have landfill fees; this proposal levels the playing field between states.
11. The per capita payment to RUs provides an easy to administer source of funding to RUs, which can be budgeted for by the RUs, and which promotes cost effectiveness for recycling programs by avoiding extra payments for extra reported costs.
12. Will provide a slight disincentive for the disposal of out-of-state waste in Wisconsin by increasing landfill fees both from the landfill surcharge and the sales tax.

January 25, 1999 • Report #2

TAX FAX

WMC: Committed to removing Wisconsin from the Top 10 taxing states

WISCONSIN RANKS THIRD IN STATE, LOCAL TAX BURDEN

RANKING JUMPS TO #2 WITH FEDERAL TAXES

For 1998, Wisconsin ranked third in state and local taxes as a percent of income, according to the non-partisan Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C. Wisconsin residents pay 13.5 percent of their income in state and local taxes, reports the U.S. Census Bureau. Wisconsin's rankings jump to 2nd in the nation when federal taxes are included with 37.3 percent of income paid in taxes. The following chart is from the Tax Foundation and shows Wisconsin's ranking compared to other states. The U.S. average state and local tax burden, as a percent of income, is 11.4 percent. Wisconsin's state and local tax burden is 16 percent higher than the national average.

	PER CAPITA INCOME	PER CAPITA STATE/LOCAL TAXES	STATE/LOCAL TAXES AS % OF INCOME		PER CAPITA INCOME	PER CAPITA STATE/LOCAL TAXES	STATE/LOCAL TAXES AS % OF INCOME		
1	Hawaii	\$26,941	\$3,823	14.2%	26	Nevada	29,660	3,343	11.3
2	New York	33,564	4,564	13.6	27	Iowa	25,850	2,924	11.3
3	Wisconsin	26,499	3,584	13.5	28	Oregon	26,750	3,008	11.2
4	Maine	23,792	3,174	13.3	29	Maryland	30,954	3,441	11.1
5	Minnesota	29,799	3,913	13.1	30	Delaware	31,819	3,534	11.1
6	Connecticut	38,964	5,007	12.9	31	Michigan	28,565	3,139	11.0
7	Utah	22,496	2,856	12.7	32	Indiana	25,444	2,809	11.0
8	New Mexico	20,885	2,585	12.4	33	Illinois	30,839	3,391	11.0
9	Mississippi	20,047	2,474	12.3	34	Arizona	24,870	2,739	11.0
10	California	29,160	3,497	12.0	35	West Virginia	20,204	2,184	10.8
11	Vermont	25,370	3,023	11.9	36	North Carolina	25,480	2,745	10.8
12	Rhode Island	27,639	3,296	11.9	37	Colorado	29,272	3,164	10.8
13	Kentucky	22,643	2,703	11.9	38	Oklahoma	22,153	2,365	10.7
14	Washington	28,908	3,401	11.8	39	North Dakota	23,933	2,554	10.7
15	Missouri	26,334	3,072	11.7	40	Montana	21,215	2,271	10.7
16	Idaho	21,663	2,535	11.7	41	South Dakota	23,838	2,532	10.6
17	Kansas	26,394	3,058	11.6	42	Florida	27,655	2,944	10.6
18	Arkansas	21,586	2,510	11.6	43	Texas	25,563	2,690	10.5
19	South Carolina	22,624	2,604	11.5	44	Virginia	28,326	2,923	10.3
20	Pennsylvania	26,194	3,013	11.5	45	Louisiana	22,128	2,257	9.8
21	Nebraska	26,688	3,057	11.5	46	Alabama	22,670	2,146	9.5
22	Georgia	26,398	3,036	11.5	47	Tennessee	24,591	2,118	8.6
23	Ohio	26,684	3,033	11.4	48	Wyoming	23,118	1,823	7.9
24	New Jersey	35,559	4,053	11.4	49	New Hampshire	30,034	1,959	6.5
25	Massachusetts	34,469	3,926	11.4	50	Alaska	25,582	1,557	6.1
						U.S. AVERAGE	\$27,876	\$3,191	11.4%

Call 1-800-362-9472 and tell your legislator, "Cut taxes and get Wisconsin out of the top 10!"



For more information, call 608/258-3400 or visit our web site at www.wmc.org. WMC is a statewide association of 4,600 member companies employing more than 500,000 people. Promoting a healthy business climate since 1911, it is a unification of the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association, the State Chamber of Commerce, and the Wisconsin Council of Safety.

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce • PO Box 352 • Madison, WI 53701-0352 • www.wmc.org



TAX FAX

WMC: Committed to removing Wisconsin from the Top 10 taxing states

MULTI-STATE RANKINGS

The U.S. Census Bureau reports Wisconsin continues to rank high in all areas of state/local taxes per \$1,000 of personal income compared to the rest of the country. The following tables are based on 1994-1995 U.S. Census Bureau data provided by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. Figures are the most recent available. The tables state Wisconsin's rankings in individual income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes and corporate taxes. Last year, the non-partisan Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C. reported Wisconsin ranks second in total tax burden as a percent of income. Wisconsin's citizens are being taxed well beyond their ability to pay. **Recent surpluses in state tax collections should therefore be sent back to Wisconsin citizens in the form of tax relief.**

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES

RANK	STATE	COLLECTIONS PER \$1000 OF INCOME
1.	New York	\$44.31
2.	Oregon	\$43.94
3.	Maryland	\$40.42
4.	Maine	\$37.28
5.	Wisconsin	\$36.50
6.	Kentucky	\$35.18
7.	Minnesota	\$34.98
8.	Ohio	\$34.43
9.	Delaware	\$33.88
10.	North Carolina	\$33.23

PROPERTY TAXES

RANK	STATE	COLLECTIONS PER \$1000 OF INCOME
1.	New Hampshire	\$60.60
2.	Vermont	\$54.74
3.	New Jersey	\$54.20
4.	Maine	\$53.15
5.	Rhode Island	\$51.02
6.	Montana	\$50.54
7.	Wisconsin	\$49.01
8.	Alaska	\$47.91
9.	Wyoming	\$47.78
10.	New York	\$47.55

CORPORATE INCOME TAXES

RANK	STATE	COLLECTIONS PER \$1000 OF INCOME
1.	Alaska	\$37.38
2.	Delaware	\$11.05
3.	New York	\$10.40
4.	Michigan	\$9.90
5.	California	\$7.96
6.	Massachusetts	\$7.52
7.	Indiana	\$7.31
8.	West Virginia	\$7.06
9.	Connecticut	\$7.01
10.	Pennsylvania	\$6.59
14.	Wisconsin	\$6.23

SALES TAXES

RANK	STATE	COLLECTIONS PER \$1000 OF INCOME
1.	Washington	\$57.94
2.	New Mexico	\$53.07
3.	Hawaii	\$47.89
4.	Nevada	\$44.13
5.	Arizona	\$43.26
6.	Tennessee	\$41.68
7.	Louisiana	\$41.37
8.	Mississippi	\$39.83
9.	Utah	\$39.00
10.	Arkansas	\$36.96
33.	Wisconsin	\$25.19

Call 1-800-362-9472 and tell your legislator, "Cut taxes and get Wisconsin out of the top 10!"



For more information, call 608/258-3400 or visit our web site at www.wmc.org. WMC is a statewide association of 4,600 member companies employing more than 500,000 people. Promoting a healthy business climate since 1911, it is a unification of the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association, the State Chamber of Commerce, and the Wisconsin Council of Safety.



*Very good but -
AT WHOSE EXPENSE?*

ANSWER

**Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.
CRZLR, Inc.**

P.O. Box 16 Maiden Rock WI 54750 Tel/FAX 715-448-3213

Presentation by Marilyn F. Hayman
to

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting to discuss the GOVERNORS'S BUDGET

Osceola High School, Osceola, Wisconsin

April 14, 1999

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Marilyn Hayman. I am past President and current Chairman of the Board of Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.

This organization wishes to go on record opposing further support for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. This non-elected body, working with non-elected agencies and private, preservationist-oriented organizations does not represent the interests, nor the will of the people of this area. Together, they are systematically working to deprive citizens of their right to control and use private property.

Dan McGuinness, their former Executive Director expressed their philosophy in a letter to the Editor, (Pierce County Herald, April 15, 1997) describing the BAC as a forum to promote, "...*different values* about the rights and responsibilities related to land use and land ownership." (emphasis added) That smacks of rewriting the 5th Amendment!

Their interest in controlling private land is illustrated by their involvement in the St. Croix Riverway. They have actively promoted expansion of the area suggesting, "... *the need for a more comprehensive ... management ... **ever-expanding geographic scopes... The Riverway ... The Viewshed... The Watershed.***" (Minutes, Lower St. Croix Management Commission, 5-25-95).

They held a series of meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1990 to promote regulations along the Mississippi River, but met with massive opposition. They were obliged to report opposition to the State Legislature. Never-the-less, they continued to promote bluffland management based on, "... ***our sense of the situation...***" (Emphasis added; Pierce County Herald, 10-16-91).

Board of Directors:

Jack E. Brown
Vernon Martin

William Holst III
Francis H. Ogden
Joe Wieser

Dr. Ernest Larson
Frederick Richter

They have since held numerous meetings to promote this objective, a good example being a Planners' Forum scheduled for June 1995. They issued 550 invitations. Although they were discussing "protection and management," of private land, property owners and representatives from business were NOT INVITED.

Mr. McGuiness portrayed the BAC as a "... conduit for public values and opinions..." A transcript of their Onalaska meeting on February 20, 1997 gives a different view. The Committee, along with several guests, discussed whether the BAC should participate in a citizen-sponsored meeting in southeastern Minnesota. One of the reasons for their unwillingness was the fact I, too, had been invited. The meeting turned into an orgy of character assassination, slander and libel, at taxpayer expense.

The tape revealed Senator Morse disapproved of BAC participation and they were concerned over his position as chairman of the Minnesota budget committee.

One of the Commissioners suggested if they were to attend they would need to "...take control of the process (by means of) a number of specific steps..." including:

"... the opening and closing words..."

"To control the crowd, questions from the audience (would be) repeated by the person at the microphone.

"... an official video tape

"... registration at the only entrance to the hall, so that everyone who comes in could be identified... and,

"... advanced copies of everyone's planned speech..."

I have provided two copies of a complete transcript of that meeting for your respective Chairmen. I would urge you to take time to review this material before you decide they deserve further public funding.

Government is too big; it spends too much money; there are too many bureaucrats. Though disbanding the BAC is a small step, it is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present our position.

April 14, 1999

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Osceola, Wisconsin

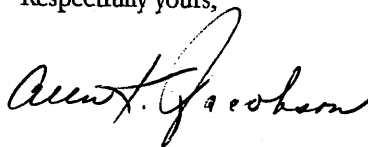
Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Thompson for allocating funds to continue elk reintroduction in Wisconsin. I would also like to thank this committee for allowing me to express our views.

As some of you may be aware from the media, Jackson County is actively working toward getting an elk herd of our own. Even though our efforts and the funding for additional elk were coincidental, the timing is perfect. The citizens of Jackson County are very enthusiastic about our prospects of getting elk as we recognize its significance to both the local area and the State. We believe that when the time and conditions exist to make it possible to help restore the biodiversity that existed before its destruction, it is our obligation to do that.

Speaking on behalf of the citizens of Jackson County, numerous wildlife organizations, and elk admirers statewide, I strongly urge the committee to support that portion of the budget, which provides funding for this magnificent animal.

Respectfully yours,



Allen K. Jacobson, Chairman
JACKSON COUNTY ELK PROJECT

WASHBURN COUNTY ZONING ADMINISTRATION

**Craig Conroy, Administrator
Court House, P.O. Box 506, 10 Fourth Avenue
Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871
Telephone 715-468-4690 Fax 715-468-4693**

April 12, 1999

Joint Finance Committee
State Capital
Madison WI 53707

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

I strongly support the Department of Natural Resources request for approval of the "5410 Wisconsin Waters Initiative".

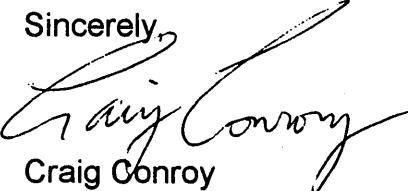
As Zoning Administrator of Washburn County, I deal daily with the enormous pressure being placed on our water resources. This ever-increasing pressure is common throughout the northern counties. Permit volume and other actions have more than doubled in the last few years, stretching already understaffed County and State offices beyond their limits.

Northern counties have historically relied on Department staff for assistance with technical issues in the water programs, as well as referring public requests that fall solely within Department jurisdiction. Staffing for these vital programs has not even come close to demands for service, causing delay to public requests for service, and harm to streams, lakes and wetlands. The 5410 Initiative will provide an additional 12 positions, about one-fourth of what is actually needed, which is still a strong step in the right direction. Eighteen northern Counties have 72% of the states lakes. Sixteen northern Counties are in the process of upgrading their shoreland protection standards, and need technical assistance from WDNR. It is time to place the positions where the resources are, in the North. Certainly other parts of the State warrant assistance as well; however, the short fall is the greatest in the North, with over 1500 lakes per person under current staffing.

It is absolutely necessary to provide staff to address the demands and pressures on our water resources, further is necessary to assign the staff to where the resources are actually located.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Craig Conroy
Zoning Administrator

St. Croix Basin Partners Team

W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801
Phone: 715-635-7406 Fax: 715-635-6741
E-mail: John.Haack@ces.uwex.edu
Web Page: clean-water.uwex.edu/stcroix



April 12, 1999

Joint Finance Committee
State Capital
Madison WI 53707-7882

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is concerning the proposal for the Wisconsin Waters Initiative, Decision Item 5410. We are a group of conservation agencies and citizens concerned with natural resource issues in the St. Croix Basin. Our group works to develop better coordination and collaboration among agencies and groups working to promote and implement sound resource management.

Northern Wisconsin is a unique landscape that attracts tourists and residents alike; it is a place with one of the world's largest concentration of fresh water lakes. The quality of our lakes attracts vacationers, residents and businesses to the north. The ability of the Department of Natural Resources water staff is being overwhelmed by the large influx of residents and second home owners developing these shorelines. The waters that attract folks to the north are threatened by unfortunate side effects of poorly enforced shoreland rules due to lack of education and lack of staff to enforce and educate. DNR staff is over-extended in the north, with hundreds of lakes assigned to a single individual along with the responsibility to coordinate water permits, wetland rules and oversee shoreland-zoning programs for several counties.

Supporting the original DNR request would offer a partial solution to this issue. Clearly, development will continue in the north. Protecting our quality surface waters will help maintain the very thing that draws tourists, residents and businesses to our lake regions. It is a small-price to pay and a wise investment in the future for all of us. Once lake systems are degraded, restoration efforts prove to be very costly and often are not very effective. Protection is really a better strategy and investment. The people of the State need and deserve the opportunity to protect our surface waters. While we feel the Governor's recommendation for \$455,100 (7FTE) is a good start, we ask that you support the request for the original \$1,590,800 (12FTE). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Conroy".

Craig Conroy (On Behalf of the St. Croix Basin Partners Team)

St. Croix Basin Team Members: Burnett Co. Land & Water Conservation Dept., Washburn County Zoning Office, MN-WI Boundary Area Commission, National Park Service, Wisconsin DNR, University Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Washburn Co. Forest Service, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, St. Croix Tribal Natural Resources

Testimony in Support of a Statewide Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Coordinator

**Christine L. Thomas
Joint Finance Committee Meeting
Stevens Point, WI
April 13, 1999**

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of a project that could be important to the future of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin.

Initiative

While this initiative is not currently in the budget, I am asking you to consider adding a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) coordinator to be funded in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources budget.

Background

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program is an international project that was started in Wisconsin in 1991. It has grown from one workshop at the Treehaven Field Station that year to a program that has been embraced by 43 state resource management agencies and nine Canadian provincial agencies. During 1998 12,000 North American women participated in this project. The Wisconsin BOW program has now grown from one workshop to six weekend workshops. Last year 450 women participated in a variety of educational opportunities.

Rationale

This project could have significant future budget implications. Research has shown that women who attend BOW workshops significantly increase their purchases of licenses and equipment and become more interested in natural resource management. In a state like Wisconsin where fishing license sales have dropped and 5% of state revenue comes from hunting and fishing-related tourism, an investment in the future of these activities could pay great dividends.

Wisconsin is the state where this project began. We are a leader in the idea, but a follower in the effort. A number of states including Minnesota have created BOW coordinator positions through legislative action, while 40 states have created full or part-time BOW coordinator positions through agency action. I am asking you to make the small investment necessary to institutionalize this popular and important effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rep. Gard

**Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.
CRZLR, Inc.**

P.O. Box 16 Maiden Rock WI 54750 Tel/FAX 715-448-3213

April 16, 1997

The Hon. Tommy Thompson
State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Thompson:

And here is, "*The rest of the story*" -- a transcript of the BAC meeting at Onalaska WI on Feb. 20, 1997. Mr. McGuiness' letter of April 15, 1997 is a smooth attempt to cover up a very nasty situation.

Besides being a forum for character assassination, it should become clear, the BAC is being controlled by Democratic Senator Steve Morse, Chairman of the Minnesota Budget Committee, as a tool to forward his state land use policy.

As a Republican Governor, who has sworn to protect landowners' rights, do you feel Wisconsin taxpayers should be spending their money to further Democratic Senator Morse's personal agenda of controlling and managing private farm and forest lands in the State of Minnesota?

It should also become obvious, the BAC is **not** "...a conduit for public values and opinions..." as Mr. McGuiness claims, but rather is a forum to promote, "...different values about the rights and responsibilities related to land use and land ownership," (emphasis added) as expressed in his Letter to the Editor. It smacks of rewriting the 5th Amendment!

Knowing hundreds of Farm Bureau members in Minnesota and Wisconsin, I can assure you it is not their intent to have Senator Morse, with the help of the BAC, redesign their responsibilities of land ownership.

We hereby request Wisconsin drop out of the 1965 Boundary Area Compact, or if this is impossible, to start interstate hearings of the BAC and their connections with Senator Morse.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Very truly


Marilyn E. Hayman, President

Board of Directors:

Jack E. Brown
Vernon Martin

William Holst III
Francis H. Ogden
Joe Wieser

Dr. Ernest Larson
Frederick Richter

TRANSCRIPTION OF MEETING

MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION

(M/W BAC)

FEBRUARY 20, 1997

Trascription by Marilyn F. Hayman
President, Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowner Rights, Inc.

Chairman ???: ... There was one other that Comm Bob Mallaley went to which he's very interested in anyway... He's a Town Board Chairman here in Wisconsin and... uh Wi has some of its own ititiatives, of course... But we do conduct public forums ...

I know we've been accused of trying to railroad things... Alan Russell is one of the more ??? ones, but that is not our mission. Our mission is to gather people together, let them discuss it in a rational manner, understand each other, hopefully, and uh voice their opinions so that opinion can go back to the legislators and to the agencies, where they're going to make the decisions ultimately. Yes?

New speaker: At Big River we try to give a lot of points of view to the issues and we have kinda decided to exclude Marilyn Hayman as a source of information and one of the reasons was I was at one of the meetings she was and ??? you were there and a couple of weeks later I was at a meeting at Winona High School.

At the beginning of the meeting they showed this video called Big Park that shows people in Park Service uniforms swooping down on a farm family to kinda cute country music and holding them at gunpoint and tying them to chairs and loading them into a truck to take over their farm. This was the beginning of the meeting.

Then Marilyn got up there and told everyone that she had just found out, and she was at the Winona meeting, that they wanted to expand the corridor to take the entire driftless region which she said went from Madison to Albert Lea MN and they were going to move all of the people out of there and return it to nature and I swear to you that's what she told the people there. So if you're asking... if you're going to be at a meeting where she's on the agenda you may want a clear disclaimer, because it was an outrageous meeting.

Next speaker: Well I was asked to come to this meeting by our chair of our Steering Committee, partly because I live near to get some clarification... Mr. Chairman you used the word railroad... people on our steering committee, this is the Houston Fillmore side really feel we're being railroaded into participating in this meeting. Uh I have the minutes from our Feb. 5 meeting and I'm not sure when the schedule with Comm. Grawe, but at our Feb. 5 meeting, one of the commissioners said this meeting was being sponsored by the Boundary Area Commission and this was on Feb. 5, uh, and I see on looking at this flyer, it's being sponsored by a number of groups and includes Farmers' Union from Winona, Houston and Fillmore counties.

I'm the president of Farmers Union and we've never been asked for sponsorship of this meeting, and I just saw that now... so, you know... I guess we would like to know if you're sponsoring this... if you've decided as a group to sponsor this meeting, and exactly why. In our side of the project, we've been going for nearly a year and a half and we've had literally, probably a

hundred meetings that are open to the public and we've had various attendance from a few to 50 or 60 maybe 80 people.

We've had anywhere between 5 to 600 people in the two counties participate in some function of our project. If you don't know about the Common Visions project from Houston and Fillmore Counties, you'll never know. (haha) We've have endless news articles, we've had endless meetings with local elected officials and with city government as well. You know, we're wondering, who this meeting is for and what's going to be of benefit there that hasn't already been presented to the public and that the public hasn't been involved in.

Chair: Go ahead.

New Speaker - Ken?: I'd just like to give you some information and to address it to Robin too. I would like to go back about two (?3) years ago when I was concerned about the expenditure of funds and finding what I call ---- in southeastern Mn Balkans project and some of the ways that project is organized. I got involved; I talked consistently with local issues and local people and I was appointed, or nominated, to be on the steering committee of Fillmore/Houston County part of that project.

I've been with that project since its beginning... I still have some questions about ??? delegated funds, but I would like you to know that up until perhaps 9 months ago, I felt there was some legitimacy in some of the ??? and local activities within our group.

As of the last half year at least I seriously doubt if there is a legitimacy of these people in any constructive way towards our group and what we're trying to achieve and indeed I feel they are actually trying to sabotage the whole process.

More recently, about three months now, we had convened into a natural resource planning group and asked Larry Gates who's a DNR manager of watershed in MN to address our group with information and we were descended on by a disruptive body of people with video cameras etc. and he intentionally asked they... told them... that he would not continue if they used their camera and indeed what it was, myself included, as professionals, that I would be photographed and spliced in or edited in as a planning professional who was contributing to ??? taking land from people by the United Nations or God knows what.

I was so upset after that meeting that I wrote a letter to Sen. Morse and I called Sen. Morse about that activity and I more or less informally resigned from being a part of this group, so I seriously wonder if it's appropriate at this time, given the volatility of the environment here, to come in as a positive pro-active planning commission and take part in and even encourage this kind of behavior.

Now, if indeed the forum were set up with, I would say, the right kind of controls, maybe it's an issue... ??? the capital in MN. ... seriously an issue for the Governor's office.

I don't think this body should contribute to any more hostility by supporting anything that would even lend to this kind of act.

Chair: Part of our mission is to hold public meetings, to inform the public and to let groups of the public inform each other and as I said, other agencies. I think it is very worth while that we do that. How we control the volatility, I don't know.

We were involved in one... Where was that? Bay Port? (Voice: Bay City) Bay City where we just about had to shut it down because Alan Russell, who's part of PLOW, along with Marilyn Hayman, they just kept shouting and shouting and wouldn't let the meeting to continue on.

But, does that mean we should just put our tail between our legs and say that we won't have public meetings, we won't let you communicate with each other? I think it's important that everyone does communicate

Bob Hurt, with the Winona County common Visions project... I learned about the meeting almost two weeks ago... one of the individual planners approached me and explained who the people were that planned the meeting, what the supposed agenda was. We had about an hour meeting and I asked a lot of questions. Since then I had another member of the planning group contact me also.

I also indicated my hesitation because of the track record of (pause) **Marilyn Hayman**, some of her groups, I guess if there's another individual... I'm not aware of Don... (voice "Parmeter") Parmeter, is it, from northern MN, I believe? and it's difficult, you know, property rights is the big thing, but I found out there are some other issues.

First of all, I like to say something about the common visions project. 'Sounds very similar to what the Boundary Area Commission is trying to do, having an open forum for people with different viewpoints, trying to look at tough issues, in our case, primarily about land use. Uh, we have been doing that for a year and a half. We've had everything that Ken said about his group. We've had newspaper articles, television, been on the radio numerous times, front page coverage on Sunday newspapers. This has been open, very open process.

Our board has more property rights people on it... not our board... our steering committee... has more people with a property rights agenda than not. (Muffled questioner). A 12 member steering committee. Uh, the 55 member advisory committee is probably pretty equal... equally based... I'm not sure. We... on the property rights issue... our group has had 3 meetings, one of which we brought in 3 speakers on the property rights issue, plus we held a 2 day conference in Winona, when we had two speakers, almost half of one day, devoted to legal issues... property rights issues, that this.

We have very openly said, there are various viewpoints and what our project is attempting to do, is not to have people isolated here and isolated here, but people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and see what common ground we have and try to work out differences. We know there is hostility out there... the goal of our project is not to stir the fire, but rather to bring people together and to try to work together, a unique concept, not done very often. That's what we're trying to do

Chair That's a tough job.

Bob Hurt : It is. And when I started finding out who the people were who were putting it together, they're the folks that have been writing the nastiest letters to the Editor, about... and actually trying to undermine the project... not all of them, but a good number of them... and my answer to them, my suggestion to them, and, and basically those folks are concerned about their government as a lot of people are in this country right now... my suggestion to them is if you don't want big government coming down on them, then participate at local level. Roll up your sleeves and be willing to listen to people with opposite viewpoints than you have and try to work at the grassroots level. If you try to undermine the grassroots process, then you're gonna have big government, you're gonna have chaos...

and I also... let me go on for a few more minutes... I apologize because I do feel fairly passionate about this after working for nearly a year and a half of trying to get people to come together. It's a very difficult job to get people to come together and talk to one another. The group that

??? the number of people that are sponsoring are not instilling trust, or rather distrust, in a very lopsided agenda.

The... uh... one of the individuals called me later... and this gets beyond property rights now, and frankly assured me, "We're not trying to get you Bob..." Not trying to get me... I'm not going to mention the individual, but he did say then, "We're trying to get Sen. Morse. We're trying to get..." You see? Okay?

I spoke with ??? Dahlen, Republican, past Sec'y of Agriculture for the State of MN and also past legislator, Republican legislator, he said to me, "I hate to say it Bob, but this is becoming a partisan thing, and," he said, "common visions should absolutely not be partisan, whatsoever." We're trying to locally work together and there have been a few people who have been disrupting this whole process of having it open and equal and I guess that I resent that there's all the hard work that a lot of people have put is trying to be washed away by a few people that want to undermine this process.

It rally infects their... Last night we had a steering committee meeting... after that meeting I spent two hours with two of the individuals that were planning it. We talked about concensus bringing people together, working together, they said to me, "When it comes to property rights, there's no working together, there's war." Those were their words, directly out of their mouths, two individuals. **My point is, war is either a win/lose or a lose/lose. Common visions is about win/win. As much as we can get.** When... when the sponsors of this supposedly meeting have that attitude, I feel like I'm being set up. And I feel like other people are being set up.

Chair: ???

Female voice: ???

Chair: I met with Governor Thompson, governor Wisconsin, and several other Senators and Congressmen and the end results of that meeting was that we don't want it to come from the top down, we want it to come from the grassroots, from the bottom up. And Wisconsin has been going through land use planning county by county and they start with the township. So I can agree with all of that and I can agree with what you're saying, but, if you don't have meetings, how can you ever get together?

Hurt: Well, we also had numerous, numerous, numerous meetings with all factions. The property rights issue is one single issue that we've addressed more than any other one single issue over the last year and a half. It's the issue that's had more involvement.

Male voice: Sure.

Bob Hurt: Period.

Chair: Robin, and then over here, and then Dan.

Robin: Uh, First of all, a couple of comments. I don't want war either. I recognize this is an explosive issue. I've been reading in the paper and I've seen that you've been having problems. To me, that's not a reason for us not to have a meeting and the meeting is not to undermine you,... perhaps it can even serve to relieve some tension... to get some things said in another forum that are not appropriate for your forum, or something like that...

It does not mean that we endorse any particular views and I appreciate the suggestion of the disclaimer and you notice when I introduced it I said this does not mean that we are endorsing any of the ideas... I think that's probably a suggestion worth taking. We at the beginning say

we're not endorsing any of these ideas... we were asked to put these together by a group of citizens.

It has repeatedly said to me this is not supposed to be a war, it's supposed to be informational. There are supposed to be rules and things like that. If you feel railroaded I don't know why, because I didn't call you; nobody from our office called you and, you know, I mean, I don't understand that. You can say yes or no to be part of it, so I don't know why you feel railroaded as being part of it. It is not... I... I understand that uh there are a lot of different personalities involved here, but Edgar has repeatedly said to me, "This is supposed to be informational it is not supposed to be war and disruptive," and that is the intent that people have conveyed to me, repeatedly, so...

Muffled male voice ???

Second male voice: Just three points, Robin, that come to mind. ??? First off, I'm about as grassroots as you can get ???(muffled)??? and I sense very definitely that there is a struggle between governments being played out at the local base... there's plenty of politics and I would resent people are being used to resolve issues that are much, much greater than they can even comprehend.

One of the most distressing incidents that happened to me was to find out that a body of foresters were very, very actively involved with the property rights /wise use group at the local level and then indeed that the director of forestry in southeastern MN has come out and said expressly what he feels about the rights of property owners and spoke in a very strong way against (?) anything we would call a liberal planning of the environment. Planners are perceived as liberal people, not conservative people, at this time, as you are well aware.

And lastly, I think that there is very definitely abuse and I don't think it's an abuse that can be tolerated. The bottom line are waivers at the local level, but for instance, in a sharp moment I was told that I'd better mark my p's and q's or those local boys might clean up on me. I don't think that's an appropriate thing that would happen in an open planning meeting with reasonable people. I think some of this behavior is...is beyond acceptance.

So I think you have to put yourself in that position and if you do agree to go ahead with this, I would like you to take the responsibility of these issues into the work of the commission.

Chair: George, you're next, and then Dan.

George ? : I have some similar concerns to what Ken and Bob have expressed. The.. uh... already... I guess I would like to make one important plea to you, that if you do decide to sponsor this meeting, that you do everything you can to make sure it's a fair and impartial meeting where people get equal time to talk and..

I... I... I would plead to you that you seriously consider removing Marilyn Hayman from the agenda. uh... you know... she's a person who is so controversial and I think there are plenty of people here today that would testify to the fact that uh... uh... she has no interest at all in... in... getting truthful information to people. Her presence is purely to incite people, you know, and and play to their fears of....(unfinished statement).

I would be supportive of an informational meeting uh... as far as uh... talking from the MN Land Trust perspective. I would love to get some information out to people as to what we are uh... but I... from what I've been told from people I know and trust, uh... there are people that are planning this meeting as a set up.

Robin, you may not know anything about it, and... and I'm suggesting that maybe some of the people that are giving you information are not... are not telling you what they are planning in the background and uh... **just looking at the people involved** and, and some of the other people that I know from the common visions project that are promoting this meeting, **I firmly believe that it's a set up to destroy the reputation of every group that they've invited.**

Chair: ??? muffled comment to next speaker.

Dan McGuinness: Thank you. Well, I want to put this in context a little bit as your staff and just to remind you number one that this is a work item on our agenda on page 7 "Continue to involve and implement public forums along the Mississippi River as a way to encourage and enable citizens to participate more fully in public policy and management of river resources and research activities," and we have a bullet under this that says, "Host, alone and in partnership with others, no less than 5 citizens forums along the Upper Mississippi River in 1997"

Having said that I will also say that I remember that... when Robin reminded me at the meeting that was held in Winona, someone did come up to me and ask "Would you host a meeting with a group that... with a landowner rights group?" and I said "Sure." And the reason I said that was because, as you know, I really believe in getting all the cards out on the table so that we can make informed policy decisions. uh... the... So I think hosting a public meeting to meet the purposes that we're describing is an appropriate thing for us to do.

If it's a set up and we're being used, then I think our commission has a reason to be concerned... I mean... if that's true... you know... this is... this is something that you're saying today that needs to be taken into consideration... but if it's for the purposes that Robin understood and Harold understood it to be, certainly it is consistent with our work program but.. as a public agency, unlike a private or non-profit... I shouldn't say unlike... **we're very accountable to... to the Governors' offices, and to the legislatures that fund us,** so I think it's... it's kinda like Daniel walking into the Lion's Den (ha... hahaha) you know we are walking into a hotbed here of a very potential and volatile situation. Whether we shy away from it because it's volatile is a question we have to deal with.

But I think it's also important to realize that any time we do anything with our name associated with it, people will take that and run with it and we're gonna hafta... we're not only gonna hafta answer to you, but we **have to answer to, of all people, Sen. Steve Morse, on Friday, when we go to our budget hearing. (Ha) I mean, we are in a situation where we're answerable to a lot of people and so I... I think it's incredibly clear if we host this meeting it... uh... it be... uh... presented and held as a meeting open to all points of view without promoting any particular point of view and that this is a free and open exchange.**

Chair: Eric,.... (muffled, cut short)

Eric McBeth: Thank you Mr. Chairman I've been kinda quiet for a while listening to all the comments. uh... I'm not going to pull any punches here... and I would love to be proved wrong, and I... uh... **clearly have some emotional connection with this issue.. I'm emotional about it,** but my statement to you is that, again, I would hope to be proved wrong, but I think, my perspective of this, from the time I very first heard about it, is the commission is being used... the commission's name is being used to basically foreword the hidden agenda of this meeting... and my perspective is this landowners' rights issue has had a kinda quiet time for a while and this meeting is going to serve to recharge some engines... and if I were to recommend, as your staff, a meeting that would be serving the function that I think we would

like to have served here, I would not have set up the agenda as I see it with someone like Marilyn Hayman being the information expert on the Mississippi corridor. She has misstated facts from the very beginning on this issue, she continues to do so, and she is not an authority of what's going on with this matter. Uh... I have seen the Boundary Area Commission from 1990 be used, through me, uh... to discredit our organization and what we have stood for and what we have tried to do on this issue and I see it happening again.

Chair: (??? muffled)

Woman's voice: Eric voiced my opinion very strongly and I've had some experience with the person being discussed (Transcriber - Who? When? Where?) and I also know we had a meeting up at Hudson where an official from the planning commission in the local area begged to have help with controlling people who disrupt meetings and allow no business to be carried on.

When I saw that... title, with that particular person, I agree with you Eric, I thought absolutely no connection and I have had experience, I'm from St. Paul and boy we have some whoop-dee-doo meetings there and I don't know as much about your complications down here, but we have had someone just like that and we've had to bear it for years at various kinds of meetings, and what it also does, when someone sees a name of that reputation on an agenda, you immediately have cut out a whole scope of people that you would have liked to have come and I think that's a big danger, also. And that's my observation

Chair: ??? and then Reggie

Male Voice: Mr. Chairman it seems we basically have two choices. Either withdraw our endorsement and our participation and that's a fairly straight-forward, stand along proposition or to take control of the process and control as meaning??? a faction ??? to save our good name.

If we were to do that, it seems to me we would have to do a number of specific steps.

>We would, of course, have to open the meeting as this agenda indicates, and indicate no BAC endorsement, and we would have to close the meeting so we get the opening and closing words.

>In addition, we would have to control the crowd by having one microphone at the front so there could only be one speaker at a time, only one amplified, questions from the audience would be repeated by the person at the microphone.

>Make an official video tape so that any attempt to take people out of context could subsequently be disproved,

>Have registration at the only entrance to the hall, so that everyone who comes in could be identified, subsequently ... and, I would suggest, although the time is tight, with only two weeks,

>Insist upon advanced copies of everyone's planned speech so that who ever is running the meeting could say that is outside of the scope of what you were invited to discuss, or I've got to cut you off.

I could go either way on those, recognizing the importance of carrying out our work plan of providing an open forum.

Chair: Reggie's next

Reggie: I think that when you co-sponsor a meeting, it means more than just loaning your name. You have a responsibility to being alerted to some of the possibilities of this. Uh... You gotta do something.

The fact that Ken said he's the head of a group that is listed as being a sponsor, that is probably not a sponsor, definitely ??? and I think at the very least, someone should contact all of these alleged sponsors and make certain that they are, in fact, official sponsors, and ask them what their sponsorship implies. and if any of them are not official sponsors... and I'd ask for something back on letterhead paper, you know, uh... if any of them aren't sponsors, I think it would be interesting to ??? the meeting and mention the fact. and it sounds to me like some of the groups that are putting this meeting together have decided deliberately not to answer ??? the list of sponsors and that's another red flag

And I just think maybe it's your responsibility to sponsor a follow up on some of this stuff and figure out what's happening on that level, because this is a lot of clout... these organizations have a lot of clout and they're trying to capitalize on that.

Chair: Jim, you're next.

Jim (Harrison?): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is purely informational and should be taken for what it says uh... because our office has been asked to help in publicizing this meeting and we worked with Robin and we talked with ??? I'm sorry I can't remember his last name, but the gentleman we contacted yesterday about the ????? a certain part of the mailing list and the compilation that Robin agreed to put together a mailing list, based on lists we already had, and lists we were furnished. That encompassed the media, local government, well government in general, including legislators and Robin made this very clear that **Sen. Morse, who not only is the chair of the budget division and represents the district effected by this meeting, but is also, perhaps, plans to sponsor... is the chief author of state-wide land use planning... uh... contacted our office yesterday... I wasn't able to receive the call directly, and on the basis of his staff call and said, the note said, "Information about the land use planning" and Robin had indicated that Sen. Morse was invited to come but because of the time during a legislative day, he cannot personally attend, nor can anyone from his staff.**

I faxed this last night, before I got home to his office and so they would know what the meeting was about. I assumed that they wanted to know something. I called now, at the request of the staff, and l... she said... and I'll tell you what she said... **Sen. Morse thinks it's somewhat inappropriate for the commission to be doing this. uh... He also feels that the meeting is not being located in a county in our jurisdiction, (aside) Is Rushford in Fillmore county? Voice "Yes"... I mean, we advertise our jurisdiction to be the border counties. We work on a broader basis, but that's his statement. Uh... and he wants to know before the (legislative budget) hearing tomorrow, what's our role in this meeting and how much money are we devoting to it. (Multiple laughs) That's his request.**

Chair: That's okay...uh.. I think we should cut it off at this point...
Then I suggest we revisit this issue before we conclude...

Next item on agenda, Stillwater bridge was not transcribed, but tape was nearly done.
End of side.

Next side did not continue with bridge, rather sounded like beginning of the Commission meeting. About 1/4 in of tape had run, the commission again addressed the Rushford meeting. This sounds like the beginning of the meeting:

George Howe: I'm here representing the MN Land Trust and uh... my... my concern particularly today is that uh... I don't see it on your agenda, but I was told you were going to discuss a land use planning meeting coming up at Rushford MN that... there are certain flyers going around that say that the MW Boundary Commission is a sponsor. I don't know how many of you know about this but I assume if you're sponsoring it you know about this meeting, but... uh... we had... Bob and Ken and I had some concerns about this meeting, and I don't know if we can talk about that on the agenda today or not

Chair: I... I have been asked by Robin to attend that meeting. I do not know that we're sponsoring that.

Male voice interrupting: That's what it says here.

Female voice We are

Chair: She says we are. (Voice ??? Okay.) We can discuss it. Bob?

Hurt, H-u-r-t: Thank you. I'm Bob Hurt, owner of Architectural Environments and I'm heading up the sister project Ken Tschumper just alluded to, the Common Visions project in Winona County, City of LaCrescent, LaCrescent Township and I'm here basically for the same reason...we've been informed about a meeting and we have some questions about that the Boundary Area is sponsoring or supposed to be sponsoring and we get a lot of information ???? and some questions.... (trails off)

Chair: All right.

Unidentified male: I would like to add my name to the concern of that particular meeting. ???? (low volume)

Female voice: As a member of the board, don't you... perhaps we should clarify what that means? by sponsoring?

Second female voice: I'll be glad to speak to that... Whenever you want to put it on the agenda

Chair: Yah, because I've never... I've never heard of it coming through one of our meetings. We sponsor a lot of...uh... public meeting for informational purposes, but I haven't heard of this one.

Robin Yah, this is one I talked to you about. Could I speak to this?

Chair: Sure. I know you told me I was invited, but not...

Male voice... Point of order. Don't we have a motion on the floor to approve the work plan?

Chair: I think we better move to that...Motions, voting, etc. followed. then

Robin what I was trying to say was, Yes, you called me... and I said I would be there, but I did not know we were sponsoring the meeting. I didn't know that.

Robin: Okay

Chair: (After several comments from floor) Let's move on then to 4c and this other issue we'll bring up at the... other comments... other commissioners and staff reports.

Male voice: Mr. Chairman, Point of order. In deference to the people who are here for that item of discussion, do you necessarily want to put it off until 2:45?

Male voice (Harrison?): No, they're here. Let's do it before lunch.

Chair: All right. It won't take very long.

Revise agenda

Land use planning meeting after the bridge.

Chair: Take up an additional 3d at this time. Robin...

Robin: The meeting that's being publicized and I'll pass this out, actually grew out of something we did about 15 months ago. We had a Planners Forum, held at St. Mary's in December, that would have been in '94 and we at that time indicated a commitment to helping local organizations and to co-sponsor with local organizations further meetings with respect to the river and land use planning, as well... and someone specifically asked us, "Will you co-sponsor a meeting with a land rights group?" and we said, Yes, we would. That does not mean that we endorse the views of any group that we are co-sponsoring with.

We said we would do this because of a public service and Edgar Hangsden has several times mentioned to me that he was looking forward to doing something like that. He called me in January saying that he and a number of citizens... he did not represent a group, this was grassroots... would like very much for me and Bob Mallaley, actually, rather than staff, because they wanted local people to co-sponsor as moderators to create balance, so we are not endorsing any views we are there to be moderators at was supposed to be an informational meeting.

He said a lot of people needed to understand better the initiatives that are going on and I said I thought this was something we could do because it was in our work program that said we were going to be co-sponsoring meetings. I believe I have mentioned in the process that people said they were looking forward to this, so I checked with the office and they said they saw it as within our work program and I called you and I said, you know, this is what's being asked and um... they would appreciate you being there as well and this is tentative and I noticed that Carol didn't get on the agenda but they wanted you to spend a few minutes talking about what the BAC is.

I envisioned ourselves as clarifying the purpose of the meeting, moderating, also clarifying our roles here which is to moderate. This is not a meeting in which we would be seeking input in order to create public policy. This is a meeting where we are facilitating the output of information and questioning, and I recognize this is a very explosive issue in the area, and I see a need for a non-explosive meeting...um... and I had some calls...

Edgar called me this morning in fact, and he said among other things, "Do you have the same concerns that I have?" and I said, "Well I have some concerns, what are yours?" and he said that he didn't want the meeting to get out of hand and he said, "I'm a sales person, I cannot afford a meeting that gets out of hand." and I see this as our job to make this an informational meeting and he has promised, he said the people that are on his planning committee... I met with them a couple of weeks ago... they are all concerned, too, that it not get out of hand.

They want this to be fair and open, they do not want to set people up to come down, we would like this to be an informational meeting and I recognize the explosive nature of this issue and I am hopeful this can be an informational meeting for... and it seems to me that... I Was thinking for example the first questions should come from people who are not on the common visions steering board, since they have plenty of opportunity to ask questions at your meetings, uh... so that's where it is. We did agree to be co-sponsors within our work program, in a sense of moderators, not in the sense of endorsing and not in the sense that we are responsible for taking any of the ideas expressed and doing anything with them.

Chair: Just to add to that, part of our work program is to communicate with, hopefully educate, the public, the agencies of what is happening or what people feel. We're not created to create law... we can't... we're here to act as a catalyst, if we can...we're here to

End of this side of tape.

WLWCA/WALCE Recommendations on the 99-01 Budget Bill

Land & Water Resource Management Plans (LWRM) - DATCP

- Support the Governor's proposed language for new minimum contents for these plans.
- Support the association's proposal for a "Unified Grant System" for implementing statewide nonpoint performance standards through county Land & Water Resource Management Plans. This proposal would increase DNR/DATCP program integration and greatly simplify the grant process. Notes to consider in legislator contacts:
 - This will result in a single grant contract with each county that receives a grant, no matter how many conservation "projects" for which they are involved.
 - Emphasize the need for a base level of staff funding to meet statewide performance standards. Competitive grants would be for targeted projects.
 - Nonpoint performance standards will, at a minimum, address animal waste management (4 prohibitions), nutrient management and sediment. (Note: still in drafting phase.)
- Support additional funding of \$5 million per year for LWRM plan implementation. Amount proposed in Governor's budget (\$800,000 per year) would only allow up to \$13,000 per county (with 60 approved plans) and can only be used for cost sharing. This is not enough to support the average cost sharing needs for a single landowner. DNR and DATCP grant histories show the need for an increase of \$5 million per year to begin making progress on nonpoint performance standards. Other notes:
 - Note that DATCP base level funding for local conservation staff (GPR) has decreased 10% since 1990. If adjusted for inflation, the amount has actually decreased 40%.
 - Since programs are emphasizing cost effective practices, a minimum of 50% of grant funds must be designated for technical assistance (staff and support costs). Bonding alone won't work.
- One source of additional funds could be the DATCP agrichemical management fees proposed to be reduced (\$2.4 million) for the next two years. Other sources are the \$4 million in new funding proposed for the Nonpoint program and \$800,000 for the Rivers Protection grants, as noted below.

Nonpoint Programs - DNR

- Support the proposed \$2 million targeted for new nonpoint projects. However, funding for counties needs to be integrated with County Land & Water Resource Management grants.
- Support the proposed \$2 million targeted for meeting animal waste nonpoint performance standards. However, funding level is inadequate and needs to be integrated with Land & Water Resource Management grants.
- Support the \$36.8 million dollars in GPR, SEG and bonding funds designated to support existing watershed projects and the proposed \$2 million to increase local annual cost-share reimbursement allocations (ACRA's).
- Request removal of statutory limit on the use of cost sharing funds within a calendar year without penalty or else millions of dollars cannot be utilized each year. Need flexibility.
- Support the proposed funding for 2 additional full time NR-243 animal waste investigators.

River Protection Grants - DNR

- Support the concept of providing grants for pollution prevention work. However, request that for counties this be integrated with County Land & Water Resource Management grants to avoid creating another separate inefficient "pigeon hole" grant to deal with.

Farmland Preservation Program - DATCP

- Support the concept of a conservation credit and encouraging purchase of development rights however, the credit amounts are not sufficient.
- Request that this language be removed from the budget and dealt with as a separate bill to allow more thorough review of impacts of the proposed changes. For example:
 - What incentive is left for communities to adopt exclusive agricultural zoning?
 - What about the Farmland Tax credit? Could it be combined to make this credit more reasonable for those that meet the performance standards?
 - Can the conservation provisions be phased in so counties can handle the workload?
 - Will there be administrative rules?

Stewardship Program - DNR

- Support the extension and increase in funding for this important effort.

Contacts:

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association: (WLWCA)

Brett Larson-Executive Director

One Point Place, Suite 202

Madison, WI 53719

608-833-1833

Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE)

North Central Representative

Paul Daigle

210 River Drive

Wausau, WI 54403

715-261-6006

Testimony presented to the Legislative Joint Finance Committee
Wednesday, April 14, 1999 – Osceola High School, Osceola, WI
By Terry J. Mesch, Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator-Pepin County

I am coordinator of the recycling/solid waste program for a small, rural, Wisconsin county of 7,200 people, who know recycling is the right thing to do and I don't have to spend much time explaining its benefits. I do, however, have to explain to them the economics...Pepin County, like many other municipalities in the state, does not charge residents for recycling and most of the county's citizens naively believe recycling is free because it "pays for itself." As yet, I have not had to ask them how much they would be willing to pay to continue to be able to recycle. I do know that, if the opportunity to recycle is taken away, they will loudly voice their objections.

If funding would end, services will decrease or be eliminated. Not only does the state mandate the landfill bans, it also mandates spending restraints on counties and school districts, many of which, like Pepin County, may already have reached the limits allowed. With state and federal governments boasting about huge revenue surpluses while at the same time threatening reductions in funding to local governments for mandated programs, you can't be surprised at rising levels of frustration among local officials and the citizenry.

I am also the current president of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin. AROW has always supported state funding of recycling. Most recently, the AROW board voted unanimously to support a sales tax on solid waste services and a landfill tipping fee surcharge as the best sources of revenue for continued state funding.

I don't think we need to discuss if recycling should continue...we've all heard that the people of Wisconsin love to recycle and want to continue to recycle.

The question is: Who should pay for recycling? Who should pay for solid waste disposal? Clearly, those who generate the garbage and create the demand for solid waste management are the ones who ultimately should pay for it! But, who is the generator? Is it the consumer alone? Business and industry, who claim, "We're only providing consumers with what they want.", can no longer pander to the transient tastes of consumers and continue to disregard the resultant adverse social and environmental impacts.

Funding and management of recycling presents a wonderful opportunity for that often talked-about public-private partnership. Government must be the conscience and guide the planning and development of recycling and management of the earth's resources. Funding must be placed squarely on the consumer. And implementation, that is the development of infrastructure and adequate markets, belongs with manufacturing and business. Since business and industry encourage and exploit consumerism, they share responsibility for making recycling work.

A sales tax on solid waste services and, more particularly, the landfill tipping fee surcharge, provide a source of funding directly related to the amount of waste generated and encourages waste reduction and recycling. The sales tax on solid waste services provides a stable revenue source. Both the sales tax and tipping fee surcharge would be relatively easy to administer. Use of the sales tax on solid waste services would reduce the need for a high tipping fee surcharge, thus making it easier for municipalities to afford. Both these sources would encourage high volume generators to research and develop more economically viable and environmentally friendly waste management options. The precedents for landfill fees have been set in our neighboring states, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, and many others. When compared to average disposal fees in other states which can easily exceed \$50 per ton, some approaching \$100 per ton, even the addition of Senator Burke's suggestion of \$13/ton to Wisconsin's current average of \$30, does not seem exorbitant. Such an increase would also provide some disincentive for out-of-state waste disposal in Wisconsin.

In the end, it will take government, manufacturing, business and the consumer to make recycling work. Paying for recycling must eventually move beyond the simple cost-sharing grants provided by the state! But until manufacturing and business are ready to voluntarily participate, government must intervene on behalf of an increasingly fragile environment, limited natural resources and an already overburdened property taxpayer.

#

**Statement to Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee, April 14, 1999, by
Audrey Kelly for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission**

Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

I am Audrey Kelly, a resident of Bayport. I thought you might be interested in knowing what the press in the St. Croix Valley is saying about eliminating the Commission.

I have copies for you of the three articles and one editorial that have appeared in local newspapers. All support continuing the Commission.

BAC

75¢

sen

EXPIRES 10/31/96
Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Comm.
619 2ND ST
HUDSON, WI 54016

ndia, Minnesota Vol. 13, No. 46

Local legislators fight elimination of river protection agency

Country Messenger
3/21/99

By Jeff Holmquist
Editor

The future of a 34-year-old river planning and protection group could be swept away in the current flood of state government reductions.

Early in his new term, Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura said he supported a plan to re-evaluate the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission (MWBAC).

The MWBAC was established in 1965 and employs five staff members. The commission itself is made up of 10 volunteer representatives (five from each state) who are appointed by their respective governors.

The organization is charged with conducting studies on the St. Croix and Mississippi, recommending steps for the protection of the rivers, and planning for development along the states' border.

The commission recently completed a 60-meeting effort with the Lower St. Croix Planning Task Force in an effort to develop a management plan for the National Scenic

"It would appear to be a bad time to get rid of the commission"

Buck Malik

Riverway

The organization was also active in the effort to find a compromise for the proposed Stillwater bridge.

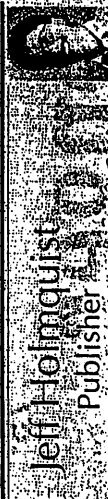
Despite the MWBAC's long history, Ventura claimed the duties of the commission could likely be handled by other agencies that oversee the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

Ventura's state budget proposal cut out \$183,000 in funding for the organization.

Because the MWBAC is a joint program between two states, Wisconsin's Governor Tommy Thompson also left the \$183,000 annual funding out of

River/See page 3

Page 2/Country Messenger/March 31, 1999



Jeff Holmquist
Publisher

What needs more security: Ventura's home or the river?

What's more important? Protection of an individual or protection of a river watershed?

Gov. Jesse Ventura wants to spend an additional \$1.1 million for his family's protection. His proposal announced last week would provide security at his horse ranch and home in the northern suburbs.

The news came during the same week that supporters of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission were begging state officials for \$183,000 in continued state funding.

The commission, which has helped protect and preserve the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers since 1965, is a huge bargain in terms of the overall state budget.

Yet, Ventura (and, apparently, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson) would rather the commission fold up and fade away.

Ventura may view the commission, as a governmental body which seeks to institute more rules that infringe on the public's right to use the waterways.

He's dead wrong. It's a volunteer citizen group that helps to focus efforts on planning and riverway protection.

The "pocket" change to operate a valuable commission pales in comparison to the bucks Ventura is seeking to protect himself and his family.

I don't begrudge Ventura his right to feel safe and secure, but I equate with the senator's wife's family situation. Perhaps take up permanent residence in the government's mansion, which is a far more "settling home" than any other.

How can Ventura justify his proposed expenditure in light of his attempts to cut the fat from state government?

Perhaps it's time for a little lesson in political dealings.

Jeff Ventura wants his personal protection. The St. Croix should have its protection as well.

By Jeff Holmquist, Publisher

River From page 1

his budget plan.

Ventura's communication director John Woodley said the governor needs to set priorities in setting his budget.

"You have to do what's necessary, not necessarily what's nice," he said. "It's his job to determine what's necessary."

Woodley said the eliminated funding is not a commentary on the work of the commission.

"The governor determined the mission of that particular organization could be handled through other means," Woodley said.

Gov. Thompson has personally communicated with Ventura that he agrees with Ventura's assessment of the organization, Woodley said.

When asked if the governor would line-item veto funding for the commission if the Legislature reinstates it, Woodley said he wouldn't comment.

"He will have to look at it from the context of the whole budget," he said. "You shouldn't assume anything."

Last week, commission members and those interested in protecting the river converged on the two state capitols to lobby legislators about the need for the MWBAC.

Supporters of the MWBAC now have a sense of urgency about their future.

If efforts to gain state funding in Wisconsin and Minnesota fail, the MWBAC will close up shop June 30.

After attending legislative hearings over the past week, MWBAC Executive Director Buck Malik said he feels good about the support the commission has.

"We went into the meetings real nervous, but now we're confident," Malik said.

Malik said neither governor has a personal agenda to eliminate the commission, but they do hold line-item veto power that could be used to wipe out the MWBAC.

"There's no time to relax until the budget is over and done with and signed," Malik said.

Malik said much of the commission's lobbying effort will focus on Minnesota in the coming weeks.

If Minnesota somehow drops the funding, Wisconsin has no choice but to cut theirs.

"What happens in Minnesota will set the tone," he said. "You can't have a one-legged partnership."

In his four years of working with the commission, Malik said he has learned how important the citizen group is.

At the present time, the commission is in the middle of a 25-year plan for the riverway.

"It would appear to be a bad time to get rid of the commission," he said.

Malik said Gov. Thompson has suggested the commission's duties be transferred to the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association.

"That's not even a close fit," Malik said.

Wayne Tomfohrde, Osceola, has been a commission member for two years.

He feels the organization should continue in its work to prepare for the river's future.

We've accomplished a lot. We are kind of a catalyst for getting people together.

Wayne Tomfohrde

"We've accomplished a lot," he said. "We are kind of a catalyst for getting people together."

The commission has been successful in bringing the Wisconsin and Minnesota natural resources departments together to work on joint issues. The various law enforcement agencies have also been assisted.

"You have to have someone spearheading the effort," Tomfohrde said. "If you don't get the ball rolling, it won't roll."

Dan Willius, Scandia, has been working with the commission for the past two years to help develop a new management plan for the St. Croix River.

"My personal feeling is it would be a big mistake to drop the funding," he said. "The kind of money is a pittance when you look at the state budget."

If the commission has an impact on two or three river issues a year, Willius said it's a worthwhile effort.

"It's been a bargain," he said. "And I don't know what's going to fill the vacuum if the commission is gone."

Willius said the MWBAC helps to coordinate enforcement efforts among all the agencies involved in the river. Without that assistance, many more problems may surface.

"The commission makes sure the left hand knows what the right hand is doing," he said.

Willius said the commission should not threaten anyone, because it has no real power. It simply serves as a watchdog for the St. Croix and Mississippi.

"They don't have any power to put in rules," he said. "All they can do is suggest what the legislatures should do."

Commission members met with Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pettis (R-Hertel) on Wednesday, although they didn't get a firm commitment of his support.

"I think both administrations (Thompson's and Ventura's) think that the commission's responsibilities are duplicated by other oversight commissions," Pettis said.

Pettis said he needs to study the issue further to determine if the commission should continue.

"I think the commission does a pretty decent job of looking at the interests of the river," Pettis said.

Pettis added, however, that so many "special interests" have a stake in the river that users are flooded with rules that make it difficult to enjoy.

Providing funds for the MWBAC may be difficult, Pettis said, because legislators from Milwaukee and other parts of the state don't see the need for the organization.

"Whether they are going to be in the budget, I can't say right now," Pettis said. "All I can say is they are a very active group, and they've done a lot of good things."

Wisconsin State Senator Alice

Clausing (D-Menomonie) said she's been spending much of her spare time on the MWBAC issue the past few weeks.

"She is a vocal supporter of the organization."

Clausing said it's important for bordering states to work together, and the MWBAC is an example of a successful cooperative program.

"I think it would be a very unwise decision if they decided to eliminate it," she said. "There needs to be a body where you can address common issues."

Clausing said she's contacted Minnesota legislators to help the lobbying effort.

"If we can get Minnesota to fund it, there's enough pressure to get it re-instated in Wisconsin," Clausing said.

Clausing said she has also talked with Gov. Thompson about the need for the MWBAC.

This is not the first time the MWBAC has been threatened with extinction.

Two years ago, Thompson cut funding for all state commissions and required each to prove their worth.

Clausing said the MWBAC's funding was re-instated then because its value is obvious.

Minnesota State Senator Jane Krentz (D-May Township) said hearings have already been conducted on the issue of continued funding for the commission.

Krentz said the response from senators has been "very positive," but she's unsure where the House of Representatives stands on the issue.

"We didn't vote in committee, but I would expect that we would fund it in the Senate," she said. "We would like to send a message that it's a good investment."

Krentz said Gov. Ventura talks about citizen involvement in the governmental process, and the MWBAC is a prime example of such involvement.

The fact that two states work cooperatively on issues is another big plus, she added.

"It gives us an opportunity for both states to work together," she said. "We need to promote cooperation and shared responsibility."

Krentz disagreed that the MWBAC duplicates the effort of other agencies along the rivers.

"Nobody else has quite the same mission," she said. "The work they do is not being met by other agencies."

Krentz said commissioners are all volunteer, and they don't even receive a per diem to cover their expenses.

She said the \$183,000 in state funding is a small price to pay for the important commission.

"It's a small amount of money in the big picture of the budget. It's a prudent use of taxpayers' money," she said. "I'm a big supporter of it. If the MWBAC is eliminated, Krentz said, many of the protection efforts along the river will "fall through the cracks."

From previous page

unique qualities, the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin would have to take responsibility for that preservation.

The Lower St. Croix Management Commission was formed to manage the river through a joint process. The basis of the management commission is that the two states and the National Park Service each have an equal say in what will happen on the river.

"As far as we know, it's the only river that has this tripartite management scheme built into the law," says Harrison. "Internally there needs to be a coordinator."

Enter the Boundary Area Commission, which isn't able to vote on issues, but acts as an intermediary between the three agencies. It represents none and it represents all, and even though there is no vote, says Harrison and Malick, there is power in knowledge and persuasion.

Not having a vote is not a bad thing, says Malick. "It's one of our strengths. We're not an overlord. We're not a ruling party."

The Boundary Area Commission has five employees, and it is governed by 10 board members, five from each state. The board members are appointed by the governor of each respective state for four-year terms.

It also has a technical committee that studies areas of concern regarding the river, and the BAC has made recommendations regarding the bridge, zebra mussel containment and more.

The vast majority of the funding for the BAC is split fairly evenly between the two states, says Malick, about \$180,000 per year for each state.

"That seems like a lot of bang for one year," says Malick.

Supporters of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission feel bushwacked by Ventura's budget proposal to close the office with a one-time appropriation of \$70,000.

Malick and Harrison were never contacted by anyone from the Ventura's budget team and are a bit perplexed. All they know is what is outlined on Page D-132 of the 2000-01 Biennial Budget:

"The Governor believes the commission represents an unnecessary duplication of effort, and should be eliminated. The commission's primary purpose is to conduct studies and make recommendations. It has no authority to enforce those recommendations, or to make them binding on any government entity. The purposes for which the commission was created largely overlap with existing programs in other agencies, and could be assumed by these agencies."

Phone calls by *The St. Croix Valley Press* to Ventura's media relations office to learn more about the recommendation were not returned.

"It sure does seem ironic," Malick says. "After all, the Reform Party is a grass roots, citizen-based party. ... And we're a citizen-based group with our 10 commissioners serving on a voluntary basis."

This is not the first time the BAC has been scrutinized. Two years ago in the House of Representatives a movement was afoot to phase out the commission. Malick and Harrison weren't sure of the motivation then either, but it came just after the National Park Service put the kibosh on the old Minnesota Department of Transportation plan to build a new bridge across the river from Oak Park Heights to Houlton, Wis. They have a sneaking suspicion that the two events were connected.

In that case, though, they point to the fact they had a

governor who supported the commission.

Also, a couple of years ago, the lieutenant governor of Wisconsin conducted a systematic study of the commission and 143 other small agencies. Harrison had to send boxes of minutes from commission meetings to Madison for scrutiny. The Boundary Area Commission survived.

Everyone realizes it is too early in the legislative game to start the dirge for the commission, but there is a level of concern. The proposal needs to go through the House and the Senate.

Malick says the commission is anxious to defend itself.

If the BAC is disbanded, says Malick, he believes the two states will be forced to hire four people to fill its role.

And that, he says, is without the extra work that the volunteer commissioners do on a day-to-day basis.

"If we get the chance to be really evaluated, I personally think our commissioners, and staff, too, will show up as people who are conservationists who will save money."

Part of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission's problem lies in its low-profile style of work.

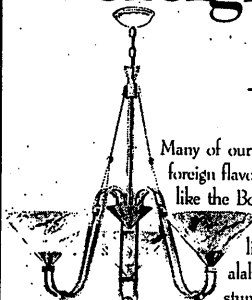
As an agency, it prefers a "sit down at the table and talk" style of operation rather than an "in-your-face" way of doing things. It seeks consensus and avoids controversy. It was one of the first to suggest that everyone sit at a

Continued on next page



Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal to cut the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission caught a lot of people by surprise, and not many details are known, even to staff members of the commission. Phone calls to Ventura's office for a more detailed explanation were not returned. Here Ventura is shown attending an education rally at Capitol last week. (Photo by Jeff Schroe)

Foreign Accents Available.



Many of our exciting new home accents have a distinct foreign flavor. We still feature the best in quality lighting like the Bolle line by Fredrick Ramond. This timeless design begins a new era... the simplicity of line and curved finish in graphic steel with alabaster hold of spice with scavo glass, give this stunning collection multiple design applications

...look for the *F. Ramond* signature of excellence.

But you'll also find mirrors, area rugs, framed art, accent furniture and more, from around the world. Perfect as a gift, or to dress up your home. And in any language, they speak volumes about your good taste.

HOME ACCENTS FROM



1-94 just west of Snelling, Saint Paul
651-647-0111 www.creativelights.com
Mon & Thurs 9-9, Tues, Wed & Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5

The Right Look. Right Where You Want It.

The All-New Empire® Cast Iron Stove

- 2 Venting Styles For Easy Installation
- Ceramic Fiber Log Set Secures to Frame
- Variable Heat Output
- Manual, Wall Switch, Wall Thermostat or Remote Control Operation
- Operates without Electricity
- Safe Operation with Auto Shut-Off Controls



The All-New Empire® Direct Vent Fireplace

- Airtight Firebox Efficiency Maintains Indoor Air Quality
- Ceramic Fiber Log Set with Glowing Embers Comes Secured to Frame
- Zero Clearance Certified - Can be Built in or Use Accessory Mantel
- 25,000 Btu on High
- 18,000 Btu on Low
- Operates without Electricity
- Optional Remote Control



COMFORT PLUS
HEATING & COOLING

Serving the area 13 years
7050 20th Ave So.
Centerville
651-426-4233

PINE TREE APPLE ORCHARD

Open Daily thru February &
Weekends in March



Save on
Apples &
Selected
Bakery
Products

651
429-7202

Apple Orchard Rd. off E. Hwy. 96
North of White Bear Lake

From previous page

table and talk as a way of solving the sticky bridge crossing problem.

"A famous person once said, 'You can accomplish anything if you let someone else take the credit,'" says Malick. "That's been a personal philosophy of mine for several years."

Malick, a Hudson attorney who went to Harvard Law School after serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War, knows the BAC frontwards and back. He was appointed commissioner by Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson before stepping down to take the executive director position.

Supporters of the BAC believe the Ventura's budget team didn't look close enough at the agency before deeming it "an unnecessary duplication."

Robin Grawe, a BAC commissioner from Winona, has taken steps to assure legislators know some of the lesser known accomplishments of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. She was at the State Capitol last week pressing her case.

Included in a handout prepared (and paid for) by Grawe are some of the following points:

- The MWBAC saves the state of Minnesota money by mediating disputes.

- The MWBAC coordinates joint-agency projects.

- The MWBAC is a voice for the citizens on river management and policy.

- It provides public education.

The agency is "just a favorite of mine," says Stillwater Republican State Sen. Gary Laidig. "Right now, if I have a question or concern (about the river), I call Buck Malick. He works with both Minnesota and Wisconsin and he is qualified to give me a response. ... The question is: If I can't call Buck Malick, who do I call? Which agency will work with Wisconsin?"

Laidig, one of the co-authors of the Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation at the state level,

'The Governor believes the commission represents an unnecessary duplication of effort, and should be eliminated. The commission's primary purpose is to conduct studies and make recommendations. It has no authority to enforce those recommendations, or to make them binding on any government entity. The purposes for which the commission was created largely overlap with existing programs in other agencies, and could be assumed by these agencies.'

— Excerpt of Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget

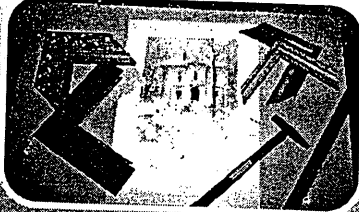
'Right now, if I have a question or concern (about the river), I call Buck Malick. He works with both Minnesota and Wisconsin and he is qualified to give me a response.'

The question is: If I can't call Buck Malick, who do I call? Which agency will work with Wisconsin?'

— Sen. Gary Laidig

Carrier
 Custom Made Indoor Weather™
 Licensed, Bonded, Insured
439-1519
SPRINGBORN
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 SINCE 1952
 Sales • Service • Installation

HG TAMARACK HOUSE GALLERY & PICTURE FRAMING
 The Largest Fine Arts & Framing Gallery in the Valley! Established: 1972



Most Offers Come With A Hook...
 This is ours:
 We simply offer the best selection of frames, glazing and mats for prints, pictures or keepsakes. Plus superb craftsmanship and expert advise.

112 South Main Street Stillwater (651)439-9393

says the move to ditch the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission is in essence a way of seriously eroding the values of that special designation.

"What is it worth to enforce the wild and scenic legislation? A hundred and seventy-thousand dollars? That's probably what (Ventura's) security is," says Laidig. "The Ventura proposal is to repeal the wild and scenic legislation, pure and simple. Because the wild and scenic legislation won't be enforced."

As far as duplication of effort, Laidig disagrees. The state could have one person process-

ing income tax forms, he says but it would be a monstrous task and take a long time. Laidig rhetorically asks: Is hiring more people to process forms to get them out in a timely fashion a duplication of effort?

Laidig also tried to get personal answers about the BAC decision from Ventura's office. No luck.

"That is the number one problem. We have a government more concerned about repealing the fee on Jet Skis, the studs on snowmobiles than getting better to the problems of the state," says Laidig.



BRINE'S
SPECIALS
 Brine's Own Homemade

- Fresh Bratwurst..... \$1.69 lb.
- Freezer-Oven-Plate in 30 minutes
- Chicken Kiev..... 7 Oz. \$1.99 ea.
- Center Cut Boneless Pork Chops..... \$2.99 lb.
- Fresh Walleye Fillets..... \$8.79 lb.
- Extra Lean Center Cut Boneless Pork Loin Roast..... \$2.69 lb.
- Make Your Valentine Dinner Spectacular & Easy!
- 12 Piece Shrimp Tray for Two..... \$7.99
- U.S. Choice Heart Shaped Rib Eye Steak for Two..... \$5.99 lb.
- Warm Water Lobster Tails \$5.00 Off Reg. \$18.99 lb.
- Cold Water Lobster Tails \$5.00 Off Reg. \$28.99 lb.
- Jumbo Red King Crab Legs..... \$12.99 lb.
- 26-30 Count (1# Bag) Meridian Cooked Shrimp..... \$9.99 lb.
- Orion - Fully Cooked Snow Crab Cocktail Claws..... \$7.99 lb.

1790 Washington Avenue • 439-1862
 Prices Good February 8 thru February 14

Citizen led commission transcends big government

"Penny wise and pound foolish," as the old saying goes, is what describes Governor Ventura's proposal to kill the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission (BAC) in his recent budget proposal. I suspect that if the Gov really looked at the vital function that the BAC serves along the arbitrary line which separates our two states, he would un-abashedly rescind his proposal.

The BAC is a citizen-based group whose members are appointed by each states respective governors. The citizen-commissioners are charged with managing complex, often fraught with conflict, interstate natural resource issues that abound in the St. Croix and Mississippi River border regions.

Why has there been a BAC for the past 34 years?

Imagine you have a highway that runs exactly on the boundary of two communities and serves a vital role in the area.

Who owns the highway?
Who is responsible for the upkeep and repairs?
Who is responsible for making and enforcing laws.

Who manages the disputes over maintenance and upkeep?
Who plans for the future needs of the highway infrastructure?

In the world of highways and made infrastructure, there is a framework in place for managing these boundary entities — with natural resources such as rivers, there is not. Thus, in 1965 the BAC was born in recognition that there was a real need to have a forum for citizens and agen-



Jon Michels
Columnist

cies in managing boundary area issues. It was the construction of the NSP Allen S. King plant, and the resulting controversy over natural resource impacts which was to serve the growing metro urban area that instigated the formation of the commission. This role of managing conflict over cross border issues really is the heart and soul of the BAC's function.

The need has grown with the population

Governor Ventura, in his announcement of the abolition of the BAC, claimed that the commission had completed its intended mission and the present functions should be rolled into other resource management agencies.

With all due respect to the governor, he could not be further from right in this statement.

As the population of the boundary area region has grown, there has been an equally growing pressure on the St. Croix and Mississippi River resources and there, has been a growing incidence of conflict related to balancing resource concerns with population growth.

Granted, there are natural resource

management agencies on both sides of the rivers, but, the issues and resources know no political boundaries. The BAC is vital to bridging interstate politics and resource questions between interstate entities. No other agency has the ability to function in this capacity.

What others are saying!

We have in the area three key state legislators, two who are strongly in support and one who is cautiously pragmatic about maintaining the BAC.

Senator Jane Krentz of May Township, who is the Legislative Advisory Chair to the BAC, feels strongly that the Commission should remain intact.

"Natural resources do not understand arbitrary political boundaries," she said. "It seems shortsighted."

Senator Gary Laidig of Stillwater, though not contacted by this writer, indicated last week his strong support for the BAC.

Representative Mark Holsten of Stillwater acknowledges that "the Boundary Area Commission has done a tremendous amount of good in the past, but they are now in the position of having to justify their role as a natural resource expenditure to the State."

Holsten chairs the House Environment and Natural Resource Finance Committee, which will either approve or deny the governors budget elimination for the BAC. Holsten is uncommitted at this time as to whether he is in support, but indicates he is willing to listen to the BAC when they make their case in front of his committee.

At the federal level, Sixth District

Congressman Bill Luther was supportive of the BAC for their support in managing cross border issues such as the Stillwater river crossing.

"They provided us an invaluable service in supplying historic files and correspondence dating back 20 years" he said.

Luther provided a silver lining to the cloud which hangs over the commission stating that "this will be a good opportunity for them (the BAC) to show their value to the governor."

Show me the money!

The state of Minnesota's total investment in the BAC would be \$183,000 for this year under their requested budget. The governor has recommended eliminating the commission in two years.

Now I recognize that every dollar counts, but I look at this amount as being a worthwhile investment when you consider what costs could be incurred in just one multimillion dollar litigation case over a major resource dispute.

What are the alternatives?

So, if we give the ax to the BAC, who will step in to fill the void. There currently is no other forum or agency

in which interstate resource issues can be addressed. Shall we pass the buck on to the Feds? The federally protected St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers are natural resources that will need constant guardianship and care and interstate issues such as transportation, infrastructure, urban growth planning, regional management and environmental protection are not going to go away with the abolition of the one agency which has been tracking them.

I would venture to guess that the last thing the powers that be would want to see is an increased role of federal involvement in state and local issues.

In this era of "reinventing" big government, the loss of such a relatively low-cost, citizen-driven organization would be tragic. The Minnesota Boundary Area Commission functions like no other organization can or will. It provides a cohesive force for managing boundary area issues circumventing the federal bureaucracy and provides a framework for state, regional and local governments to resolve resource issues.

Jon Michels is a freelance writer whose columns appear every other week in the Stillwater Evening Gazette.
2/9/99



WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE BEST MERCHANDISE, OR YOU WANT TO MAKE ITEMS, THE GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS A

CALL 4

2/2/99

Gazette Editorial

Ventura demonstrates he can be insensitive, too

Our governor, bellicose, colorful, outspoken Jesse Ventura, aka James Janos, is a sensitive guy. Poke him and he erupts. Last week, for example, he suggested term limits for capital reporters because they become cynical, etc., after a few years. The proposal, apparently serious (though who knows with Jesse?) was an obvious reaction to criticism from the press corps over various Ventura misfires.

That would include his attempted appointment to the top DNR job of a guy who has been ticketed for violating fishing and hunting laws, his suggestion that his wife receive a salary, and more recently his questionable decision to carry a weapon for self protection.

So, no wonder various news organizations, including some that are national, have set up what they call Jesse Watches. The guy is a newsman's dream. Barely a day passes that he fails to say or do something that is out of the ordinary, which is the very essence of news.

Yes, Jesse makes the news, then expresses dismay when he is criticized. So, clearly he is sensitive about how the press and the public react to what he says and does.

Unfortunately, it is questionable whether that sensitivity extends to protecting the environment. He's pro jet ski, pro snowmobile, etc.; positions that are arguable, depending on whether you own one of these machines or merely have to listen to them disturb the peace and scare off our wild critters.

We understand where Jesse is coming from on his defense of these machines, and in some respects (they are important to the livelihoods of those who manufacture them, for example, and, in the case of snowmobiles, to resort owners whose customers use them) we agree with him. But his suggestion we disband the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission and the Citizens' Council on Voyageurs National Park displays an alarming insensitivity to environmental issues. Eliminating these citizen organizations would put control of our environment right back where it was: solely in the hands of politicians. That does not sound like the Ventura we elected to lead us.

Come on, Jesse. Get real.

Under the magnifying glass

A Ventura axe has supporters of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission defending the agency

Story by Keith Uhlig
Photos by Paul Dols
Design by Barbara Sloboden

The offices of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission can be considered modest.

Five employees work in a series of rooms located in the upstairs of a brick business building on the north end of the downtown Hudson, Wis.

If you visit the commission, and have to wait, you sit down in a hallway on a chair and stare directly into a copying machine just a couple of feet in front of your knees.

If you are waiting for Clarence "Buck" Malick, executive director of the commission, he just might greet you with a warm hello and a toothbrush mingling with a couple of pens in his shirt pocket. He'll most likely be wearing jeans and a casual shirt, and you'll follow him to his office. He'll take you through crowded hallways, around loaded filing cabinets. You'll pass walls that are full of posters, maps and photos of rivers.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission is respected as a low-key agency that advocates mediation and talk in disputes which could easily disintegrate into fiery rhetoric and lawsuits. It has a distinctly environmental bent to it, but as an institution it is often a voice of moderation.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission acts as a liaison between the two states in environmental matters, paying particular attention to the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

Its role is particularly important in the realm of the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, that portion running from Stillwater to Prescott.

The administration of that area falls under the jurisdiction of the Lower St. Croix Management Commission. This commission is made up of the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Boundary Area Commission. The BAC is an ex officio member of the management commission, but it sits at all the meetings and

Malick and the other BAC employees also act as staff members for the Lower St. Croix Management Commission.

Confused?

That's precisely why the Boundary Area Commission exists. It is the mortar between the bricks, the glue holding the two states together. There are checks and balances in managing the river boundaries between the two states, and the BAC makes it its business to work between the two entities.

"We're the 'only man in the middle' ... that bridges all these boundary area things," says Malick.

But with a new governor elected in Minnesota, the BAC has its head on the chopping block. Gov. Jesse Ventura's recently released budget calls for the phasing out of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. The move is mysterious and confusing for the BAC staffers and their supporters.

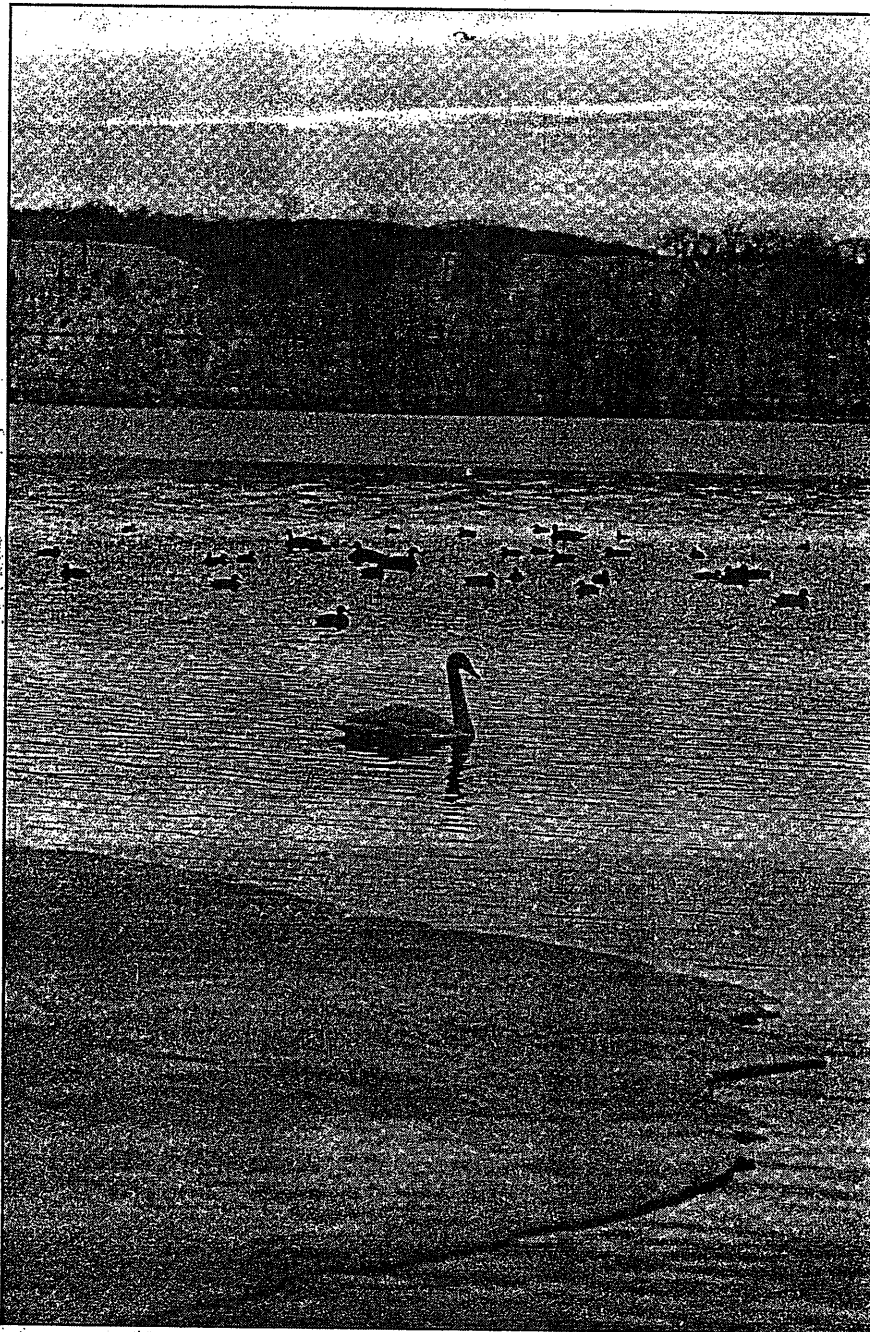
And it has got them on both the defensive and offensive as they start up a bid for survival.

In order to understand the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission's role in river and land management in the area between the two states, it is important to understand its history, says Jim Harrison, BAC public affairs director.

Harrison joined the BAC on Oct. 1, 1968, the day before Lyndon Johnson signed the original Wild and Scenic Rivers Act setting up the new nationwide program for protecting outstanding rivers.

The upper St. Croix River, north of Stillwater, including the Namekagon River, was among the first group of rivers authorized under the act. Four years later, in 1972, President Richard Nixon authorized the Lower St. Croix under the act, but with a twist.

Harrison says the political environment was a conservative one, aiming for less federal government and more state emphasis. While the federal government designated the river "wild and scenic" to better preserve the



Supporters of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, such as State Sen. Gary Laidig (R-Stillwater), believe the commission is crucial to protecting the wild and scenic legislation as it relates to the St. Croix River. Here tundra swans ply the river north of Hudson.

Continued on next page

BULK RATE
CITY RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STILLWATER, MN
PERMIT #30
ECS/LOT

Press Publications
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Water
es
m on
ted

St. Croix Valley Press

Weekend

page 14

C•A•L•E•N•D•A•R
Stillwater's most complete
entertainment guide!

Vol. 21, No. 47

Serving Stillwater & the St. Croix Valley

February 11, 1999

Struggle to survive



Gov. Jesse Ventura moves to phase out the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission

Executive Director Buck Malick and Public Affairs Director Jim Harrison of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission are confused by a Gov. Jesse Ventura proposal to shut down the agency.

INSIDE	NATURE: NORTH SHORE MUSING.....	8	WEEKEND.....	14
	HISTORY: TOUGH WORK-LOW WAGES.....	9	ENTERTAINMENT.....	15
	ARTS: SAVING BANKS.....	10	CLASSIFIED.....	22

Presentation to the Joint Finance Committee
Brown County Library, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Friday, March 26, 1999

Good Morning, I am here this morning to speak in support of SHWEC. My name is Dan Busch, Environmental Project Manager at Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District. As Environmental Manager, I am responsible for District compliance with air, water, solid waste and hazardous waste environmental regulations. I am also the lead person for District pollution prevention initiatives in the community.

The District's mercury reduction program, Program to Reduce Environmental Mercury (PREM), is a pollution prevention program designed to encourage proper recycling of mercury and substitution of non-mercury alternatives where possible. Our program was implemented in support of the Wisconsin Mercury Reduction Strategy which includes pollution prevention as a primary control method.

I became familiar with the services offered by SHWEC as a result of our PREM efforts. SHWEC staff have actively participated in both local and state level stakeholder meetings.

At the local level they have provided material and assistance in developing procedures for doing mercury audits and inventories in Manufacturing, Commercial and Industrial facilities. Last fall, a fluorescent lamp clean sweep was organized under a three way partnership between SHWEC, Brown Co. Household Hazardous Waste facility and the District. They have been a active participant in the Sustainable Green Bay Initiative which will be held this weekend at UWGB.

At the state level, they have participated in similar mercury reduction efforts in Milwaukee, Madison and Superior. They have assisted the dental and medical sectors with mercury reduction activities. They have been participants in several medical and dental seminars addressing the issue of mercury in the environment.

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP's) are beginning to use pollution prevention concepts as means of addressing unconventional pollutants like mercury. The Wisconsin Mercury Strategy and The Great Lakes Initiative, will both require WWTP's to begin pollution prevention programs if they have a problem meeting water quality standards. Non regulatory agencies, like SHWEC will be a valuable resource when developing these programs.

Toxicity Reduction Evaluations (TRE's) are necessary when WWTP's fail bioassay toxicity tests. Here again SHWEC has proven to be a valuable partner to have when investigating toxins that may be present in the discharge from a facility.

I recently returned from the winter conference for Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Roundtable held at EPA headquarters in Chicago. It was obvious that EPA is promoting pollution prevention as the leading tool to control pollutants that have been identified as persistent, bio-accumulating, toxins (PBT's). WWTP's are not designed to remove these pollutants, the only effective way to keep them out of our water resources is by pollution prevention.

I support continued funding of SHWEC programs and activities. I envision an increasing need for their pollution prevention services in the future as WWTP's continue to deal with controlling unconventional pollutants, like persistent, bio-accumulating, toxins, (PBT's).

I believe that WWTP's in Wisconsin are first becoming aware of the assistance that SHWEC can offer when dealing with toxins in the wastewater stream.

A case study which features a cooperative effort between a WWTP and SHWEC will be presented this Fall at the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association Annual Conference in Stevens Point.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning in support of SHWEC.

Dan Busch
Environmental Project Manager
Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.
(920) 438-1039 (phone)
dbusch@gbmsd.org (e-mail)

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 3-26-99

BILL NO. _____

OR

SUBJECT GOV. BUDGET

RECYCLING

Jim PENNAU
(NAME)

PO Box 163
(Street Address or Route Number)

OSHKOSH, WI 54902
(City and Zip Code)

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

OVER
→

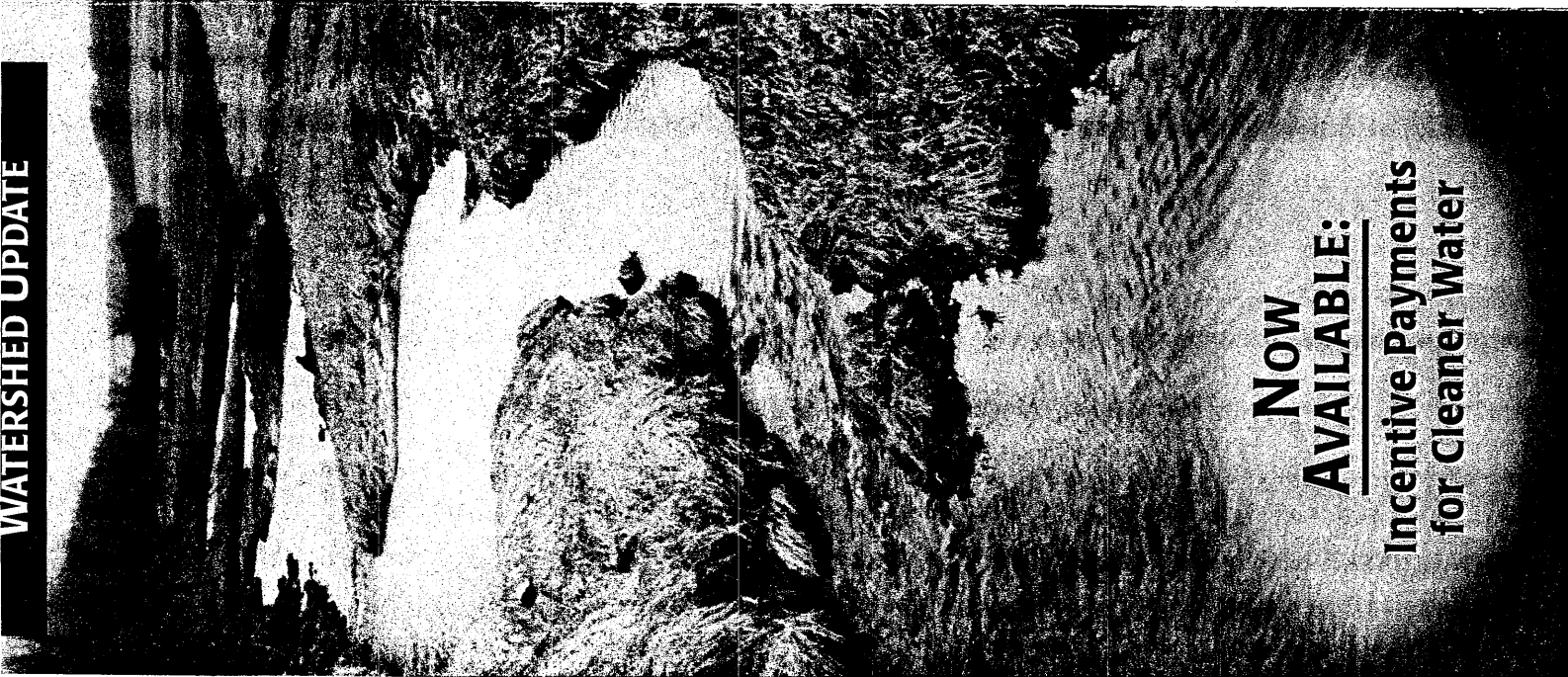
ATTACHED IS MY
TESTIMONY IN REGARD
TO THE FUTURE FUNDING
OF RECYCLING AS IT
WILL IMPACT WINNEBAGO
COUNTY -

HAVE AN APPOINTMENT
IN OSHKOSH WHICH
I CANNOT MISS -

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONSIDERATION -

PLEASE CONTACT ME
WITH ANY QUESTIONS
OR SUGGESTIONS -



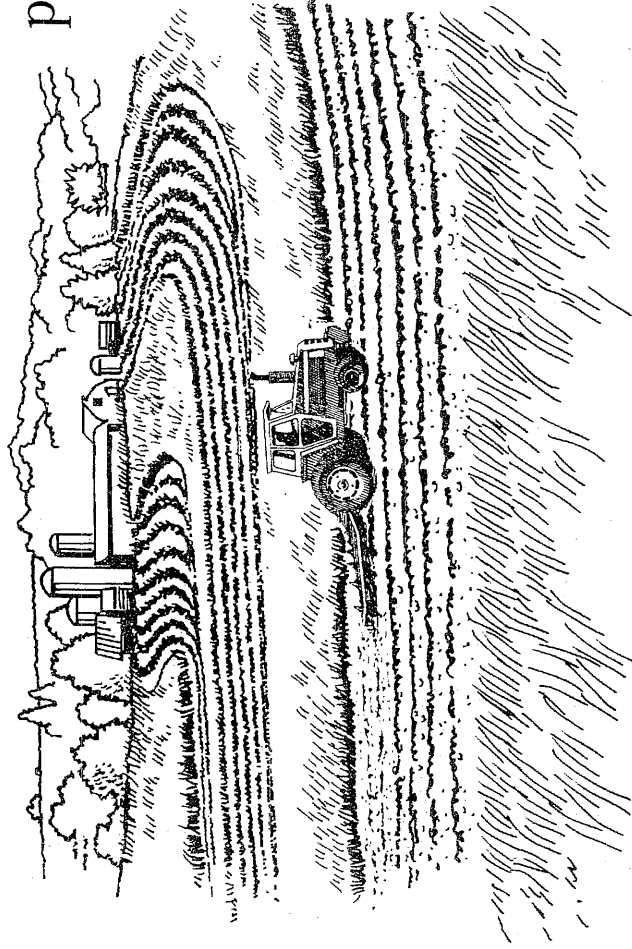


**NOW
AVAILABLE:**
**Incentive Payments
for Cleaner Water**

South Fork Hay River Watershed Project Presents: The Pollution Reduction Incentive Program.

A new conservation
program designed
by local citizens
with you in
mind.

Look inside to
check out what
options would work
best on your land -
contact the office
listed below:



St. Croix County
Land Conservation Department

Ag Center
P.O. Box 95
1960 8th Ave.
Baldwin, WI 54002
(715) 684-2874 ext. 132

Dunn County
Land Conservation Department

Ag Center, Suite C
390 Red Cedar St.
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 232-5983

Funding is Available

Starting right now, there are incentive and cost-sharing funds available through your Priority Watershed Project.

As an eligible landowner, you not only get financial assistance to install water quality practices, you also get technical assistance to make sure your conservation plan fits your needs and management style.



The Priority Watershed Project is ready to provide financial incentives for your practices. Funding is limited, so sign-up will be by a first-come, first-serve basis.

Talk to one of your watershed employees to find out more about this new incentive program.

Practices & Rates for Incentive Payments & Cost-Sharing

SOUTH FORK HAY RIVER PRIORITY WATERSHED POLLUTION REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (PRIP)

Cropland
Farm plan to "T" and 590 Nutrient Management Plan
Annual Payment: \$6.00/acre for NHEL fields \$8.00/acre for HEL fields

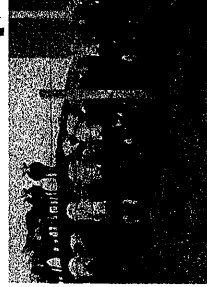
Barnyard
Cropland plans have to be implemented prior to receiving barnyard incentive.
Payment Scale (one-time payment):
20% reduction receives \$10/lb 70% reduction receives \$50/lb
30% reduction receives \$20/lb 80% reduction receives \$55/lb
40% reduction receives \$30/lb 90% reduction receives \$60/lb
50% reduction receives \$40/lb 100% reduction receives \$70/lb
60% reduction receives \$45/lb

Stream Corridor Management
Management Plan required
Annual Payment is \$2.00/acre
One-time Payment \$0.25/ft of streambank

Woodland
Annual Payment is \$2.00/acre for exclusion

Cost-Shared Best Management Practices:

Agricultural Sediment basins	70%
Critical Area Stabilization	70%
Grade Stabilization Structures	70%
Grassed Waterways	70%
Land Acquisition	50% ²
Manure Storage Facilities	70% and 50% ³
Manure Storage Facility Abandonment	70%
Milking Center Waste Control	70%
Pesticide Handling Spill Control Basin	70%
Shoreline and Streambank Protection	70% ¹
Structural Urban BMPs	70%
Well Abandonment	70%
Wetland Restoration	70% ¹



¹ Exemptions may be entered into in conjunction with these BMPs.
² Cost-sharing is available to acquire land for the construction of an urban structural practice or to acquire land which is contributing or will contribute nonpoint source pollution.
³ Cost-share at 70% for first \$20,000 of cost and at 50% for remaining cost, not to exceed \$35,000.

Steps to Cleaner Water

Landowners are contacted



This is where we are now. Project staff are contacting landowners to explain how the program works.

An agreement is drafted



If you decide to participate in the program, then you work with the county staff to develop a conservation and nutrient management plan designed specifically for your farm. From there, other practices can be discussed to see what fits into your farm management plan.

An agreement is signed



Signing an agreement is an important step. With it, you agree to carry out and maintain the practices which you have selected. The agreement outlines what will be done, estimated costs and completion dates.