

KENNETH P. PETERSON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

P.O. BOX 1471 * LA CROSSE, WI 54602-1471 (608) 781-1208 * FAX: (609) 781-7273

April 2, 2001

Rep. Michael Huebsch
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Re: State Public Defender Budget Cut

Dear Mr. Huebsch:

I have often heard the question; can we afford to give the low-income people really good legal representation? I simply say as an answer to that question; can we afford not to? I am, of course, referring to the 6th Amendment and what is right over what it may cost.

I'm a private bar attorney who has practiced law for over thirty years mostly in the La Crosse County area. I accept State Public Defender cases not only because they help supplement my income but also because I feel I'm helping those less fortunate than most and those who need a helping hand for one reason or another. The lord has often said "You do to the least of me you do to me".

Although the lord always provides; I still need to pay the usual expenses found in all small businesses; secretary wages, rent/mortgage payments, utilities, supplies, taxes, only to mention a few. One does not make it in the legal profession on \$40.00 per hour and my private clientele brings that low \$40.00 per hour up to a livable wage.

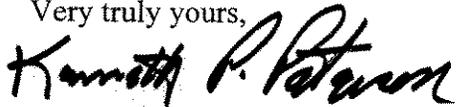
I'm not just crying on your shoulder but want you to look at the smaller law practice. I submit to you they not only have a place in representing the lower income, they are essential to it. If they disappear one might find themselves at the price set by large firms. I can assure you, it wouldn't be \$40.00 per hour. So, I ask that you do not destroy the smaller firms, but insure their existence by increasing their hourly rate to at least that recited by the Supreme Court of this State (\$70.00 per hour).

I would also write in defense of the local counties absorbing the cost of those who now do not qualify. It would seem that one or two capital crime cases might well spell financial destruction for a county budget. If the private bar wage is cut, we will look for a higher paying client and

wait until the county needs to hire the attorney at the higher rate. If the State doesn't pay the counties will at the higher rate.

Lastly, the least of us need good representation as well as the more influential and that will only happen if their representatives, their attorneys, are fairly compensated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth P. Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

Kenneth P. Peterson
Attorney at Law

**LA CROSSE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

300 4TH STREET NORTH
P.O. BOX 4002
LA CROSSE, WI 54602-4002

REPLY TO:

(608) 785-6044

March 30, 2001

Joint Financial Committee Wisconsin Legislatures

Dear Committee Members:

As Juvenile Court Intake Worker's for La Crosse County Department of Human Services, we are writing in regard to the proposed budgetary cuts to the State Public Defenders Office.

In reviewing this matter, we have concern about the impact this decision would have on our clients, the SPD office and La Crosse County itself.

The SPD has maximized its caseload and our children in the court system already expressed complaints about their inability to spend sufficient time with their attorney. These cuts would, in effect, cause the SPD to lower client eligibility and appoint less capable private attorney's to represent children at the taxpayer's expense. There is such a short list of private attorney's now that we cannot envision this increasing due to SPD downsizing. We feel it is ill advised and prejudicial to force a child to be represented by someone who has limited or no expertise in criminal law. Sadly, these children may opt to appear pro se, than accept ineffective counsel.

Additionally, the SPD through their current funding, is providing worthwhile services, such as pretrial assessments. These resources would be eliminated and we can foresee the court's continuing to order these services at the County's expense. We feel this is irresponsible of the State, as our budgets are strained and we are currently under a 5% reduction for this fiscal year. Again, this will be passed on to the community in increased taxes or a reduction of other needed services.

In closing, we urge you to reconsider the SPD budget cut.

Sincerely,



Ron Allers, Supervisor
Juvenile Court Services Unit
La Crosse County Department of Human Services

CC: State Public Defender Board

ab



Amalgamated Transit Union

Local 519

La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Demand the Union Label



April 3, 2001

Joint Finance Committee:

Representatives Gard, Kaufert, Albers, Duff, Huebsch, Ward, Huber, and Riley. Senators Burke, Decker, Moore, Shibilski, Lauzich, Plache, Wirch, Darling, and Welch.

Linda O'Connor, President
Wisconsin Legislative Conference Board
Amalgamated Transit Union.
W645 Hillview Drive
Stoddard, WI 54658

Transit is a vital part of the overall transportation picture for Wisconsin. Wisconsin's public transit system covers 60 communities and consists of fixed-route bus or shared-ride taxi service. Public transit is a critical mobility option for all residents; particularly students, elderly, disabled, and low income persons.

Transit is a cost effective means of transportation. For every dollar that is spent on transit it has been shown to produce \$6 of economic benefit.

Wisconsin transit systems consistently outperform their peers nationally on items such as cost per revenue hour and more riders per capita.

All over the state people use the bus to get to jobs at a reasonable cost. Transit is a valuable tool to ensure the success of welfare reform efforts. It provides a safe and reliable means of transportation necessary to establish and maintain employment. Besides getting workers to jobs and students to school transit provides access to hospitals, banks, shopping centers, parks, etc. This helps people maintain a social support system within their communities.

Increased use of public transportation leads to less congestion and a safer commute. In LaCrosse all of our busses are equipped with bike racks and are wheelchair accessible.

page 2

In Wisconsin both management and workers team up to make sure there is efficient use of the tax dollar. The Wisconsin Legislative Conference Board works regularly with WUTA on transit issues.

In LaCrosse the city continues to look at all possible sources for income. We do not depend solely on tax revenues to support transit- but also tap into the local business community for support. Currently Gunderson-Luthern Clinics/Hospital in LaCrosse provides a subsidy for several routes. They know that this helps both their ability to get their employees to work and the congestion in the nearby neighborhoods. Other companies, including Trane, Co., participate in a WORKS pass program for their employees. Transit in the LaCrosse area is a vital part of the overall transportation plan. The MTU also provides service to the outlying communities of Onalaska, French Island and LaCrescent, MN. This wide service area helps the congestion throughout the Coulee Region.

Your continued support for transit is needed to make sure people have a reliable affordable means of transportation. The amount Governor McCallum is proposing for transit is not sufficient. The governor recommends an increase in mass transit operating assistance of 2.5% the first year with no additional increase the second year. Transit systems which maintain cost per passenger increases within the range of the consumer price index will be eligible for supplemental operating assistance the second year. Cost are rising faster than these increases address. Just the increase in fuel cost this past year was more than the proposed increase. Also, the cost of complying with federal mandated ADA requirements has also put a tremendous burden on transit budgets. The cost of providing paratransit services makes it even harder for systems to keep their overall cost per ride low.

We are asking you to consider increases in operating assistance of **6%** the first year of the budget and **6.2%** the second year. These figures are what we feel will maintain our current level of services. Please help the working person by keeping transportation affordable.
Thank you for your time.

Linda O'Connor

La Crosse MTU ***Municipal Transit Utility***

LA CROSSE MTU
2000 Marco Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 789-7350
(608) 789-7374 FAX
carlsonk@cityoflacrosse.org

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 3, 2001

**Cleary Center – University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
La Crosse, Wisconsin**

**Testimony: Keith Carlson
Transit Manager
City of La Crosse
(608) 789-7350**

Representing the Wisconsin Urban Transit Association (WUTA)

Public transit in Wisconsin is vital to the economic health of our communities!

Every day thousands of people are transported to work on public transit systems, enabling low-income families to attain and maintain self-sufficiency, and helping employers to fill open positions in an unprecedented tight labor market.

Special populations (i.e., elderly, disabled and low-income) depend on transit to meet their personal and social needs. This allows these individuals to uphold their independence and productivity within our communities.

Public transit is an important partner in dealing with pressing community issues. For example, here in La Crosse we have been successful at bringing together federal, state, and local units of government, regional businesses and educational institutions, to enhance public transportation and mobility within the coulee region. Some example of successful programs include:

- Apple Express – Bus service to La Crescent, Minnesota
- La Crosse Loop – Trolley Service to Historic Downtown La Crosse
- Onalaska Shopper Shuttle Service to Hwy 16 Retail Corridor in Onalaska
- "MTU Works" – Cooperative bus pass program with local businesses
- French Island Service – Bus service to French Island, Airport, and Industrial Parks
- U-Pass Programs – University of Wisconsin La Crosse and Western Wisconsin Technical College students have pre-paid unlimited access to the MTU bus system
- Safe Ride – Safe late night alternative for students to get between downtown and campus area

Governor McCallum's proposed public transit budget for the next biennium is 2.5% each year. THIS SIMPLY IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET RISING UNCONTROLLABLE COSTS!

Public transit systems have been hit hard the past year by rising fuel costs—not only diesel fuel to run the buses, but also natural gas costs to heat our facilities. In addition, we have all been affected by labor shortages. Transit systems are struggling to recruit and retain the type of employee necessary to transport our very precious human cargo. It is imperative that we remain competitive in the workforce, and we can only do this by offering fair wages and benefits. It will take additional funding to remain competitive, particularly to meet the expense of skyrocketing health insurance premiums.

WUTA respectfully requests budget increases of 6% each year of the next biennium so that we might maintain current service levels.

WUTA is vehemently opposed to Governor McCallum's budget stipulation that proposes to penalize transit systems by withholding state funds, if a particular system experiences cost per passenger increases greater than the Consumer Price Index.

Again, public transit systems are struggling to meet sharply rising uncontrollable costs, such as diesel fuel, natural gas and health insurance premiums. Furthermore, the new service to surrounding communities mentioned earlier will take time to develop ridership. Until these services are more fully utilized, the cost per passenger will be higher than normal.

Under Governor McCallum's proposal, the City of La Crosse could be penalized for reaching out to surrounding communities or trying innovative transit services to solve some of the transportation needs of the region. State transit funding could be withheld, which would result in service cutbacks, ultimately affecting the financial stability and independence of hundreds of community members.

Please keep in mind that two years ago the State Legislature implemented performance standards for all its public transit systems. WisDOT evaluates transit system on a yearly basis in six areas of performance indicators, and they have the authority to penalize systems that fail to meet the guidelines that have been set forth.

*On behalf of WUTA, I would like to thank the Wisconsin Legislature for your past support of public transit! We implore you to continue to recognize the vital role transit plays in the economic welfare of Wisconsin's communities. We ask that you **increase public transit funding by 6% each year of the biennium** to account for uncontrollable costs, and we ask that you continue to trust the expertise of WisDOT officials in evaluating and addressing transit operational efficiencies.*

Thank you.

City of La Crosse Municipal Transit Utility

March 2001

- Ridership on La Crosse Transit buses has increased 8% since 1997. ***La Crosse MTU is on the go!***
- We provided 830,000 rides last year, and we anticipate we will hit 860,000 rides in 2001. ***La Crosse MTU is responsive to community transportation needs.***
- Who rides the La Crosse MTU? WORKERS. Approximately 40% of all passenger trips are work-related. ***La Crosse MTU connects people to jobs.***
- Seniors, students and disabled individuals (developmentally and physically) comprise our next largest groups of riders. ***La Crosse MTU helps people remain independent within the community.***
- Since 1997, we have expanded our service to include La Crescent, Minnesota, Onalaska, and French Island. We also contract with UW-La Crosse and Western Wisconsin Technical College to provide additional bus service. These partnerships have re-energized our transit system, helping to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility throughout the coulee region. ***MTU is a vital community collaborator.***

- The La Crosse MTU is reliant on government subsidies in order to keep fares reasonably priced. Our current \$3.5 million operating budget is funded: 21% federal, 39% state, 20% City of La Crosse's general fund and 20% farebox and contract revenue. ***La Crosse MTU is an effective operator of governmental partnerships.***

- The La Crosse MTU operates 6 regular routes, Late night UW-L "Safe Ride" service and the La Crosse Loop - trolley service to Historic Downtown. We have 16 buses on the road during peak hours. We run from 5:10 AM – 10:40 PM, Monday through Friday, and 7:40 AM – 7:40 PM on Saturday and Sundays. We employ 44 people—bus operators, shop employees, mechanics and administration staff. ***The La Crosse MTU is a valuable local employer.***

- Cash fares are \$.75 and transfers are free. Seniors (65+) and the disabled pay \$.35. The monthly pass is a popular option. It costs \$25 for unlimited rides; a monthly pass costs \$16 for seniors and the disabled. ***The La Crosse MTU provides affordable transportation through efficient operation.***

- The La Crosse MTU oversees a complementary paratransit service for elderly and disabled persons. This curb-to-curb service costs the rider only \$1.50 per trip and meets all the mandates of the ADA. Demand for paratransit services has skyrocketed. We anticipate a 10% growth in our paratransit services in 2001. ***The La Crosse MTU ensures that persons of all abilities are provided with transportation options.***



Safe And Fast Extrication, Inc.
A Non Profit Organization

John Olshanski
Executive Director

P.O. Box 510526
New Berlin, WI 53151
414/529-0272
262/781-9016 (fax)
Safeinc@aol.com

SAFE AND FAST EXTRICATION, INC.
A Non Profit Organization

P.O. Box 510526
New Berlin, WI 53151-0526
Office: 414/529-0272 Fax: 262/781-9016
Safeinc@aol.com

*Our Mission:
To save lives and
reduce suffering by
bringing qualified,
trained and certified
extrication personnel
to the scene of an
accident.*

- In the year 2000 the State of Wisconsin had 802 fatalities from vehicle collisions. A 7.8% increase in vehicle related fatalities from the previous year.
- The public assumes and expects rescue personnel to be properly trained in extrication procedures.
- The current Wisconsin Administrative Code require that firefighters are trained to meet the "minimum standard" of the Wisconsin State Firefighter I Certification course. At this level, the subject of extrication is never addressed.
- Wisconsin State Firefighter II Certification course consists of only three hours of lecture and three hours of practical. Typically these drills and extrication training are done on an out dated vehicle on all four wheels with limited tools and hands on practice for all participants.
- Wisconsin Administrative Code Comm. 30 adopts the standards of the National Fire Protection Association as it pertains to fire fighters and incorporates them in by reference, as well as states in Subchapter VI, Comm 30.07(b) further that "Every fire department shall provide training and education that does all of the following":
 1. Prepares a fire fighter to safely perform his or her duties.
 2. Prepares a fire fighter for any change in a procedure or technology or for any new hazard identified in his or her work environment.
 3. Prepare any new fire fighter whose duties include emergency operations to perform emergency operations. The training under this subdivision shall include training in the incident command system under s. Comm 30.14(1)(b).
- In some localities in Wisconsin vehicle extrication is the responsibility of EMT's.

OUR MISSION:

To save lives and reduce suffering by bringing qualified, trained and certified extrication rescue personnel to the scene of an accident.

- The current National Standard Curriculum for EMT training does not include extrication curriculum and training. (Reference: US DOT, NHTSA, EMT-Basic: National Standard Curriculum). EMT personnel often work closely with the victims in hazardous extrication situations without possessing any vehicle extrication training themselves. EMT's are not allowed to take firefighter courses unless he or she is affiliated with a fire department. Rescue personnel, as well as the victims, are being placed in jeopardy due to this lack of training. Of all of the different types of emergency situations that rescuers are responsible for, vehicle collisions contain the highest number of traumatic injuries and fatalities.
- Sales personnel from various hydraulic tool companies are representing themselves as certified extrication instructors. In their attempt to make the "big sale" of their tools, they are leaving out important skills and techniques and other manufacturers' products that would enable rescuers to perform a more efficient and safe extrication rescue.
- Federal regulations and public demand has driven vehicle manufactures to make changes and improvements in vehicle safety and design. Each model year, as vehicle technology advances, the methods to extricate victims has lagged further and further behind. Vehicle extrication research and development for new extrication procedures or technology is currently not being updated and disseminated to rescue personnel.
- Today's rescuers must have updated information available to them regarding vehicle extrication procedures, training and education.

A comprehensive structured educational training program is needed that meets the standards of the NFPA and Wisconsin Administrative Codes. It must deal with the changing technology of vehicle design and meet the educational needs of rescuers who ultimately serve the people of Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

ISSUE

- Agriculture and the environment are vital to Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin's farmers are facing economically challenging times.
- Environmental regulations are stringent.
- Agriculture is committed to good stewardship of land and water.
- New tools and research are needed to help producers.

HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

- Idea discussed in 1999.
- Fact-finding trips to the Netherlands to observe their agricultural research initiative.
- Governor Thompson announced the creation of WASI May 5, 2000.
- Governor McCallum endorsed WASI February 15, 2001.

RESEARCH VENUES

- Pioneer Agricultural Stewardship Farm
 - Applied systems research
 - UW-Platteville
- Discovery Farms
 - On-farm research
 - Cooperating producers
 - UW-Extension and UW-Madison
- Component Research
 - UW-Ag Exp Station
 - UW Ag Consortium campuses

The Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative is a producer-driven research effort involving a statewide collaboration of farmers, farm organizations and commodity groups, university researchers, environmental groups, and governmental agencies.

It will help producers:

- Reduce feed, labor and other costs.
- Manage nutrients efficiently.
- Maximize profits.
- Improve efficiency of operation.
- Understand the economic impacts of different management practices.
- Protect the environment.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

- Wisconsin-The Netherlands
- For sharing ideas, data, information

BUDGET

The collaborating partners request funding at a level equal to the original request submitted to the Department of Administration. This will require adding \$2,217,550 and 3.5 FTE to Governor McCallum's biennial budget for the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative. (Please see reverse for further budget details.)

Category	Original request to DOA	Governor's request
Biennial operating budget	\$4,029,950	\$1,812,400
Biennial capital budget	\$4,829,000	\$4,829,000
2001-03 Total	\$8,858,950	\$6,641,400

CONTACTS

Duane Ford, UW-Platteville fordd@uwplatt.edu / 608-342-1547
 Kevin McSweeney, UW-Madison kmcsween@facstaff.wisc.edu / 608-262-6968
 Rick Klemme, UW-Extension richard.klemme@ces.uwex.edu / 608-262-4591
 Vic Phillips, UW-Stevens Point vphillip@uwsp.edu / 715-346-4617
 Bill Anderson, UW-River Falls william.anderson@uwrf.edu / 715-425-3841

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE ORIGINAL BUDGET REQUEST TO DOA

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

- \$ 129,600 GPR each year
- Provides administrative support to the initiative
- Positions:
 - 1 FTE program assistant
 - 1 FTE database manager

UW-PLATTEVILLE PIONEER AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP FARM

- \$4,369,000 capital
- Provides for ag tech center, living and learning center, dairy and swine center renovations
- \$1,493,826 GPR 01-02
- \$ 482,674 GPR 02-03
- Positions:
 - 1 FTE project manager
 - 1 FTE faculty liaison

UW-EXTENSION AND UW-MADISON DISCOVERY FARMS

- \$ 336,250 GPR 01-02 (10 farms)
- \$ 458,000 GPR 02-03 (15 farms)
- Positions:
 - 0.5 FTE co-director
 - 1 FTE systems scientist

UW-STEVENS POINT

- Funds included in Pioneer Agricultural Stewardship Farm and Discovery Farm budgets
- Provides for environmental monitoring, data collection, and experimental design

COMPONENT RESEARCH

- WISARD foundation
- UW Agriculture Experiment Station and UW Agriculture Consortium Campuses
- Provides competitive grant funding
- \$ 250,000 GPR 01-02
- \$ 750,000 GPR 02-03

UW-RIVER FALLS DAIRY TRAINING CENTER

- \$ 310,000 capital for sequencing batch reactor and wastewater storage
- \$ 150,000 capital for concrete pad composting



Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative

Talking points:

Producer-driven

This is the big one. This program is all about empowering and helping Wisconsin's farmers find the best ways, environmentally and economically, to deal with current and expected environmental regulation. Producers will be involved in administering the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, in identifying research priorities, in conducting the research, and in disseminating the lessons learned.

Systems-based approach to research

Farms are a system. "Systems research" studies these systems as a whole by looking at how the individual components in the farming system interact and at how these components working together impact the environment and profitability. A systems approach provides a clearer understanding of how real-world farms work and impact both the environment and the farmer's pocketbook, than research approaches that focus only on the study of an individual component or two.

Science-based regulations

Another important one... Often the regulations being placed on agriculture are based on studies done in areas with far different geographic, climatic and soil features than those in Wisconsin. Data from say, Arizona, simply cannot be the basis of sound nutrient management regulations in Wisconsin. WASI's will help obtain the data needed by Wisconsin producers and policy makers to formulate sound environmental regulations.

Partnership among producers, their organizations, university and extension.

For perhaps the first time ever, producers, producer organizations, university researchers, agricultural commodity groups, agricultural agencies, and environmental groups and agencies from across Wisconsin are working in partnership. WASI pools the expertise and interests of each of these in a way that will have a positive impact on Wisconsin long into the future. Working together, these groups will ensure Wisconsin agriculture's future sustainability and economic stability.

Improved environmental impact

WASI is good for Wisconsin's environment and natural resources. The projects seek to reduce and improve agriculture's impact on the environment.

WISCONSIN CITIZEN ACTION



Wisconsin's Largest Public Interest Organization ♦ Representing 53,000 individual members and 250 affiliate organizations
1202 Williamson Street, Suite B, Madison, WI 53703 ♦ 608-256-1250 ♦ (fax) 608-256-1177 ♦ info@wi-citizenaction.org
152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 308, Milwaukee, WI 53203 ♦ 414-272-2562 ♦ (fax) 414-274-3494 ♦ www.wi-citizenaction.org

Support Senator Burke's Family Farm Protection Act Budget Amendment

The proposed Family Farm Protection Act is designed to:

- Level the playing field so small to moderate sized family farms – the majority of Wisconsin farms – can be economically viable
- Ensure adequate environmental protection and healthy rural communities
- Invest in a future for Wisconsin family-farms including low interest loans, low-cost strategies for modernization and expansion and the development of new agricultural enterprises, new products and an aggressive marketing effort for Wisconsin grown products.

Key Budgetary Components:

(see reverse for dollar amounts)

- a) Fund UW-PATS to study the degree of concentration in the dairy, livestock and grain industry and its ~~impact~~ social and economic impact on family farm agriculture and rural communities.
- b) Create a position in the Department of Justice to investigate and enforce anti-competitive practices ~~in~~ agriculture and ensure compliance with and enforcement of discriminatory pricing prohibitions.
- c) Increase DATCP Agriculture Development and Diversification grant program that promotes new markets and new uses.
- d) Establish DATCP "Buy Wisconsin" Market Development Program.
- e) Establish DATCP cost-share program for transition to managed intensive grazing and organic systems of livestock production.
- f) Increase funding for the Small Business Health Insurance Pool, enabling farmers and other small business owners to join in a pool and gain the purchasing powers of larger corporations.
- g) Establish a low-interest revolving loan program for farmers who are implementing new farm enterprises and/or developing businesses that add value and build markets.
- h) Provide cost share funding for state and federal required nutrient management plans, certification and crop insurance programs.

For more information, please contact:

Sam Gieryn, Citizen Action Family Farm Stewardship Campaign Coordinator
(608) 256-1250 ext. 13 • sgieryn@wi-citizenaction.org
1202 Williamson Street, Suite B • Madison, WI 53703

Family Farm Protection Act - Fiscal Summary

Proposed Program		Annual Cost
I. Anti Competitive Practices		
a. Research, University of Wisconsin, Impacts of Concentration	A	50000
b. DOJ staff for anti-trust enforcement, compliance/enforcement of volume pricing practices	A	100000
II. Price and Market Reform		
a. DATCP staff: analyze price reporting records, create dairy price reporting & anti-price discrimination system, develop criteria for ag production contracts	A	35000
III. Farm and Rural Business Development		
a. Increase DATCP ADD program	B	500000
b. Establish DATCP "Buy-Wisconsin" Local Market Development Program	C	1000000
c. Increase UW-CIAS farmer-research grants and outreach on managed grazing and organic dairying systems	A	300000
d. Increase UW Center for Dairy Profitability research on low-capital strategies for improving profitability	A	50000
e. Establish DATCP cost-share program for managed grazing and organic systems of production.	B	2000000
f. Sustainable Woodlot Initiative	E	250000
g. Increase University of Wisconsin short-course for beginning dairy and beginning market gardener program	C	75000
h. Increase funding for Small Business Health Insurance pool	A+	400000
IV. Credit and Financing Reform		
a. Farm Entrepreneur Micro-Loan Revolving Fund	C	2000000
V. Environment		
a. Cost share for nutrient management practices	A	3000000
b. DNR WPDES enforcement - increase fees to cover costs	A	250000
c. DNR study - options to, and phase out of, liquid animal waste handling	A	50000
Total		\$10,060,000

*In my personal view I would
 prioritize as follows
 A = Most important
 B =
 C = least.*

open9/aficio/sg/jlo

3 April 2001

Joint Committee on Finance
c/o University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Cleary Alumni and Friends Center
615 East Avenue North
La Crosse WI 54601

Re: Support for **Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (WASI)**

Dear Senator Burke,

This letter is to register support for full funding for the newly established Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (WASI) announced by Governor Thompson in May 2000. This initiative is an effort to incorporate research and environmental policy into a representative sample of commercial farms to prove the economic and environmental viability of these research efforts.

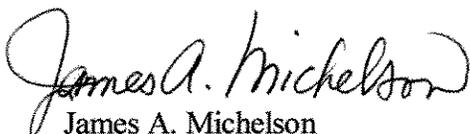
Agriculture is currently encountering near depression prices for many commodities. Milk, corn, soybeans, hay, cranberries, and some vegetable crops are at near historic low prices. Consequently, farmers are hesitant, and in many cases financially unable, to incorporate new research or environmental policy into their operations which might not prove economically feasible. Farmers cannot afford to independently experiment, they need and want proven on-farm technologies. That is a major objective of WASI, to incorporate these new technologies and policies into working farm operations, to closely oversee and monitor all inputs and outputs, and to prove/disprove the economics of these new management practices.

You recently passed an ethanol subsidy bill. Since passage, there have already been several serious proposals to construct ethanol production plants in the state, and one plant may be already under construction. The point is that this original "subsidy" will be repaid many times over through increased revenues from property, income and sales taxes from the multiplier effect of business staying within our borders.

WASI funding is somewhat similar in that benefits will extend well beyond the farm community. New farm environmental standards are being proposed and researched with a goal of further reducing unwanted nutrient flows into the state's waterways. Research proven reduced input costs will directly benefit the farm community while cleaner water from both the reduced inputs and reduced movement off the land will benefit all citizens. This is some of the research that WASI proposes to evaluate in farm trials but the farm community needs the financial support of the state.

I am a farmer on the committee overseeing the on-farm trials. The first "Discovery Farm" for on-farm trials was only recently selected and a research plan formulated. It is extremely important to the farm community, and to all citizens interested in environmental improvements, that this project, especially in its initial stages, be fully funded. I request your support to increase the funding for this initiative to the level originally requested by the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection - \$8.86 million and 5.5 personnel positions.

Respectfully,



James A. Michelson
N5356 County Highway M
West Salem WI 54669-9202

Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin
Position Statement - Funding for Recycling in Wisconsin
Presented to the Legislative Joint Committee on Finance
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
April 3, 2001

The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) Board of Directors has discussed the issue of state funding for recycling and, by majority vote, has determined the following conclusions and recommendations. AROW's membership, which includes Responsible Units, haulers, processors, and markets, represents the broad range of public and private entities most significantly affected by the funding recommendations of Governor McCallum's proposed State Budget.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. To sustain the current mandated recycling programs, state funding to Responsible Units (RUs) is needed.
2. Funding should be tied more closely to both consumer and generator activities.
3. Education and research are important; UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC), UW System Solid Waste Research Program, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Information & Education should continue to be funded.
4. Funding should provide incentives to increase program efficiencies and cost effectiveness and to reduce the number of units of government responsible for recycling.
5. The role of DNR should shift toward planning and enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

FUNDING AMOUNT -

As shown by the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report on recycling, state support for municipal recycling, as a percent of total costs, has decreased each year since 1995.

AROW recommends maintaining a segregated fund with various contributing sources:

- First, keep the current sources, which according to the LAB Report results in a deficit of about \$9.5 million per year at the current expenditure level.
- Second, add \$1.55/ton to the current \$0.30/ton tax on landfill tipping fees to eliminate the fund deficit. This tipping fee increase will encourage waste reduction, discourage out-of-state waste, and offset subsidies that artificially lower the costs of virgin resources which recycled materials must compete with for markets.
- Third, certain landfill items, namely high volume industrial wastes (foundry sand, fly ash, etc.), sewerage sludge, and shredder fluff, should be exempted from the landfill tipping fee.
- Fourth, tie the full tipping fee tax (\$1.85/ton) and the total amount of grants to Responsible Units to annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index.
- Fifth, waive municipal tax levy and expenditure limits for all recycling expenses.

CONSUMER / GENERATOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY -

Funding for recycling should ultimately be provided by consumers, not taxpayers. The current business surcharge should be supported/supplemented/replaced by an "environmental fee/tax" collected from consumers at the time they purchase something rather than at the end of the item's life. Minimum recycled content legislation will enhance markets. Extended Producer Responsibility programs will encourage inclusion of design-for-recycling during a product's research and development phase and will expedite development of the infrastructure necessary for efficient, end-of-life product management.

AROW recommends the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility programs and strongly encourages a State Task Force be set up by year's end to develop appropriate legislative proposals.

EDUCATION -

Public awareness and policy development are vital to the success of recycling. UW Extension has a notable history of collection and evaluation of industry data and exploration of new materials like construction-&-demolition waste and electronics. SHWEC provides expertise and services to businesses which most local communities do not. The UW System Solid Waste Research Program has helped find beneficial uses for by-products produced by Wisconsin paper mills, foundries, and coal fired electrical generators. Municipalities have benefited from research conducted to improve composting techniques and to improve recycling efficiencies. DNR information and education activities have contributed to the establishment and achievements of many public and private recycling programs.

AROW recommends the continued provision and funding of all essential educational services.

EFFICIENCIES/COST EFFECTIVENESS / NUMBER OF RESPONSIBLE UNITS -

More efficient and cost effective delivery of recycling services could be achieved through better planning and use of existing public and private sector infrastructure in the state. Strategic partnering and cooperation could provide economies of scale, reduced overheads, improved handling logistics, and other cost savings. Rewarding cost effectiveness through grants and incentives must be done logically. However, guidelines for determining "cost-effectiveness," which treat each local responsible unit fairly, will be difficult to establish and monitor.

AROW recommends per capita distribution of state grants to responsible units, and, incentives to increase program efficiencies and cost effectiveness and to reduce the number of units of government responsible for recycling.

DNR OVERSIGHT & ENFORCEMENT -

Simplifying dispersal of funds to local programs may diminish DNR staffing needs, thus, freeing staff to spend more time on issues related to enforcement and planning.

AROW recommends more DNR oversight and enforcement of existing recycling laws; enforcement assistance to RUs; greater adherence to the solid waste management hierarchy; development of solid waste plans for all material not recycled; and DNR leadership in directing solid waste management of the future, including the development of a ten year strategic plan.

2001 MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION WORK PLAN

2/8/01

General

The Commission provides public information and answers inquiries. It stages field trips and information forums to involve people in development of resource management and research policy. The 1965 Compact purposely denied the Commission power to make or enforce laws. Instead, it created a catalyst, partner, facilitator and advocate for conservation and development in the public interest in the Mississippi and St. Croix River valleys. Ultimate results are outside its control.

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The Commission meets regularly in even-numbered months. The Mississippi River Regional Committee and the St. Croix River Regional Committee meet regularly in odd-numbered months. To promote public input, meeting times and locations are rotated and held in public buildings in river towns in both states. All meeting agendas feature an open public forum. Agendas and minutes are widely distributed and are posted on the website.

A. Specific Activities in Both River Valleys

1. Boost coordinated interstate tourism programs featuring the border rivers
2. Identify inconsistent interstate laws and coordinate law enforcement
3. Support the Grand Excursion 2004
4. Monitor and coordinate regional land use planning. Facilitate meetings of government planners
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8. Comment on excessive waste water treatment facility and other point discharge permits, especially the Twin Cities plants
9. Facilitate public input to the Fish & Wildlife Service policy on ecological integrity
10. Develop and offer policy tools for cell tower siting

B. Specific Activities in the St. Croix Valley

1. Support Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Cooperative Management Plan

2. Provide staff and an ex-officio member of the Upper and Lower Management Commissions
3. Participate on the Basin Water Resources Management Planning Team
4. Strive for resolution of Stillwater-Houlton bridge disagreements and convene regional infrastructure plan meetings if requested
5. Comment on utility crossing permits
6. Participate on zebra mussel task force
7. Teach stewardship through River Stewards Journal, Guide, Library, Expo, public educational seminars, the Research Rendezvous and river tours
8. Consult with marina operators
9. Assist regional wastewater treatment plant planning and uniform water quality goals

C. Specific Activities in the Upper Mississippi River Valley

1. Advocate full implementation of the Environmental Management Program
2. Support the Strategy for Operation and Maintenance of the Natural Resources Systems described in "A River that Works and a Working River"
3. Participate in the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System Study, the Habitat Needs Assessment Study and advocacy of the Basin Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiatives
4. Facilitate public involvement in river management policies and planning, including the Endangered Species Act consultation on mussel jeopardy; habitat rehabilitation and pool management; Lock & Dam 3 upgrades; Pools 7 & 8 beaches; Pools 5 & 8 drawdowns; Upper Mississippi Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Upper Mississippi-Illinois Waterway Navigation Study
5. Participate in the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, Environmental Management Coordinating Committee and the Annual Summit Meeting
6. Participate in habitat restoration, channel maintenance, water level management, and the River Resources Forum's Recreation and Fish & Wildlife Work Groups
7. Monitor hydropower permits for Mississippi and Chippewa River dams
8. Advocate improvement of Upper Mississippi Refuges through the Centennial Act program

D. Internal Activities

1. Consolidate files and library
2. Organize pictures and slides
3. Bring website in-house
4. Send media releases by email
5. Revitalize the state legislative advisory committees
6. Compile a history of the commission

3-3-01 La Crosse

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

YOU ARE HERE TODAY TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE PROPOSED BUDGET. THAT IS THE WAY TO GET THE PULSE ON PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

AS A MEMBER OF THE DEER 2000 PROJECT WE SPENT THE LAST THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS COLLECTING IDEAS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WHITE-TAIL DEER. THE COMMITTEES I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE ON WENT TO THE PEOPLE FIRST TO FIND OUT THEIR IDEAS ON WHAT NEEDED TO BE LOOKED AT IN DEER MANAGEMENT. THEN WE WENT BACK TO THEM TO SEE WHAT THEY THOUGHT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OF WISCONSIN'S MOST POPULAR BIG GAME ANIMAL.

THE CITIZENS THAT CAME TO THOSE MEETINGS AND THE PEOPLE WHO SERVED ON THE DEER 2000 COMMITTEE WERE A CROSS SECTION OF WISCONSIN CITIZENRY. THEY REPRESENTED MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND VIEW POINTS. THE COMMITTEES USED THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM THESE MEETINGS AS WELL AS RESEARCH OF ALL THE DATA AVAILABLE TO BASE THEIR DISCUSSIONS. ALL THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AVAILABLE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS WAS GATHERED AND STUDIED.

WHAT THEY CAME UP WITH WAS A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE WHITE-TAIL DEER MANAGEMENT AND ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANIMAL.

SPECIFICALLY WE ADDRESSED THE AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE PROGRAM, PRIVATE LAND ACCESS, POPULATION ESTIMATION METHODS, HERD SIZE, AND FORESTRY AND ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THESE GROUPS NEED TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN. THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET INCLUDES TWO ITEMS, THE MASTER HUNTER PROGRAM AND THE VENISON DONATION PROGRAM.

THIS IS GOOD BUT I BELIEVE THE OTHER AREAS OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DEER 2000 BUDGET PROPOSAL ARE IMPORTANT ALSO. THESE CAN NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT.

THE BUDGETING PROCESS IS VERY ROUGH. HOWEVER WITH THE TIME, EFFORT, AND RESEARCH THAT WENT INTO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, PLUS THE AMOUNT OF INPUT FROM WISCONSIN'S CITIZENS, THE MISSING ITEMS FROM THE DEER 2000 BUDGET PROPOSAL OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NEED TO BE LOOKED AT FOR INCLUSION IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

GARY T. SEVELSON

156507 M. V. KIMBLEY DR. WEST SALEM WI 54669

608-786-2084

KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE

505 N. Mill Street, La Farge, Wisconsin 54639
Phone (608) 625-2960 • FAX (608) 625-2962

April 3, 2001

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FROM: MARCY WEST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the Kickapoo Reserve Management Board (KRMB), I request your support for full funding of the general program operations, aids in lieu of taxes and proposed Visitor's Center (Capital Budget) for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve is an 8,569-acre tract of land located along the Kickapoo River between the Villages of La Farge and Ontario in Vernon County. After more than thirty years of controversy, this land that was once purchased to become a manmade lake and reservoir is now managed through the KRMB in joint ownership with the Ho-Chunk Nation. On December 29, 2000 the State of Wisconsin became the owner of 7,369 acres within the Reserve; 1,200 acres remains in federal ownership through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and will soon be in Trust status for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

The transfer of ownership from the US Army Corps of Engineers was no easy task, as this particular procedure had never been accomplished before. Commitment and dedication by current and former elected officials including Senator Meyer, Representative Johnsrud, Senators Feingold and Kohl, Congressman Kind, Brian Rude, Tommy Thompson, and Steve Gunderson guided the proposals to create the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and with the help of local residents, the ultimate transfer. Perhaps even more amazing than the transfer is the fact that the State of Wisconsin did not have to purchase the property. With an assessed value of \$6.5 million dollars (Wisconsin Department of Revenue, January 2000), the state's expenditure to date has been on average \$190,000 annually since 1996 for two staff salaries, summer employees (LTE's) and office operations.

Of course the dollar amounts don't account for the negative effects the abandoned lake and dam project had on the people of the Kickapoo Valley for all these years. If we could take away those years of controversy and only look at it from a State investment perspective, this would be the bargain of the century. As the largest publicly held tract of land in southwest Wisconsin, the Reserve is a natural resource treasure. A combination of over 3,000 acres of hardwood forests, nearly 1,000 acres of pine forest, over 20 miles of the Kickapoo River and its tributaries, 1,200 acres of leased agriculture land and nearly 200 acres of wetlands give it all the right ingredients to house an incredible diversity of plant and animal life. The property carries special designations at the federal and state level including National Natural Landmark status, National Archeological District, and over 3,000 acres make up a proposed Natural Area through the Department of Natural Resources.

The KRMB and I are committed to achieving the delicate balance directed by the legislature in s.s.41.41 "*The Board shall manage land in the Kickapoo Valley to preserve and enhance its unique environmental scenic and cultural features, to provide facilities for the use and enjoyment of visitors...*". The Memorandum of Understanding with the Ho-Chunk Nation requires that "*The Reserve will be preserved in a natural state and developed only to the extent necessary to enhance outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.*" Low impact recreation activities such as primitive camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing and hunting are the most popular activities on the Reserve.

In addition to the work associated with the transfer, over the last four years we have developed a management agreement with the Ho-Chunk Nation, drafted a thorough Master Plan, adopted Administrative Rules (with the support of the Legislature), applied for and received over \$300,000 in grants, secured planning funds through the Building Commission, published annual Visitor Guides and monthly newsletters, and coordinated a variety of educational events. Now that the land is under State of Wisconsin ownership and management, it is important that we fund what is necessary to implement the plans, rules and overall project.

Budget Specifics:

- Governor McCallum's budget recommendation includes additional funding for enforcement protection. Prior to the land ownership transfer, enforcement was the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers – via La Crescent, Minnesota. (The Conservation Warden enforced state hunting and fishing laws.) It is now our (State, KRMB and Ho-Chunk Nation) responsibility to provide on site enforcement of our laws and administrative rules that protect the Reserve and its visitors.
- As you know, state law requires payment in lieu of taxes. Recent census reports indicate that the Kickapoo Valley area continues below the state average for income and above the state average in poverty rates. The property was a burden during federal ownership due to lack of tax support. We are fortunate that the State of Wisconsin recognizes that public lands should not be a burden to local units of government.
- The Kickapoo Valley Reserve Center will provide administrative offices, classrooms, meeting rooms and exhibit space. Preliminary planning designs are for an 8,300 square foot building that fit the natural beauty of the Reserve (timber framing, masonry, appropriate site selection). Administratively we will house staff, manage the land, sell visitor permits, become an outlet for fishing and hunting licenses, and distribute information. Education facilities will allow us to expand our current summer program, offer special courses to a variety of age groups year-round, feature site-based learning focusing on the waters, forests, archeology, wildlife and culture of the Reserve. The exhibit space will further educate and inform the general public on management of the Reserve, history of the project/land and its unique natural resources.

Visitor and event fees, agriculture leases, timber harvests and education programs will help us cover some of our operating costs in the future. Today, I ask your support for the three items mentioned in addition to our base allocation.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.

(Attachments)



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE
Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

**HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE
SUPPORTING THE KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE CENTER
CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
2001-2003 BIENNIUM BUDGET
RESOLUTION 01-16-01 D**

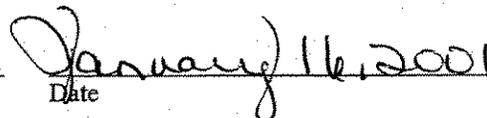
- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation is the duly constituted governing body of the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Legislature") pursuant to the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2 (a) enables the Nation, through the Legislature, to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2 (i) enables the Nation, through the Legislature, to negotiate and enter into treaties, compacts, contracts, and agreements with other governments, organizations, or individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation has worked closely with the Kickapoo Valley Management Board pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Management Plan of 1997 and fully appreciates its ongoing funding needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation makes substantial annual payments to the State of Wisconsin pursuant to the current amendment to the Class III Gaming Compact between the Nation and the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature hereby supports the attached Kickapoo Valley Reserve Center Capital Budget Request 2001-2003 Biennium Budget and urges the State of Wisconsin Legislature to allocate a sum sufficient to fulfill the Kickapoo Valley Management Board request for funding in an effort to promote tourism in the State of Wisconsin.

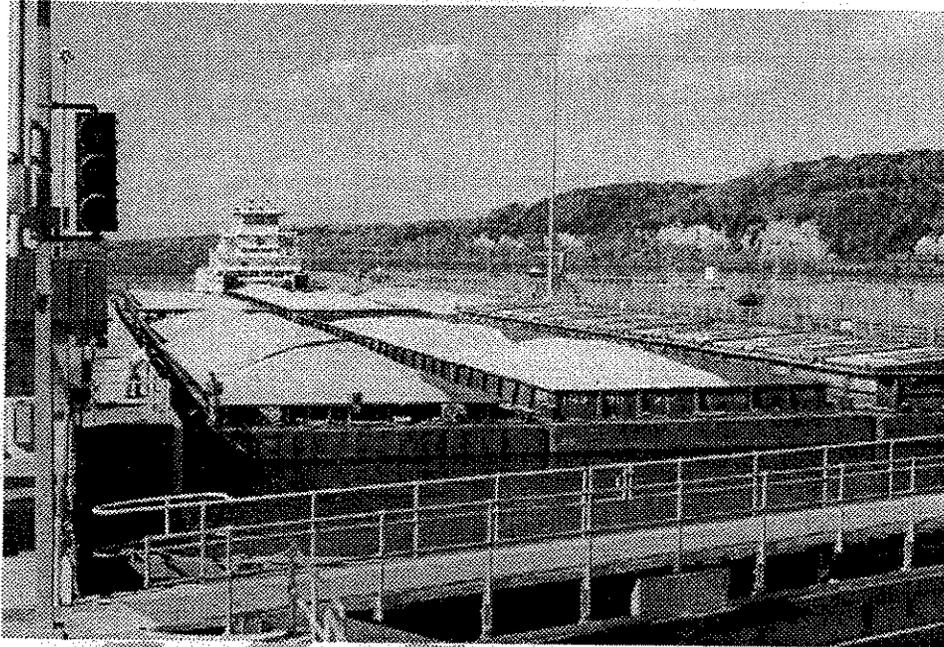
CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary for the Ho Chunk Nation Legislature, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho Chunk Nation, composed of 11 members, of whom 9 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held on the 16th day of January, 2001, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 9 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 2 (a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.


Marlene Gamroth - Legislative Secretary


Date

MINNESOTA-VISCONSIN
BOUNDARY AREA
COMMISSION
BIENNIAL REPORT



1999-2000

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Accomplishments

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Wisconsin
Boundary Area
Commission Work
Plan

8 Commission
Service Area
Map and Tables

9 Financial
Statements and
Auditor's Letter



COMMISSIONERS

left to right, Commissioners
Steven C. DeLapp, Gerald M.
Tyler, James M. Fitzpatrick,
Robert R. Mullally, Judith R.
Kinkead, James J. Sieben,
William Howe, and John
Campe

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS

Minnesota

Senator Jane Krentz (Chair)

Senator Gary Laidig

Senator Steve Murphy

Senator Leonard Price

Rep. Margaret Anderson
Kelliher

Rep. Mike Osskopp

Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr.

Rep. Michelle Rifenberg

Rep. Ray Vandever

Wisconsin

(same as previous session)

Senator Rodney Moen
(Co-chair)

Senator Alice Clausing

Senator Brian Rude

Senator Dale Schultz

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Michael Huebsch

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes
3.197, at the beginning of this
Biennial Report is included the fol-
lowing statement of the cost of
preparing it, including the audit
report contained herein: \$3,764.05

1999-2000 COMMISSION ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

REPORTED IN THE ORDER LISTED IN THE COMMISSION'S 1965
INTERSTATE COMPACT

A. Conduct studies and develop recommendations relating to the present and future protection, use and development in the public interest, of the lands, river valleys and waters which form the boundary between the two states.

BOTH RIVERS

Completed the 16th biennial Recreational Boating Study, adding raw counts and statistical analysis to percentages previously reported.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Updated the Citizens Guide to the Management of the Upper Mississippi River.

Convened an interstate law enforcement meeting for 40 people from 14 agencies.

Promoted attendance of 16 marina operators at a spill response workshop.

Determined that the 1999 Metro Plant progress report met the permit conditions and endorsed the Consensus Items adopted by the Phosphorus Study Cooperators Group.

Prepared a Lake Pepin citizen volunteer water quality monitoring program, then deferred it until a drier year.

Supported the conceptual plan for Freedom Park on the Mississippi river bluff of Prescott, Wisconsin

ST. CROIX RIVER

Called for wireless communication system towers to be inconspicuous from the Riverway and facilitated meetings among industry, municipalities, agencies and citizens to draft model ordinances, developed a prototype for determining priority public views, compiled pictures of inconspicuous designs and compiled answers to frequently asked questions.

Urged the Metropolitan Council to offer ex-officio representation to the three adjacent Wisconsin counties and Chisago County in Minnesota.

Moderated a panel at the phosphorus workshop for wastewater treatment plant operators and others. Continued citizen volunteer

water quality monitoring of Lake St. Croix, adding a seventh site. Lectured to lake association meetings about self-help incorporation and charitable status. Led a weekend volunteer boat count at Prescott. Facilitated a Saturday riverbank cleanup.

Held a listening session with marina managers.

Led historical societies seeking grants to research and publish educational materials about steamboat activity on the Upper Mississippi and St. Croix for use with the Grand Excursion 2004 commemoration of the 1854 Fillmore Excursion. Sought (unsuccessfully) an LCMR grant to gather and publish history of the Lower St. Croix.

Supported an unsuccessful Washington County Green Corridor referendum.

ANNUAL
MISSISSIPPI
INTERSTATE
LAW
ENFORCE-
MENT COOR-
DINATION
GATHERED
UNDER
MVBAC'S
AUSPICES.



Supported the request of the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department for marine fire-fighting and rescue equipment.

Led two St. Croix River Expos attended by hundreds to publicize management plans for the Upper and Lower St. Croix River, showcase agencies and encourage stewardship.

B. Assist in coordinating the studies, conservation efforts and planning undertaken by the several departments, agencies or municipalities of the states with respect to such lands, river valleys and waters forming the boundary of the two states.

BOTH RIVERS

Recommended legislation to enable a person whose property is diminished in value due to the presence of electric transmission lines to receive redress for loss of property value, even if the property is outside a utility easement.

Recommended Minnesota adopt Wisconsin's boating rules so that "upon the approach of a duly authorized patrol boat giving an audible or visual signal the operator of a boat shall reduce speed to slow-no wake and yield the right-of-way to the patrol boat until it has passed."

Recommended Wisconsin adopt Minnesota's law to authorize confiscation for repeated BWI violations and to combine BWI/DWI records.

Recommended excepting the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers from proposed legislation requiring uniform bass fishing season regulations in Wisc., to allow consistency with Minn. seasons.

Recommended changes in the Goals, Objectives and Indicators of Minnesota Water Plan 2000.

Coordinated discussions with city officials and both DNR's about Winona's Aghaming Park.

ST. CROIX RIVER

Staffed citizen meetings for Assemblywoman Rhoades, Senator Clausing, and the DNR about loosening Wisconsin requirements on modifying non-conforming structures in the Riverway district.

Administered dive contracts for the Zebra Mussel Task Force. Protested dismissal of a citation against the owner of a contaminated yacht. Urged vigorous law enforcement against importation of zebra mussels.

Offered standards, which were applied, for the Chisago Project power line crossing.

Supported the May-St. Croix Greenway Corridor Proposal.

Supported the preference of the Town of St. Joseph, Wisc. for a "folded diamond" interchange and urged the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to assist municipalities to deal with residential growth related to the St. Croix bridge and four-lane highway.

Supported these St. Croix bridge mitigation elements:

1. Remove the Northern States Power mooring cells and barge off-loading facility at the A.S. King Plant in Oak Park Heights
2. Remove the Terra Terminal building south of downtown

Stillwater and restore the shoreline

3. Remove the earthen causeway between the lift bridge and the Wisconsin shoreline and restore the shoreline

4. Provide funds to the future owner of the lift bridge for routine maintenance and its ultimate future removal

5. Remove the unnecessary pavement from the Wisconsin approach to the lift bridge and provide landscape restoration

6. Clean-up Stillwater's Kolliner Park and allow it to revert to a more natural state

7. Partner with Stillwater in the development of a river front park on the former Aiple barge facility property and restore the shoreline

8. Assist in the development of a regional infrastructure and land use plan for the St. Croix River Valley area between Taylors Falls and Prescott

9. Provide a public boat access near the former FEIS alignment or the Consensus alignment on the Minnesota side of the river

10. Involve the state DNRs in the placement of covenants on potential excess properties from the previous bridge alignment to limit future development uses

11. Resolve the future of the existing lift bridge

12. Create future crossings to be no more conspicuous

To encourage a shared radio channel for all Lower St. Croix law enforcement agencies, commended the National Park Service for contributing its frequency, commended the Wisconsin DNR for contributing a surplus repeater and

antenna and encouraged Pierce County to contribute tower space for the antenna, a weather proof housing for the repeater, and the electric power for operation.

Recommended more law enforcement personnel and equipment.

Commented on draft Cooperative Management Plan for the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and recommended:

1. 20 mph nighttime and 40 mph daytime speed limits between Stillwater and Prescott.
2. 10-foot maximum dock width.

C. Assist in the participation by states in federal programs which relate to the present and future protection, use and development in the public interest, of such boundary lands, river valleys or waters

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Supported \$19 million for the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program for FY 2000 and \$25 million for FY 2001, of which \$21 million was approved.

After leading a highly productive forum of agencies and NGO's and consulting state representatives on the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, endorsed H. R. 4013 with these additions:

1. Incorporate recommendations of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association,
2. Add soil and water conservation districts to the Advisory Council,
3. Add money and staff so programs for soil, water, air, plants and animals can be incorporated

into individual farm conservation plans.

Supported funding a volunteer coordinator for the refuge system.

Urged increasing funding from \$5.955 to \$10.420 million for the Long-Term Resource Monitoring Program of the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program to avoid elimination of 14 professional positions, sediment monitoring and bathymetric surveys.

Urged that alternatives be analyzed and public review and comment be considered before final action to reconstruct the Lock and Dam 3 dike. An offer to facilitate public meetings was accepted.

An offer to jointly sponsor and facilitate a series of public meetings on future Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects in the St. Paul District was accepted.

Agreed to be the necessary non-federal fiscal agent for Pool 8 pre-drawdown dredging when weather conditions permit.

Endorsed "A River that Works and a Working River," the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee report of actions needed for balanced river management.

Supported additional funds for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges.

Advocated reinstatement of transfer funds from the Corps of Engineers to the Fish and Wildlife Service for program management and rehabilitation of EMP Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects.

Opposed focus groups as a substi-

tute for public meetings to evaluate the Habitat Needs Assessment.

Arranged three public meetings for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps of Engineers and the DNR to coordinate Pools 7 and 8 beach planning.

Assisted the Village of Trempealeau in communicating with the Corps and others to improve shoreline protection and make a recreational boat waiting area.

Advocated the positions of our states before 31 Washington D.C. officials in 18 meetings during one five-day trip.

ST. CROIX RIVER

Held the first formal hearing in the Commission's history, to determine potential environmental impacts resulting from the Hudson casino proposal. Received sworn public statements for the benefit of those desiring to learn more. Informed the Bureau of Indian Affairs that significant environmental impacts to noise, light, air, and underground and surface water are likely.

Supported a proposal of the Department of the Interior to define a water resources project as any project or construction located within the bed or banks of a designated Wild and Scenic River or congressionally authorized Study River, or located below, above, or on any stream tributary thereto.

Supported an EPA grant for the St. Croix Tribal Council.

2001 MINNESOTA-VISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION WORK PLAN

DECEMBER 8, 2000 DRAFT

GENERAL

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7. Support citizen water monitoring
8. Comment on excessive waste water treatment facility and other point discharge permits, especially the Twin Cities plants
9. Facilitate public input to the Fish & Wildlife Service policy on ecological integrity
10. Develop and offer policy tools for cell tower siting



SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING OF ST. CROIX VALLEY
PLANNERS UNDER COMMISSION'S AUSPICES.

B. Specific Activities in the St. Croix Valley

1. Support Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Cooperative Management Plan
2. Provide staff and an ex-officio member of the Upper and Lower Management Commissions
3. Participate on the Basin Water Resources Management Planning Team
4. Strive for resolution of Stillwater-Houlton bridge disagreements and convene regional infrastructure plan meetings if requested
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8. Consult with marina operators
9. Assist regional wastewater treatment plant planning and uniform water quality goals

C. Specific Activities in the Upper Mississippi River Valley

1. Advocate full implementation of the Environmental Management Program
2. Support the Strategy for Operation and Maintenance of the Natural Resources Systems described in "A River that Works and a Working River"
3. Participate in the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System Study, the Habitat Needs



STAFF, L-R, JAMES M. HARRISON, ROSETTA M. HERRICKS, JUDITH A. OLSON AND C. W. "BUCK" MALICK

Assessment Study and advocacy of the Basin Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiatives

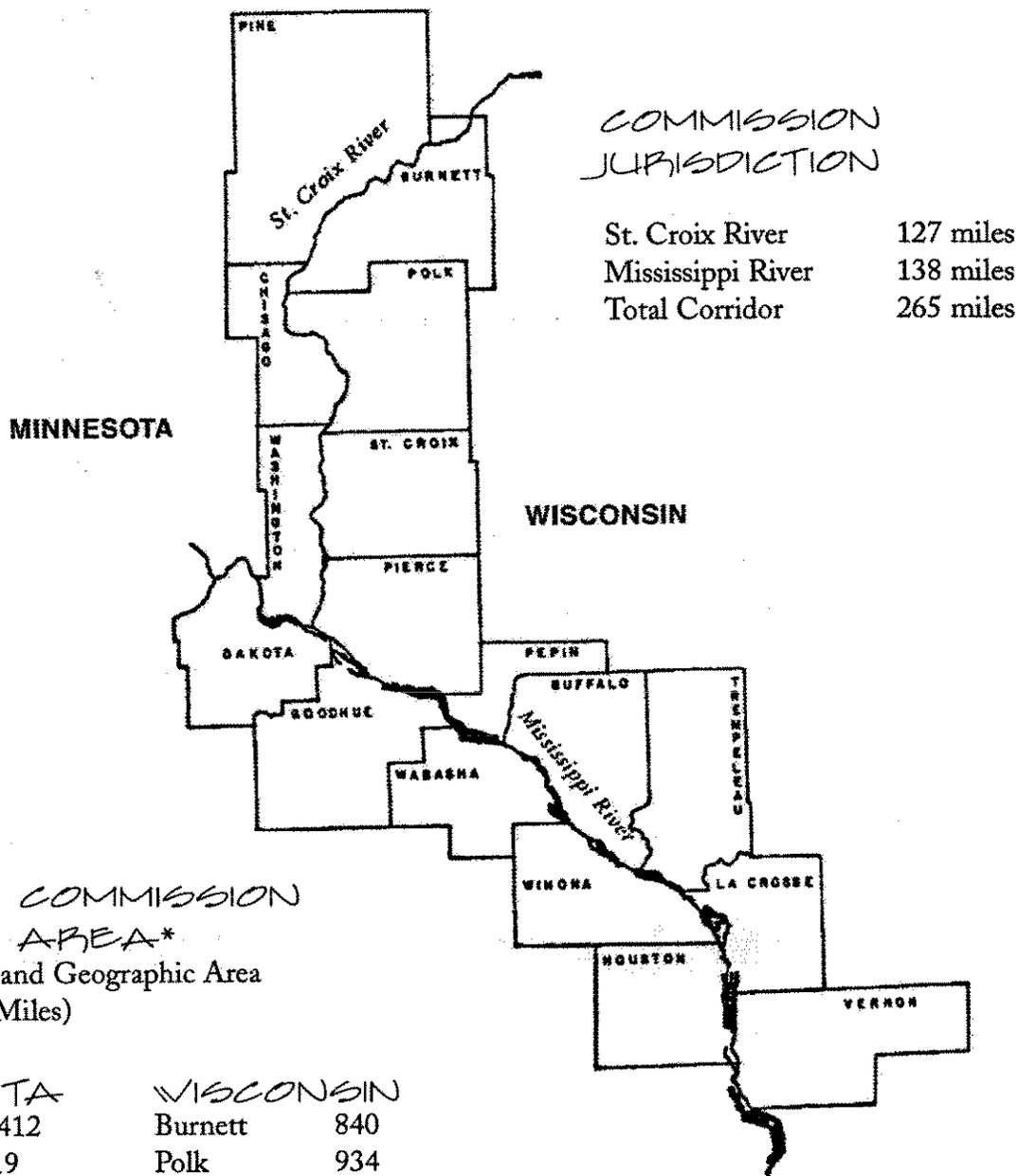
4. Facilitate public involvement in river management policies and planning, including the Endangered Species Act consultation on mussel jeopardy; habitat rehabilitation and pool management; Lock & Dam 3 upgrades; Pools 7 & 8 beaches; Pools 5 & 8 drawdowns; Upper Mississippi Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Upper Mississippi-Illinois Waterway Navigation Study
5. Participate in the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, Environmental Management Coordinating Committee and the Annual Summit Meeting
6. Participate in habitat restoration, channel maintenance, water

level management, and the River Resources Forum's Recreation and Fish & Wildlife Work Groups

7. Monitor hydropower permits for Mississippi and Chippewa River dams
8. Advocate improvement of Upper Mississippi Refuges through the Centennial Act program

D. Internal Activities

1. Consolidate files and library
2. Organize pictures and slides
3. Bring website in-house
4. Send media releases by email
5. Revitalize the state legislative advisory committees
6. Compile a history of the commission

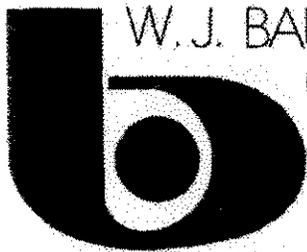


PRIMARY COMMISSION SERVICE AREA*
 List of Counties and Geographic Area
 (Area in Square Miles)

MINNESOTA		WISCONSIN	
Pine	1,412	Burnett	840
Chisago	419	Polk	934
Washington	390	St. Croix	736
Dakota	571	Pierce	591
Goodhue	758	Pepin	237
Wabasha	521	Buffalo	712
Winona	623	Trempealeau	739
Houston	565	La Crosse	469
		Vernon	805
Total	5,259	Total	6,063

Grand Total: 11,322 Square Miles in 17 Counties

*Commission area of concern includes Crawford and Grant counties (WI) and Allamakee and Clayton counties (IA)



W. J. BAUMAN ASSOCIATES, LTD.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MEMBERS OF
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
WISCONSIN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Board of Commissioners
Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission
Hudson, Wisconsin

We have audited the accompanying statements of cash receipts and disbursements of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission as of December 31, 2000 and 1999. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, these financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

W. J. Bauman Associates, Ltd.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
River Falls, Wisconsin
January 3, 2001

MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements,
Years Ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

Cash Receipts	2000	1999
Appropriations, State of Minnesota		
Commission operating funds	\$173,000	\$169,000
St. Croix Stewardship Project	15,000	15,000
Appropriations, State of Wisconsin		
Commission operating funds	174,000	168,000
St. Croix Stewardship Project	15,000	15,000
Boating studies	11,300	35,800
Zebra mussel study	4,000	19,500
Citizens Lake Monitoring Network	-	1,000
Bacteria Assessment	-	10,500
National Park Service	15,824	7,076
Watershed Network	200	9,948
Willow River OWLs	-	13,020
US Geological Survey	-	26,250
Interest income	7,357	5,136
Other receipts	<u>3,710</u>	<u>5,252</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$419,391</u>	<u>\$500,482</u>
Disbursements		
Salaries	\$194,388	\$178,048
Payroll tax expense	14,879	13,621
Employee benefits	54,570	56,770
Office rent	20,160	20,160
Equipment purchases and repairs	42,327	16,861
Staff travel	12,591	5,231
Publications and printing	14,187	1,096
Dues and subscriptions	595	472
Telephone	10,087	2,147
Supplies	4,195	3,346
Insurance	992	993
Services	5,151	3,569
Auto expense	3,931	3,879
Conferences	11,202	1,861
Special projects	29,834	127,864
Postage	9,585	7,058
Staff development	230	939
Miscellaneous	-----	4,569
Total disbursements	<u>\$428,904</u>	<u>\$448,484</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash for the year	<u>\$(9,513)</u>	<u>\$50,075</u>
Cash balance, beginning of year	<u>261,193</u>	<u>211,118</u>
Cash balance, end of year	<u>\$251,680</u>	<u>\$261,193</u>
Cash balance is comprised of:		
Petty cash	\$8	\$22
Checking	2,479	1,172
Savings, Commission operating funds	26,137	38,025
Savings, St. Croix Stewardship Project	58,056	98,006
Certificates of deposit	<u>165,000</u>	<u>123,968</u>
Cash balance, end of year	<u>\$251,680</u>	<u>\$261,193</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION
Notes to Financial Statements
(Cash Basis)
December 31, 2000 and 1999

Note 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operations

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission (the Commission) was established by legislative compact between the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1965. It was formed to conduct studies and to develop recommendations relating to the present and future protection, use, and development in the public interest, of the St. Croix and Mississippi River boundary area natural resources on a cooperative basis. The commission is governed by a board of up to ten members, five from each of the two states. These individuals are appointed by the governor of their respective states, and in the case of Wisconsin appointees, confirmed by the state senate.

As the result of a cooperative agreement executed by the governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1973, the Commission serves as coordinator of the federal-state management program for the (Lower) St. Croix National Riverway. In 1981, at the request of the managing agencies, the Commission agreed to serve in a similar capacity on the (Upper) St. Croix National Riverway.

Basis of Accounting

The Commission's accounts are maintained, and the statements of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, on the cash basis. Therefore receivables and payables, appropriated revenue and expenses, fixed assets and depreciation, which may be material in amount, are not reflected. These statements are not intended to present the financial position or results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Direct expenses for special programs or projects, including printing, postage, meetings, and staff travel are recorded as such and not combined as project or program costs wherever practical. The Commission does not allocate office overhead, such as staff salaries, benefits, and support costs on a separate basis to special projects, but includes them in operating expenditures. However, temporary help for special

projects has been included in special project expenditures.

Cash Equivalents

The Commission invests surplus cash in certain certificates of deposit, some with a purchased maturity of six months or more. For the purpose of these financial statements, such investments are considered to be cash equivalents.

Note 2 CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

The Commission maintains cash, savings, and certificates of deposit at financial institutions located in Wisconsin. Balances on deposit at the financial institutions are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$100,000 per depositor. Balances in excess of FDIC limits are uninsured and uncollateralized. Total cash and temporary investments exceeded the specified limit at various dates throughout the years ending December 31, 2000 and 1999.

Note 3 APPROPRIATIONS

	Minnesota	Wisconsin
Commission operating funds		
Original appropriations, FY 99	\$145,000	\$163,100
Reserved for Commissioners	(3,000)	(3,000)
Released by Commissioners	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Balance	<u>\$145,000</u>	<u>\$163,100</u>
Received, calendar 1998	\$(142,000)	\$(160,100)
1999	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Original appropriations, FY 00	\$168,000	\$168,000
Reserved for Commissioners	(2,000)	(3,000)
Released by Commissioners	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Balance	<u>\$168,000</u>	<u>\$168,000</u>
Received, calendar 1999	\$(166,000)	\$(165,000)
2000	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Original appropriations, FY 01	\$173,000	\$173,000
Reserved for Commissioners	(2,000)	(2,000)
Released by Commissioners	-	-
Balance	<u>\$171,000</u>	<u>\$171,000</u>
Received, calendar 2000	<u>\$(171,000)</u>	<u>\$(171,000)</u>

Note 4 RETIREMENT PLANS

The employees of the Commission are considered to be employees of the State of Wisconsin for the purposes of retirement benefits. As a result, all eligible employees of the Commission participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system. The Commission pays the entire cost of contributions to the State of Wisconsin Retirement Fund. Contributions on the cash basis for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, were \$26,447 and \$25,283, respectively.

Note 5 LEASES

At December 31, 2000, the Commission was obligated under long-term operating leases for office space and some office equipment. Minimum lease commitments at December 31, 2000 expire as follows:

Year ending December 31	Amount
2001	20,548
2002	1,723
2003	-

Payments made under the terms of the leases for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 were \$22,845 and \$23,763, respectively.

Note 6 POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION BENEFITS

In addition to the pension benefits described in Note 4, the Commission provides post-employment benefits for some of its employees. The Commission's full-time employees accrue vacation pay each month. Upon separation from employment, the Commission will compensate an employee for all unused vacation pay up to a maximum of 35 days. In addition, employees who retire will have their health insurance paid, up to an amount determined by their accrued sick time, salary at retirement, and years of service. None of the Commission's potential liability, if any, has been provided for in these financial statements.

Note 7 CONTINGENCIES

As provided by Wisconsin law, the Commission is not required to pay unemployment compensation taxes on the compensation it pays to its employees. In the event a Commission employee becomes unemployed, the Commission may be liable for an amount that would be determined under Wisconsin statutes. None of the Commission's potential liability, if any, has been provided for in these financial statements.



ABOVE: AN
EDUCATIONAL
EXCURSION
ORGANIZED BY
THE COMMISSION
TO INFORM
TEACHERS AND
LOCAL OFFI-
CIALS ABOUT
AGENCY
ACTIONS.

ON THE FRONT:
DOWN-BOUND
BARGE TOW
ABOUT TO
ENTER OUR
SERVICE AREA
AT LOCK & DAM
#2, HASTINGS,
MINNESOTA

THIS BIENNIAL REPORT IS PREPARED AND SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEC. 5, SUBD. 2, OF THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMPACT OF 1965.

Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission
619 Second Street
Hudson WI 54016
715-386-9444
651-436-7131
www.mwbac.org

TO: Members of the State Budget Hearing
FROM: Charles Swayne
N 1964 Crestview Place
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 780-0792
SUBJ: Property tax exemption for YMCAs
DATE: 4 April 01

Should taxpayers pay more in property taxes so executives making more than \$50,000 a year pay less for their YMCA memberships?

When the YMCAs do legitimate charity work for the disadvantaged youth of Wisconsin, they should be exempt from taxes. But when the Y offers **adult only classes and programs** that are **off limits to children**, should we pay more in property taxes so that doctors, lawyers, and other executives pay less for their workouts than they should?

The way the law is now written is that local assessors may determine if the YMCAs should pay property taxes.

There has been a bill introduced which would exempt YMCAs from paying property taxes no matter what they do, even when they go beyond their "charitable purpose" and offer facilities and programs where there are "no children allowed".

It is my understanding that the Ys have spent over \$400,000 of taxpayer subsidized dollars to introduce this bill, ship in demonstrators to Madison, get to the editorial boards of Wisconsin media, and hire the most professional (and high priced) lobbyists in the State to smooze you. That still doesn't make it right.

I request each of you vote against this bill; taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize Y memberships for doctors, lawyers, and other professionals (such as newspaper editors and politicians).

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HERMSEN OF RURAL LAFARGE, WI
ON BEHALF OF THE KICKAPOO VALLEY STEWARDSHIP
ALLIANCE

PLEASE REDUCE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AN OVERBLOWN, UNNEEDED
& ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING HIGHWAY PROJECT.

For Immediate Release:
April 2, 2001

For More Information:
Mark A. Kastel 608-625-2042

LOCAL CITIZENS ASK COURTS FOR HELP

A group of local citizens, the Kickapoo Valley Stewardship Alliance, announced their intention to file suit in federal court this week in order to suspend construction of State Highway 131 running along the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. The KVSA has been fighting the scale of the highway project for a number of years based on their contention that it will profoundly harm the environment and permanently disrupt the peaceful nature of the valley.

The highway, running along the river between La Farge and Ontario, cuts through Wildcat Mountain State Park and the Kickapoo Reserve. "This is an extremely sensitive and prized 'environmental corridor' loved by a citizens around the state," said Mark Kastel, a member of the alliance. The Reserve, once to be flooded to create a lake just north of La Farge, is now owned by the State of Wisconsin and the Ho Chunk nation and is being developed as a premier eco-tourism/educational destination.

The KVSA contends in their legal challenge that the Federal Highway Transportation Administration and Wisconsin Department of Transportation failed to follow law while reviewing the environmental impacts of the road. "Federal law protects recreational land such as the Kickapoo Reserve," said Frank Jablonski of Porter, Jablonski and Associates in Madison, attorneys for the Alliance. "The WisDOT failed to carefully examine alternatives that would have protected more wetlands along the Kickapoo, reduced noise effects and protected the Reserve," added Jablonski. "To us, it looks like they sidestepped their obligation to investigate and build less damaging alternatives."

The KVSA has attempted for years to negotiate with the state for a lower impact highway. "We favor constructing a safe, high-quality highway for the use of local citizens and businesses," said Kastel.

"A high-speed, major highway cutting through this fragile valley will attract tremendous increases in truck and other through traffic, forever impacting on the serenity that attracts visitors to our region," said Will Paniaqua, KVSA President. "The development of the Reserve offers real economic value to businesses in this area, it is a shame to do anything that degrades this resource."

Work on the highway project was to begin with bridge construction on Monday. In a

letter to the FHWA and WDOT last week, the KVSA requested that, pending the outcome of their suit, construction concentrate on bridges that are along the current road alignment. Many of the bridges scheduled for replacement this year are "off in the woods" and do not line up with the present highway. The letter stated, "If we prevail in court, any of the taxpayer money that you expend off of the current alignment might be wasted. More importantly, any environmental damage done will have to be remedied, adding to the taxpayer expense. Obviously some damage that would occur might be permanent."

"It is a shame that we were forced as citizens to raise private funds from the community to fight this in court. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Kickapoo Reserve staff, and hundreds of individual citizens have asked that the highway design be reduced from 55-MPH to 45-MPH," said Kastel. "This would still provide an excellent highway for local use but would greatly diminished how much land has to be cleared and destroyed by heavy machinery and blasting."

THE KVSA WOULD LIKE TO SAVE ^{55-10 MILLION OF TAXPAYER MONEY.} ₋₃₀₋ WE OBJECT TO FEDERAL FUNDS BEING APPROPRIATED FOR THE WIS STH 131 PROJECT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE WDOT CAN DEMONSTRATE IT HAS COMPLETED A THOROUGH AND LEGAL FEIS ON THE PROJECT. THE CURRENT DESIGN IS A \$20-22 MILLION BUDGET FOR AN EXTREMELY ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING/ UNNECESSARY AND UNPOPULAR HIGHWAY UPGRADE AND RELOCATION IN A FRAGILE PUBLIC NATURE & EDUCATION RESERVE, THE GEOLOGICALLY & ECOLOGICALLY UNIQUE KICKAPOO VALLEY. THIS IS A 6 MILE STRETCH OF RURAL 2 LANE HIGHWAY WHICH CRASSES THE RIVER 6 TIMES. A MUCH DOWNSCALED VERSION OF THE DESIGN WOULD PROVIDE NECESSARY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE BEAUTY AND TRANQUILITY OF A POPULAR RECREATION AREA. THERE IS CURRENTLY A LAWSUIT BEING PREPARED WHICH WILL BE FILED IN MADISON ON 4-4-01 TO HALT THE PROJECT. YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE 5-10 MILLION BY LIMITING THE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE WDOT BY THE WRDA

April 3, 2001**Comments to Legislative Committee Hearing****Company Background**

1. **1.1 Billion sales in 2000**
2. **Nine Distribution Centers (3 in WI)**
3. **Corporate headquarters in LaCrosse WI**
4. **We are one of the largest food suppliers to independent and government owned nursing homes in Wisconsin and other markets.**

Current Status

1. **Food is generally the largest single check written each month.**
2. **Reinhart FoodService carries millions of \$ in receivables for N H's at any given time.**
3. **Days outstanding have increased (especially in WI) for our N H segment.**
4. **Some customers are exceeding our cut-off point.**
5. **We have one current bankruptcy in progress.**
6. **Last year we experienced a large N H bankruptcy write off.**

Recommendation

1. **To restore funding to the former level that allows N H to pay their bills.**

John FalconerA handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Falconer".**Director Health Care Division
Reinhart FoodService**



Testimony of Gary L. Bryant, MD, FACP before the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature at its meeting in La Crosse, April 3, 2001

Topic: Support of Wisconsin Tobacco Control Board funding level of \$35.2 million dollars

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Joint Finance Committee. I appreciate the committee holding hearings around the state.

I am an Internal Medicine physician who has practiced in La Crosse since 1983 and a member of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin. I support continuing and increased prevention efforts aimed at both preventing children and adults from beginning to use tobacco as well as stopping tobacco use. Having been in the practice of medicine for over two decades, I have witnessed countless patients who have suffered ill effects to their health because of their use of tobacco. On a personal note, both of my parents died either directly or indirectly due to their long term use of tobacco, my mother at the age of 55 from lung cancer, and my father from emphysema complicating his chronic leukemic condition.

I strongly urge your support for the Wisconsin Tobacco Control Board (WCTB) requested funding level of \$35.2 million dollars versus \$33.2 million currently included in the State's biannual budget.

I am convinced that the state's investment of the tobacco settlement moneys will pay great dividends in health care cost savings in future years. To not invest these funds when they are available at this time but instead spend them for other uses unrelated to health care, and specifically unrelated to tobacco prevention, would be extremely short sighted.

I understand that there are many budgetary needs in order for the people of Wisconsin to be best served. However, I would urge your consideration of the following points related to the need for appropriate funding for tobacco prevention:

- Investing in tobacco prevention saves lives and taxpayer dollars. Money used wisely now will diminish health care costs in the future as the majority of smokers begin before age 18.
- 57,000 Wisconsin youths have begun smoking since the tobacco settlement. Our teen smoking rates are at 38% - this is unacceptably high. Unless we stop our children from starting to use this deadly product, the costs of smoking related illnesses, both in dollars and human suffering, will continue to mount.
- Since the settlement, Wisconsin taxpayers have paid \$437 million in Medicaid expenditures to treat sick smokers.
- Other states have improved the health of their citizens and saved tax dollars. Oregon and Florida have shown substantially lower teen smoking rates which correlate with their strong financial commitment to prevention and cessation programs
- Pregnant women in Wisconsin smoke at a rate of 32% higher than the national average. One of the outcomes of smoking during pregnancy is a tendency to have low birth weight babies - an unhealthy and expensive situation.
- The WCTB program is comprehensive, including work on prevention, cessation, youth driven programs, and monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs.

It is clear that prevention saves lives and dollars in the long run while enhancing health. Funding the WCTB at a level of \$35.2 million for the biennium will address tobacco related issues.

Gundersen Clinic, Ltd.

1836 South Avenue • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601 • (608) 782-7300 • (800) 362-9567

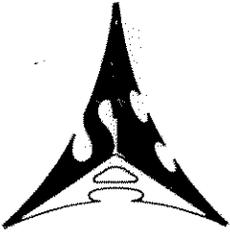
Gundersen LutheranSM

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary L. Bryant, MD, FACP
Internist, Gundersen Lutheran
Director, State Medical Society of Wisconsin

Gundersen Clinic, Ltd.

1836 South Avenue • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601 • (608) 782-7300 • (800) 362-9567



STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

4510 REGENT STREET

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705

(608) 233-4696

April 3, 2001

TO: CO-chairs Senator Brian Burke &
Representative John Gard
Joint Finance Committee

RE: Dept. of Employee Trust Funds Budget

The State Engineering Association wants to communicate our support for the following areas of the Dept. of Employee Trust Funds Budget to your committee:

I. Direct Service Staffing Areas

A. Critical Customer Service Improvement

The current 12 week delays in service are unacceptable.

The 13 FTE requested are needed to reach the average of other retirement systems as confirmed by the CEM Study.

The Governor's reduction to 8 FTE positions only REDUCES SERVICE and saves no GPR funds because ETF funding is segregated. The number of participants has increased to 475,000.

B. Customer Service Call Center

This year the call center has improved the answering of phone calls from 30-40% to 80-85%. However, the goal is 90% within one minute and this cannot be reached with temporary project position staff. This past year there has been a 100% turn-over of the project staff requiring complete retraining. The permanent position staff are needed now, not two years from now!

SEA supports the ETF budget and recommends reinstatement of the permanent positions cut by the Governor's proposed budget.

Co-chairs Senator Brian Burke &
Representative John Gard
Joint Finance Committee
Page 2
April 3, 2001

These cuts save NO GPR FUNDS; they only reduce service
to employees and annuitants.

We appreciate this opportunity to communicate our concerns about the Wisconsin
Retirement System to your committee and want to thank you for your considera-
tion.

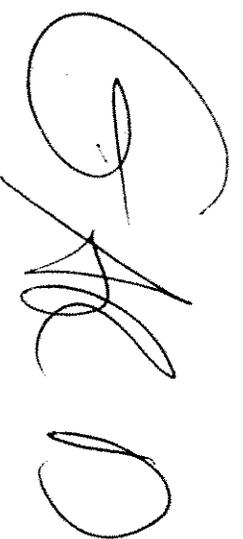
Sincerely,



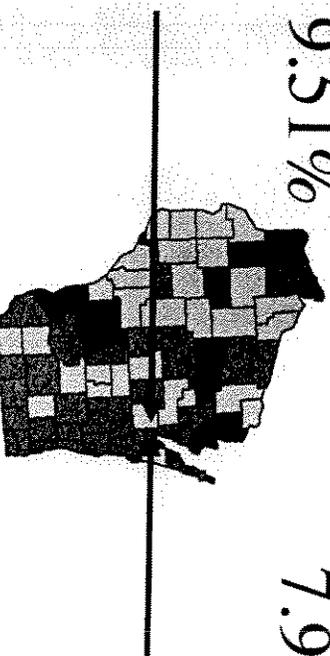
David L. Bohnsack, President
La Crosse Section
STATE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

cc: Eric Stanchfield, Secretary
Dept. of Employee Trust Funds

A Tale of Two Counties

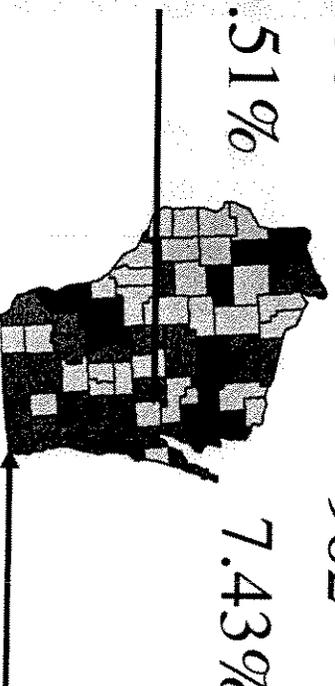


	Outagamie	Brown
Per Cap Income	\$27,281	\$28,114
% Poverty	5%	7%
Vet Population	13,250	19,580
Comp Cases	1,260	1,559
% of Vet Pop	9.51%	7.96%



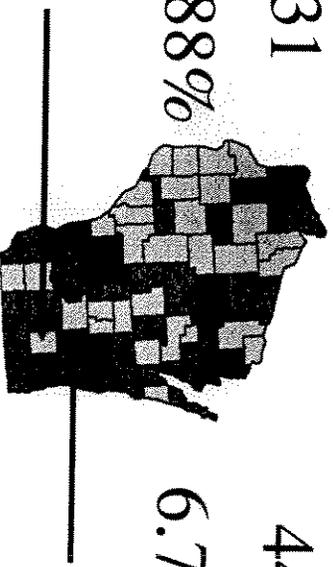
A Tale of Two Counties

	Outagamie	Kenosha
Per Cap Income	\$27,281	\$25,833
% Poverty	5%	9%
Vet Population	13,250	13,220
Comp Cases	1,260	982
% of Vet Pop	9.51%	7.43%



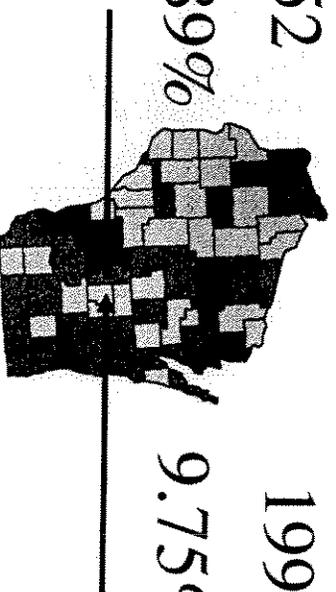
A Tale of Two Counties

	Jefferson	Dodge
Per Cap Income	\$23,888	\$21,702
% Poverty	5%	6%
Vet Population	5,980	6,550
Comp Cases	531	441
% of Vet Pop	8.88%	6.73%



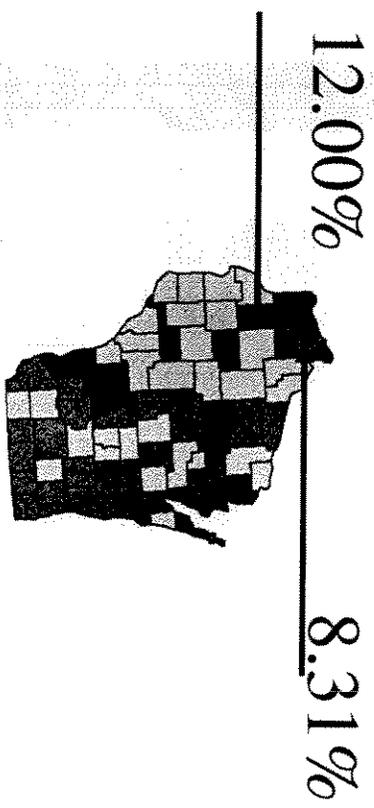
A Tale of Two Counties

	Adams	Marquette
Per Cap Income	\$17,629	\$17,594
% Poverty	12%	9%
Vet Population	2,580	2040
Comp Cases	152	199
% of Vet Pop	5.89%	9.75%



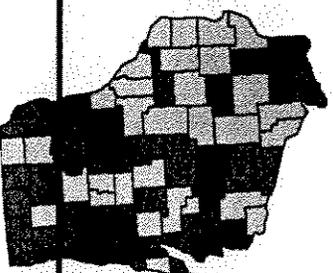
A Tale of Two Counties

	Washburn	Bayfield
Per Cap Income	\$19,058	\$18,963
% Poverty	12%	12%
Vet Population	1,900	1,780
Comp Cases	228	148
% of Vet Pop	12.00%	8.31%



A Tale of Two Counties

	Crawford	Richland
Per Cap Income	\$18,883	\$18,646
% Poverty	11%	11%
Vet Population	1,300	1,540
Comp Cases	147	92
% of Vet Pop	11.31%	5.97%



Statement of the
United Coulee Region
before the
Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature
La Crosse, Wisconsin, April 3, 2001

Mr. Co-Chairs, distinguished Committee Members, my name is Patrick Killeen. I am President at the United Coulee Region organization. With me today is our First Vice President, Dan Kapanke, who as most of you know, is Chairman of the Town of Campbell. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this important Committee today, and we commend the Committee for appearing in La Crosse to elicit input into the State budget process from various voices of the Coulee Region.

The United Coulee Region was formed over three years ago as a not-for-profit charitable and educational organization, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life in the Coulee Region by developing public-private partnerships and collaborations among governments, business, labor, education, health care, churches, social agencies, and the living and natural environments. We have a diverse membership of over 100 individuals and local units of governments. Our democratically elected Board of Directors is comprised of some eighteen (18) locally elected government officials and prominent citizens broadly representative of our increasingly diverse region. The United Coulee Region has no staff and relies entirely upon volunteers, who bring significant breadth and depth of expertise to our various committees, which are the backbone of our organization.

The United Coulee Region is appearing today to address provisions in the Executive Budget which relate to furthering the type of collaboration described above, and which I believe most members of this committee would support.

In January of this year, a report was issued by the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on State-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century. The commission was chaired by Donald F. Kettl of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Our own Representative Mike Huebsch was a member. The Kettl Commission Report contains a number of recommendations for the State Government promote, through State-funded financial incentives, collaboration among local units of government, in the areas such as law enforcement, housing, emergencies, fire, solid waste, recycling, public health, transportation, land using planning, boundary agreements, libraries, parks, recreation, purchasing, and information technology. We understand that the proposed Executive Budget begins to take certain concrete steps in this direction.

While we are not prepared at this point to discuss many of the specifics, the United Coulee Region strongly endorses the concept and urges this Committee to review the Kettl Commission work for additional guidance as you carry out your most imprint deliberations.

The overall point is that resources are increasingly scarce in a tightening economy, and local communities are ever more interdependent in meeting common goals and needs, and the State Budget of Wisconsin should address those realities in a progressive and creative fashion. Within our coalition we have greater expertise than my own to assist you wherever possible.

There is a lot of talk in Washington, DC these days about a more cooperative process of government. Why don't we in Wisconsin lead the way in showing how it can be done !

We would also like to address one of La Crosse's new gems of collaboration, the Health Science Center. This forward-looking program of health sciences education, technology and research is a result of the unprecedented collaboration of the five major institutions:

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western Wisconsin Technical College, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, and Franciscan Skemp Medical Center. It also has had the enthusiastic support of virtually all locally elected officials and governmental units. In 1999 the United Coulee Region granted this consortium our first Pyramid Award, an award to be granted annually to individuals or organizations who have accomplished a major achievement which exemplifies the principles of collaboration for which UCR stands.

The State of Wisconsin, with the valued assistance of the Executive and Legislative Branches, including our locally elected legislative representatives, played a major role in the initial success of this project. This year the UW-L requested about \$679,000 to keep this important project on track. The proposed Executive Budget includes provision for only \$164,000. We urge this Committee to restore the full initial request.

We will not go into the details of the many valuable benefits of keeping the Health Sciences Center moving forward at full strength. That would be duplicative of presentations made by others today. We do ask that a State Government and its Budget, which voice support for collaboration at the local level, "walk the talk" when it comes to funding, and not penalize those who exhibited the wisdom, and at times the fortitude, to bring these ideals into concrete reality.

Before we close, Mr. Kapanke would like to offer a few thoughts of his own.

On behalf of the United Coulee Region, we sincerely thank you for your attention and for your consideration in the challenging task facing you.