

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN - wisconsin.sierraclub.org

2014 Political Activities

By Dave Blouin, Political Chair, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

John Muir Chapter members face critical votes in the 2014 elections that will have great impacts on our goals of greater environmental protections and conservation in Wisconsin. Looking back, the 2012 elections proved to be incredibly important when we scored victories with the reelection of President Obama and the election of Tammy Baldwin, the first woman to represent Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate. Yet in the 2013-14 legislative session the GOP controlled both the Assembly and Senate and with their help, Governor Walker swept aside important environmental protection for special interests. The John Muir Chapter can and must play a critical role in taking control away from polluting special interests with the 2014 elections.

Beginning with the federal races, our endorsements of Rob Zerban, Kelly Westlund, Mark Pocan, Gwen Moore and Ron Kind illustrate the urgency and importance of the fall elections. In every federal race, our endorsed proven environmental champions are facing candidates or incumbents with terrible voting records and commitments to overturn environmental regulations in favor of unchecked and thoughtless growth.

Similarly, our endorsements for state Senate and Assembly reflect our commitment to supporting only the best environmental candidates; those who are just as committed as we are to protection and progress instead of pillaging our natural resources. We are continuing our efforts to work in every

state legislative race each cycle to have as much impact as we can on the elections. This commitment is demonstrated by the 76 endorsed state candidates out of 115 contests this year, with more to come. Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp> to view the current list.

On pages 6 and 7, you'll find the 2013-14 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard. The Scorecard is used to grade the votes taken by our elected officials in the last legislative session. The scores were uniformly partisan with the lone exception of retiring Senator Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center. When the GOP consolidated power by winning both houses and the Governor's post in 2012, they continued an all-out assault on environmental protections in the legislature.

GOP Senators together scored an abysmal average of 13 percent on votes in the last session with seven Senators failing entirely and scoring zeroes. On the Assembly side it was worse. Sixty out of 63 GOP Assembly representatives scored zero on our Scorecard.* (see pg. 6)

The Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization and we have supported Republican candidates in the past, but we were disappointed again in the lack of independent thinking and partisanship demonstrated by these votes.

The example of the passage of 2013 Act 1, known as the "Bad River Watershed Destruction Act," is an important lesson proving the worth of winning elections. With majorities in both

Continued on pg. 6

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Mary Burke for Governor

We can count on Mary to restore Wisconsin's strong, bipartisan conservation tradition started by the likes of John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Gaylord



Nelson and others. Her successful experience in the private sector will also ensure that she will support economic policies that offer real opportunities for creating the modern, family-supporting jobs our state needs to regain our competitive edge.

to reduce destructive impacts of unsafe mining practices threatening Wisconsin's unique wild places.

She supports renewable energy, cleaner, safer transportation choices and the local control and scientific oversight necessary



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FROM THE CHAIR

Election Season – Embrace it!

The summer of 2014 has seemed generous. Perhaps I was wrong to expect a hot summer to offset last winter's bitter cold and snow. Our backyard vegetable garden has prospered thanks to the early rains. Ironically the only poor performer has been zucchini. This seems hard to imagine I know, but our annual garden rotation put zukes in the rear, not far from the neighbors' black walnut. I think the tree's juglone secretions did them in as we harvested only one 6-inch zuke. Lettuce, beans, tomatoes and peppers at other ends of the garden grew like crazy, though.

Liesa and I have enjoyed being outdoors in this comfortable summer weather, in spite of frequent assaults by mosquitos. We've done some paddling, locally and in the north, and some "car camping." About the time you receive this issue, though, we hope to be back-packing on a section of the North Country Trail after going north for the John Muir Chapter boat tour of the Apostle Islands. (I've been waiting for both of these experiences all summer.)

Nonetheless, sometimes it feels like we're in the 1960s again. Damage is being done to our air, water and especially Earth's global climate. Corporate agendas dominate policy-making and fossil fuel titans attack every positive legislative or administrative action, such as the EPA's proposed rule to cut carbon emissions from coal plants. Laws that we need, like Carbon Fee and Dividend economic legislation have been stonewalled. Perhaps an event akin to 1970's dramatic Earth Day will shake up Madison and Washington, awakening the people. As I write this, it could happen with the massive People's Climate March in New York City on September 21. And something else will also be happening soon...elections!

Yes, in this issue we "go all political" on you. If your first impulse is to turn up your nose, please reconsider. Embrace this election season because the antidote to any recent feelings of political powerlessness is action! So please pay attention to the endorsements in this issue. (Thanks, JMC Political Committee led by Dave Blouin, for your hard work in evaluating candidates.) We have the opportunity to rise up, vote and enable the policy changes we need for a healthy state--so let's do it! Learn about your candidates, share the



information, register and vote! And twist some arms to make sure your family, friends and acquaintances are doing the same.

Gov. Scott Walker's failure to create jobs is directly related to his failure to embrace emerging clean energy and transportation opportunities. He's the fossil fuel candidate, and likely to further undermine local control by promoting frac sand and taconite mines and oil pipelines at the expense of air and water quality and quantity. In contrast, our candidate for governor, Mary Burke, is a successful business leader, and a longtime Sierra Club supporter with solid environmental values – and she can win! Let's elect her to keep Wisconsin and the planet more vibrant and diverse – a healthier place to live.

Our annual Autumn Assembly is also coming soon, October 10 through 12. It is jointly hosted this year by the statewide John Muir Chapter and the Milwaukee area Great Waters Group. As always, we'll hear from engaging speakers, get to know fabulous Sierra Club members and friends from around the state and share some good food and fun together. Thanks to Janet Anderson, Rosemary Wehnes, John Barr and others who are working with Shahla Werner and Jacinda Tessmann of the chapter office to plan the event. If you live in southeastern Wisconsin please consider volunteering to help with some aspect of the event. Just contact the chapter office at (608)256-0565. More information is found on page 9 of this issue. Sign up today and join us at Phantom Lake YMCA Camp in Mukwonago!

Jim Kerler

Chair, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

THE MUIR VIEW

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Please include the author's first and last names, and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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THE SIERRA CLUB ANNOUNCES 2014 ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

By Dave Blouin, Political Committee Chair, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

The John Muir Chapter has endorsed Mary Burke for Governor, and Rob Zerban, Kelly Westlund, Mark Pocan, Ron Kind and Gwen Moore for Congress.

At the state level, our goal of creating and increasing pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in our endorsements of 76 candidates so far for the State Legislature. Thirty-three state lawmakers scored a perfect 100 percent on our legislative scorecard and they have been named 2014 Environmental Champions for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. Environmental Champions are listed in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.

The staff and volunteers of the John Muir Chapter Political Committee are very proud to announce these endorsements. These candidates have committed to maintaining clean air, clean water and the irreplaceable

landscapes that make Wisconsin unique. We urge you, as Sierra Club members, to vote for and help elect new environmental leaders and re-elect proven legislative leaders.

Incumbent officials were judged based on their overall environmental voting record, public statements and activities while in office. Challengers were measured by their responses to questionnaires and interviews, environmental platforms, public service and public statements.

The 2013-14 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard was used in part to judge incumbent candidates and can be found on pages 6 and 7. The entire scorecard with descriptions of the legislation used for grading can be found at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp>. The scorecard shows that single-party control and the deep partisan divide in Wisconsin resulted in continued

attacks on protections of natural resources last session. These attacks included a budget that slashed transit aids while boosting highway construction and prohibited citizen challenges to high-capacity wells and the "Bad River Watershed Destruction Act" that could enable massively damaging iron mining.

We wish the best for several 2014 Environmental Champions who are retiring or running for new offices. They are John Lehman (running for Lt. Governor), and retirees Bob Jauch, Brett Hulsey and Sandy Pasch. Champions Penny Bernard Schaber and Janis Ringhand are leaving the Assembly to run for state Senate.

To determine who your state Senator or Representative is, go to www.legis.state.wi.us/ and click "Who represents me?"

ADDITIONAL ENDORSEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE MUIR VIEW WAS PUBLISHED - PLEASE GO TO [HTTP://WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/POLITICAL/ENDORSEMENTS.ASP](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/political/endorsements.asp) TO VIEW THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF ENDORSEMENTS.

U.S Congress:

Rob Zerban	1st District
Mark Pocan	2nd District
Ron Kind	3rd District
Gwen Moore	4th District
Kelly Westlund	7th District

State Senate

Dean Debroux, D-De Pere (SD 1)
Tim Carpenter, D-Milwaukee (SD 3)
Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee (SD 7)
Martha Laning, D-Sheboygan (SD 9)
Dan Kilkeeney, D-Delavan (SD 11)
Michelle Zahn, D-Juneau (SD 13)
Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville (SD 15)
Pat Bomhack, D-Spring Green (SD 17)
Penny Bernard Schaber, D-Appleton (SD 19)
Randy Bryce, D-Racine, (SD 21)
Phil Swanhorst, D-Chippewa Falls, (SD 23)
Janet Bewley, D-Ashland (SD 25)
Jon Erpenbach, D-Middleton (SD 27)
Paul DeMain, D-Hayward (SD 29)
Kathleen Vinehout, D-Eau Claire (SD 31)
Sherryll Shaddock, D-Nashotah (SD 33)

State Assembly

Joe Majeski, D-Baileys Harbor (AD 1)
Chris Plaunt, D-De Pere (AD 4)
Daniel Riemer, D-Milwaukee (AD 7)
JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee (AD 8)
Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee (AD 9)
David Bowen, D-Milwaukee (AD 10)
Mandela Barnes, D-Milwaukee (AD 11)
Fred Kessler, D-Milwaukee (AD 12)
John Weishan, D-West Allis (AD 15)
Leon Young, D-Milwaukee (AD 16)
LaTonya Johnson, D-Milwaukee (AD 17)
Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (AD 18)
Jonathan Brostoff, D-Milwaukee (AD 19)
Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (AD 20)
Jesse Read, D-Sussex (AD 22)
Beth Lueck, D-Whitefish Bay (AD 23)
Mary Arnold, D-Columbus (AD 37)
Tom Chojnacki, D-Lake Mills (AD 38)
George Ferriter, D-Doylestown (AD 42)
Andy Jorgenson, D-Fort Atkinson (AD 43)
Deb Kolste, D-Janesville (AD 44)



DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2015 ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 15

2014 ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS - CONTINUED

Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit (AD 45)

Gary Hebl, D-Sun Prairie (AD 46)

Robb Kahl, D-Monona (AD 47)

Melissa Sargent, D-Madison (AD 48)

Chad Henneman, D-Boscobel (AD 49)

Christopher Miller, D-LaValle (AD 50)

Dick Cates, D-Spring Green (AD 51)

Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh (AD 54)

Mark Westphal, D-Neenah (AD 55)

Amanda Stuck, D-Appleton (AD 57)

Andy Mitchell, D-Burlington (AD 63)

Peter Barca, D-Kenosha (AD 64)

Tod Ohnstad, D-Kenosha (AD 65)

Cory Mason, D-Racine (AD 66)

Jeff Peck, D-Cadott (AD 68)

Norbert Salamonski, D-Marshfield (AD 69)

Amy Sue Vruwink, D-Blenker (AD 70)

Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point (AD 71)

Dana Duncan, D-Port Edwards (AD 72)

Nick Milroy, D-South Range (AD 73)

Beth Meyers, D-Bayfield (AD 74)

Stephen Smith, D-Rice Lake (AD 75)

Chris Taylor, D-Madison (AD 76)

Terese Berceau, D-Madison (AD 77)

Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (AD 78)

Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton (AD 79)

Sondy Pope, D-Cross Plains (AD 80)

Dave Considine, D-Portage (AD 81)

Mandy Wright, D-Wausau (AD 85)

Nancy Stencil, D-Wausau (AD 86)

Richard Pulcher, D-Lublin (AD 87)

Dan Robinson, D-De Pere (AD 88)

Eric Genrich, D-Green Bay (AD 90)

Dana Wachs, D-Eau Claire (AD 91)

Chris Danou, D-Trempealeau (AD 92)

Jeff Smith, D-Eau Claire (AD 93)

Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (AD 94)

Jill Billings, D-La Crosse (AD 95)

Peter Flesch, D-Soldiers Grove (AD 96)

Legislative Recap

Sierra Club Members Block Attacks on Groundwater, Sand Mining & Transit

By Shahla Werner, PhD, Director, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

The 2013-14 legislative session brought another wave of environmental attacks led by Governor Walker and rubber-stamped by the majority party in the Assembly and State Senate. The toughest loss was the passage of the open pit mining bill, 2013 Act 1 (aka the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act) and the subsequent new law allowing landowners to close thousands of acres of managed forest land near Gogebic Taconite's proposed mine site without paying back taxes to the local community. However, news on the mining regulatory front improved later in the session as grassroots activism helped beat back two bills designed to strip local control from mining decisions (and other developments), with the defeat of Sen. Tiffany's SB 349, later rewritten and defeated as SB 632.

Water protection laws were weakened once again in 2013-14 with motion 375 passing in the state budget, a measure which seeks to prevent individuals from challenging high-capacity well permit decisions that threaten groundwater. That provision, along with a measure forcing the sale of 10,000 acres of stewardship land, formed the basis for the Sierra Club opposing the state budget. Two other disappointing water laws that were enacted gut shoreline zoning protections and weaken phosphorus rules by making


it easier to obtain variances, increasing compliance timelines, and capping investments for controlling non-point pollution at \$640,000. Although this news is discouraging, we were encouraged by the defeat of SB 302, a bill that would have further threatened groundwater by limiting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' authority to consider cumulative impacts in high-capacity well decisions, transferring water rights in property sales, and rushing permit reviews. We expect this bill to resurface next session, so we are gearing up now to amass local allies to defeat it when reintroduced.

Clean energy proposals were a mixed bag. Bills designed to make it easier to bring frivolous lawsuits against wind developers and host landowners and freeze renewable standards at 2010 levels did not advance. However, a bill that exempts small utilities from the 10 percent renewable electricity standard was enacted as 2013 WI Act 290 (based on the incorrect assumption that renewable energy increases costs). Another bill that allows renewable energy credits to be used regardless of facility age was enacted as 2013 WI Act 300. Also, Wisconsin lags behind 22 other states that allow third-party leasing, known as Clean Energy Choice. A bill designed to enact Clean Energy Choice, which would allow landowners to lease their roof space

for solar panels owned by others, unfortunately did not advance. All in all, these policies, combined with stagnant renewable standards, unfavorable net metering, and the suspension of residential renewable incentives caused Wisconsin to fall behind neighboring states in clean energy development in 2013.

Although SB 259 the Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority bill, jointly offered by Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber and Sen. Mike Ellis, had bipartisan support and passed the Senate by a vote of 25-7, the Assembly failed to take up this bill, making it harder to maintain much-needed transit service in the Fox Valley. Despite the failure of SB 259 in the Assembly, we were able to score the "pull vote" on this bill, an accountability measure designed to record whether legislators support bringing the measure to the floor for a vote.

Despite these attacks, some proactive measures were enacted. We supported an increase in transit in the state budget, and our efforts to continue funding transit from the transportation fund prevailed. Another bright spot in the session was the unanimous support for 2013 WI Act 72, a measure designed to provide funds for barriers to prevent invasive sea lampreys found in the Great Lakes from traveling to coldwater streams and rivers. Finally, the passage of 2013 WI Act 253, the vulner-

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Follow the Money to Understand What *Drives* Wisconsin's Transportation Policy

By Hans Noeldner, Clean Transportation Subcommittee

Follow the money. The characters and settings change, but the basic plot remains the same. And in the case of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation there aren't any complicated twists in the story – a first-grader would have little problem figuring it out.

For decades, Wisconsin has allocated the lion's share of transportation spending to highways – the mode of transportation which costs the most, requires the most infrastructure, gobbles up the most land, emits the most greenhouse gasses, causes the most runoff, and is most disruptive to neighborhoods. In fact state leaders lavished a grand total of \$3.6 billion on state highways in the 2013-15 biennial budget – versus a paltry \$107.5 million for transit operations.



When politicians drink the highway engineer's Kool-Aid and when community after community is designed on the assumption that everyone will drive everywhere for everything the results are inevitable. Conditions will often make it dangerous, difficult, and even impossible to walk to school, roll a wheelchair to the senior center, push a baby stroller to the library, or ride a bicycle to the grocery store—and good luck finding a convenient bus to board. Given the inverted logic of sprawl, transit always proves to be “uneconomical.” (An illustration of why this is patently false: <http://tinyurl.com/kq5w3aa>)

But government spending on highways is just the tip of the iceberg. According to the American Public Transit Association, people who use transit save an average of \$10,181 a year over driving (accounting for gas, maintenance, insurance, registration, depreciation, finance charges and parking compared to the cost of a monthly transit pass). Unfortunately, lobbyists who represent the “drive-everywhere-for-everything” supply chain are present in force in the State Capitol. They see “efficiency” and “modal choices” as threats to their business models!

Did the “fiscal conservatives” who swept into power in Wisconsin four years ago grab their butcher's knives and hack out transportation waste? *Au contraire!* Admittedly they threw non-emergency medical transportation, shared-ride taxi and transit under the bus and they scrimped on reimbursements to local government for filling potholes and building bike paths. But interstate freeways got a major boost. Having rejected \$810 million in federal funding for high-speed rail, Governor Walker racked up another \$991.4 million in taxpayer debt for added lanes and expanded interchanges.

Did I mention that the highway lobby is the most powerful special

interest group in the Capitol? In fact the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association spent more than \$318,000 on lobbying since 2013 (vs. \$7,700 by the Sierra Club). Could this explain why Wisconsin's politicians continue to expand highways – even though demand is dropping? Wisconsinites drove 8.4% fewer miles in 2012 than in 2007, and young professionals want to live and work in communities where they can walk, bike, and share transit. So what is the Sierra Club doing to transform Wisconsin's transportation future? A lot! And with your help, we can do even more.

Thanks to grants and your generous support, the John Muir Chapter launched the “Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation Subcommittee” in February 2013, with Conservation Programs Coordinator, Elizabeth Ward recruiting, training and coordinating our team. Our first project: a campaign to increase transit funding, which suffered a 10 percent cut in the 2011-2013 budget. In alliance with other transit advocates we convinced legislators to restore transit funding by 4 percent – and reject Governor Walker's proposal to boot transit from the Transportation Fund. More recently we fought for regional transit authority legislation for the Fox Cities. It passed the Senate by a wide margin, but died in the Assembly.

Clearly we have much more to do. Throwing more money at transportation won't solve anything – highways will just gobble up the increase. We must convince our leaders to change priorities and reform the highway-obsessed Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The Sierra Club Clean Transportation Subcommittee is rising to the challenge! As a member of the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation, we are working with several local and statewide groups to fight a \$1.1 billion boondoggle to expand just 3.5 miles of I-94 in Milwaukee. And as a member of the Move Wisconsin Alliance we are engaging counties and municipalities all over the state calling for transportation budget reform that includes increased funds for transit and local roads.

It's an uphill battle, and the highway lobby is determined to squash any talk of reform. Their solution: a bigger pie. If transit needs a \$30 million boost, or if cities need an additional \$50 million to repair streets, they had better echo the highway builders' demands for a \$700 million increase in transportation spending. And what if legislators fail to raise new revenues next session? The highway lobby insists that now isn't the time to discuss Plan B – that should wait until after the fall election. But by then it will be too late!

Don't let the highway lobby steamroll the process! Help reduce Wisconsin's dependence on oil:

- Sign and circulate our petition for transportation budget reform: <http://action.wisconsin.org/movewi>
- Encourage your local town, city, or village to pass a resolution in support of transportation budget reform (contact elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org for details)
- Vote for candidates who support clean transportation
- Switch from AAA (which lobbies for highways) to the Better World Club (<http://www.betterworldclub.com/>)
- Join our Clean Transportation Subcommittee. Having grown to 8 active members (mostly from the Four Lakes and Great Waters Groups) we are eager to add representation from other regions of Wisconsin (contact elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org for details.)

Legislative Recap *Continued from pg. 4*

able users law, was a modest gain that requires driver education on safely sharing the road with pedestrians and bicyclists. This session taught us that working with local allies and diverse coalitions can help us fight the worst environmental attacks. We will return in January ready to take what we've learned into the next session to stave off future attacks on our air, water and land and to support bills that represent the kinds of policies Wisconsin needs.

Political Activities *Continued from pg. 1*

houses, the Governor was able to win passage of the legislation designed to enable the massively damaging Gogebic Taconite mine proposal. The mine doesn't have permits yet and we will fight to stop it from happening, but the legislation made it much more difficult for the public to stop the proposal. Winning back just two Senate seats or the Governor's race two years ago would have stemmed the tide and halted the damage.

Our endorsement is just the beginning of our work to help support these candidates. The next steps to electing new environmental leaders and keeping our proven champions are up to each of us as individual John Muir Chapter Sierra Club members. Chapter and group leaders will be reaching out to mobilize our members to work for endorsed candidates in key races where our support and efforts can make a difference. We will organize members to help distribute literature, contact neighbors and friends, make phone calls to voters and get out the vote. Please contact your group political chair or other group leaders to find out how to volunteer. Or, review the list of endorsed candidates in your area (see page 3 and 4 for the list of endorsed candidates) and contact their campaign offices to help. Volunteering can be as easy as you want it—stuffing envelopes, distributing literature, making calls or even hosting a fundraiser for a candidate. A little of your time goes a long way but it's critically important to become a part of the solution. Please give generously of your time and resources and remind candidates that you are a proud Sierra Club member wishing to help them.

The Sierra Club is still the most effective environmental organization in the country because we, as individual members, act on our principles. So, let's get to it and make a difference in this year's elections.

Please contact Dave Blouin at burroak15@gmail.com or (608)233-8455 if you have any questions about the John Muir Chapter's political activities. Thanks and don't forget to vote on November 4!

**Note that this statistic includes three Representatives who replaced Reps. Stone, Suder and Honadel who quit during the session. There are 60 GOP and 39 Democratic Assembly Representatives and 18 GOP and 15 Democratic Senators serving in the current legislature.*



How Does Your Legislator Rate?

2013-14 Senate Scorecard

Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's 2013-14 Legislative Scorecard Reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on environmental bills. You can learn about bills That affect you by using our Legislative Tracker at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker>. Our scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter's priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. Use this scorecard as a guide to judge candidates in your district this election year. Let your representatives know if you're pleased or disappointed with their voting records. And don't forget to vote in the general election November 4.

Name	Dist	Home Town	Party	Score
Carpenter Tim	3	Milwaukee	D	100%
Cowles Robert	2	Green Bay	R	17%
Cullen Tim	15	Janesville	D	83%
Darling Alberta	8	River Hills	R	17%
Ellis Michael	19	Neenah	R	17%
Erpenbach Jon	27	Middleton	D	100%
Farrow Paul	33	Pewaukee	R	17%
Fitzgerald Scott	13	Juneau	R	17%
Grothman Glenn	20	West Bend	R	0%
Gudex Richard	18	Fond du Lac	R	17%
Hansen Dave	30	Green Bay	D	100%
Harris Nikiya	6	Milwaukee	D	100%
Harsdorf Sheila	10	River Falls	R	33%
Jauch Bob	25	Poplar	D	75%
Kedzie Neal	11	Elkhorn	R	0%
Larson Chris	7	Milwaukee	D	100%
Lasee Frank	1	De Pere	R	0%
Lassa Julie	24	Stevens Point	D	100%
Lazich Mary	28	New Berlin	R	0%
Lehman John	21	Racine	D	100%
Leibham Joseph	9	Sheboygan	R	0%
Miller Mark	16	Monona	D	100%
Moulton Terry	23	Chippewa Falls	R	17%
Olsen Luther	14	Ripon	R	17%
Petrowski Jerry	29	Marathon	R	17%
Risser Fred	26	Madison	D	100%
Schultz Dale	17	Richland Center	R	50%
Shilling Jennifer	32	La Crosse	D	100%
Taylor Lena	4	Milwaukee	D	100%
Tiffany Thomas	12	Hazelhurst	R	0%
Vinehout Kathleen	31	Alma	D	100%
Vukmir Leah	5	Wauwatosa	R	0%
Wirch Robert	22	Pleasant Prairie	D	100%

2013-14 Assembly Scorecard

Name	Dist	Home Town	Party	Score	
August	Tyler	32	Walworth	R	0%
Ballweg	Joan	41	Markesan	R	0%
Barca	Peter	64	Kenosha	D	86%
Barnes	Mandela	11	Milwaukee	D	100%
Berceau	Terese	77	Madison	D	100%
Bernard Schaber	Penny	57	Appleton	D	100%
Bernier	Kathy	68	Chippewa Falls	R	0%
Bewley	Janet	74	Ashland	D	86%
Bies	Garey	1	Sister Bay	R	0%
Billings	Jill	95	La Crosse	D	100%
Born	Mark	39	Beaver Dam	R	0%
Brooks	Ed	50	Reedsburg	R	0%
Clark	Fred	81	Baraboo	D	86%
Craig	David	83	Big Bend	R	0%
Czaja	Mary	35	Irma	R	0%
Danou	Chris	91	Trempealeau	D	86%
Doyle	Steve	94	Onalaska	D	71%
Endsley	Mike	26	Sheboygan	R	0%
Genrich	Eric	90	Green Bay	D	86%
Goyke	Evan	18	Milwaukee	D	100%
Hebl	Gary	46	Sun Prairie	D	100%
Hesselbein	Dianne	79	Middleton	D	100%
Hintz	Gordon	54	Oshkosh	D	86%
Honadel	Mark		S. Milwaukee	R	0%
Hulsey	Brett	78	Madison	D	100%
Hutton	Rob	13	Brookfield	R	0%
Jacque	Andre	2	De Pere	R	0%
Jagler	John	37	Watertown	R	0%
Johnson	LaTonya	17	Milwaukee	D	100%
Jorgensen	Andy	43	Milton	D	86%
Kahl	Robb	47	Monona	D	71%
Kapenga	Chris	99	Delafield	R	0%
Kaufert	Dean	55	Neenah	R	0%
Kerkman	Samantha	61	Powers Lake	R	0%
Kessler	Fred	12	Milwaukee	D	100%
Kestell	Steve	27	Elkhart Lake	R	14%
Kleefisch	Joel	38	Oconomowoc	R	0%
Klenke	John	88	Green Bay	R	0%
Knodl	Daniel	24	Germantown	R	0%
Knudson	Dean	30	Hudson	R	0%
Kolste	Debra	44	Janesville	D	100%
Kooyenga	Dale	14	Brookfield	R	0%
Kramer	Bill	97	Waukesha	R	0%
Krug	Scott	72	Nekoosa	R	0%
Kuglitsch	Mike	84	New Berlin	R	0%
Kulp	Bob	69	Stratford	R	0%
Larson	Tom	67	Colfax	R	0%
LeMahieu	Daniel	59	Cascade	R	0%
Loudenbeck	Amy	31	Clinton	R	0%
Marklein	Howard	51	Spring Green	R	14%

Name	Dist	Home Town	Party	Score	
Mason	Cory	66	Racine	D	86%
Milroy	Nick	73	South Range	D	86%
Murphy	Dave	36	Greenville	R	0%
Mursau	Jeffrey	36	Crivitz	R	0%
Murtha	John	29	Baldwin	R	0%
Nass	Steve	33	Whitewater	R	14%
Nerison	Lee	96	Westby	R	0%
Neylon	Adam	98	Pewaukee	R	0%
Nygren	John	89	Marinette	R	0%
Ohnstad	Tod	65	Kenosha	D	86%
Ott	Al	3	Forest Junction	R	0%
Ott	Jim	23	Mequon	R	0%
Pasch	Sandy	10	Shorewood	D	100%
Petersen	Kevin	40	Waupaca	R	0%
Petryk	Warren	93	Eleva	R	0%
Pope	Sondy	80	Cross Plains	D	100%
Pridemore	Don	22	Hartford	R	0%
Richards	Jon	19	Milwaukee	D	86%
Riemer	Daniel	7	Milwaukee	D	83%
Ringhand	Janis	45	Evansville	D	100%
Ripp	Keith	42	Lodi	R	0%
Rodriguez	Jessie	21	Franklin	R	0%
Sanfelippo	Joe	15	West Allis	R	0%
Sargent	Melissa	48	Madison	D	100%
Schraa	Michael	43	Oshkosh	R	0%
Severson	Erik	28	Star Prairie	R	0%
Shankland	Katrina	71	Stevens Point	D	100%
Sinicki	Christine	20	Milwaukee	D	86%
Skowronski	Ken	82	Franklin	R	0%
Smith	Stephen	75	Shell Lake	D	71%
Spiros	John	86	Marshfield	R	0%
Steineke	Jim	5	Kaukauna	R	0%
Stone	Jeff	82	Greendale	R	0%
Strachota	Pat	58	West Bend	R	0%
Stroebel	Duey	60	Saukville	R	0%
Suder	Scott	69	Abbotsford	R	0%
Swearingen	Rob	34	Rhineland	R	0%
Tauchen	Gary	6	Bonduel	R	0%
Taylor	Chris	76	Madison	D	100%
Thiesfeldt	Jeremy	52	Fond du Lac	R	0%
Tittl	Paul	25	Manitowoc	R	0%
Tranel	Travis	49	Cuba City	R	0%
Vos	Robin	63	Burlington	R	0%
Vruwink	Amy Sue	70	Milladore	D	71%
Wachs	Dana	91	Eau Claire	D	86%
Weatherston	Thomas	62	Racine	R	0%
Weininger	Chad	4	Green Bay	R	0%
Williams	Mary	87	Medford	R	0%
Wright	Mandy	85	Wausau	D	86%
Young	Leon	16	Milwaukee	D	100%
Zamarripa	JoCasta	8	Milwaukee	D	100%
Zepnick	Josh	9	Milwaukee	D	100%

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

Wisconsin Utilities Request Rate Changes that Attack Clean Energy

By Wallace McMullen, Sierra Club volunteer

This summer We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), and Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), requested radical rate changes from the Public Service Commission (PSC) that penalize low-income customers and those who invest in renewables and efficiency.

We Energies requested adding a monthly demand charge of \$3.794/kW of photovoltaic demand for solar or wind systems that feed electricity into the grid, amounting to over \$273 per year for the average 6 kW solar system. They also proposed changing their net metering calculation from a yearly to a monthly basis and increasing the monthly flat connection charge for all customers from \$9 to \$16 per month. If approved, these punishing changes will potentially shut down the clean energy marketplace in We Energies' territory.

MGE proposed raising the monthly flat connection charge from \$10.46 to \$19 per month with the ability to ask for more monthly flat fee increases in the future after they study this issue next year with stakeholders.

MGE's rate request not only cripples clean energy users, but it also rewards wasteful energy users by lowering the cents per kilowatt hour from \$0.144 to 0.133/kwh. MGE

claims to be a green utility, but in fact they are dedicated to coal and gas, with only 12 percent of their energy derived from renewable sources.

WPS has joined other regressive utilities by asking for an increase in their monthly household flat charge from \$10.40 to \$25 per month and reducing the per kilowatt hour rate.

These billing schemes increase payback periods for energy efficiency, solar and wind; encourage fossil fuel use linked to climate change; and hurt solar energy businesses throughout Wisconsin. We and MGE customers can submit comments to the PSC until October 7 via our website at wisconsin.sierraclub.org/involve/action.asp

Attacks like these show that utilities have chosen to vehemently fight clean energy in an attempt to hold on to their monopoly, instead of figuring out a way to profit from expanding customer energy options. Utilities are hurting small businesses, polluting our environment and jeopardizing public health.

Sierra Club Speaks Out On Wolf Management Policy

By L. Menefee, John Muir Chapter Executive Committee

When the Natural Resources Board met in June to approve this year's wolf quota of 156 for the 2014 hunting season, the Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter expressed serious

concerns for Wisconsin's wolf management policy. The policy effectively culls our wolf population by about 55 percent, from about 800 to 350 wolves in the space of three years. The chapter argued that this policy is overly aggressive, not science-based, and puts our once-healthy wolf population, which appeared to be stabilizing naturally in response to available habitat and prey density, at risk.

At the meeting, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Cathy Stepp claimed it would be "counterproductive" to allow representation from wolf advocacy groups "opposed to [recreational] wolf hunting" on the Wolf Advisory Committee (WAC). This committee replaced the previous Wolf Science Committee, which included biologists from the University of Wisconsin, DNR and other agencies. Stepp has barred UW faculty from sitting on wildlife committees.

The present WAC is stacked with wolf removal advocates including hunting and trapping groups, hunting hound groups and wolf removal agencies. Nevertheless, the WAC recently voted in favor of ending depredations payments for wolf attacks on hunting hounds. To date, nearly \$500,000 in depredations payments have been made to owners of bear hunting hounds, at up to \$2,500 per dog. However, DNR Administration rejected that recommendation, citing a need for a change in legislation in order to end payments for hunting hounds.

Sierra Club Supports Efforts to Block Waupaca County Sand Mine

By Shahla Werner, PhD, John Muir Chapter Director

Since July 2012, the local citizens of Preserve Waupaca County (PWC), including Sierra Club Fox Valley Group member Kelly Ramstack, have been raising concerns about A.F. Gelhar's proposed sand mine in the Town of Union. The project entails purchasing 160 acres of land for a mine that will operate for 30 to 100 years and will require a processing plant and at least one high capacity well. Not only will this project increase silica particulate levels and traffic, but it threatens habitat and will likely reduce property values. The proposed location is adjacent to Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area, and wastewater would flow into a tributary of the Little Wolf River. PWC has questioned Gelhar's claims about this project's potential to create jobs, as it would result in the closure of Dennison's lumber company. PWC has also questioned the claim that the sand would be used by Waupaca Foundry, since the company has found a way to reuse sand, leading to concerns that the

sand might instead be used for natural gas fracking in other states.

PWC's efforts initially paid off in 2012 when Union's town board and planning commission voted down the sand mining permit, based on the town's comprehensive plan prohibiting sand mining within 2,000 feet of residences. Unfortunately, on June 6, 2013, the Waupaca County Zoning Committee voted to grant a conditional use permit for the sand mine, and the group has been embroiled in a costly legal battle to block the mine since then. That decision was reinforced May 16, 2014 when the Waupaca County Board of Adjustment denied PWC's appeal challenging the zoning committee's decision. Despite these setbacks, PWC now plans to go to circuit court to challenge the proposed sand mine on the basis that it violates Waupaca County's Comprehensive Plan (potentially testing Wisconsin's Smart Growth law).

In 2013, Sierra Club-Fox Valley Group recognized PWC's efforts with the Moldenhauer Award and in June 2014 the John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee voted to provide a \$1,000 grant to PWC to support their ongoing legal and grassroots efforts.

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Knowledge is power. Get up to speed on pressing environmental issues facing Wisconsin, meet Sierra Club members and friends from around the state and enjoy the great outdoors at our annual retreat. Jam packed with engaging speakers and hands-on opportunities to connect with nature, this is a “don’t miss” event. Come for the day or stay for the weekend.

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(registration must be received no later than
October 6 to guarantee onsite meals and lodging)
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HOLSUM DAIRY TOUR

by Judy Hartl, Water Sentinels, and Shala Werner, PhD, Director, Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter

Twelve Sierra Club members toured the Holsum Dairy's Elm Road manure digester on June 7 in Hilbert, Wisconsin. Less than a week before our tour, a large manure spill occurred at a nearby farm after a manure hose ruptured. That spill sent more than 50,000 gallons of manure into Pipe Creek, which flows into Lake Winnebago, reinforcing the Water Sentinels' concerns that manure management issues pose a dire threat to Wisconsin's water.



potassium) when compared to undigested manure, according to the dairy's 2013 Green Tier report.

The objective of our tour was to learn about the pros and cons of manure digesters, and determine if we could devise safety measures that could be enacted to protect our water from spills. One big take home point from this tour was that manure digesters are designed to produce either methane gas or

The tour was hosted by Holsum dairy's veterinarian and manager, Kevin Wellejus, VMD. He gave us an extensive tour of the milking carousel, methane digester, cow barn and the barn where dry digested manure is stored for use onsite as bedding.



Excess manure is given to local citizens for use on gardens. He also showed us Holsum's two large manure lagoons where liquid manure is collected before being spread or sold as fertilizer.

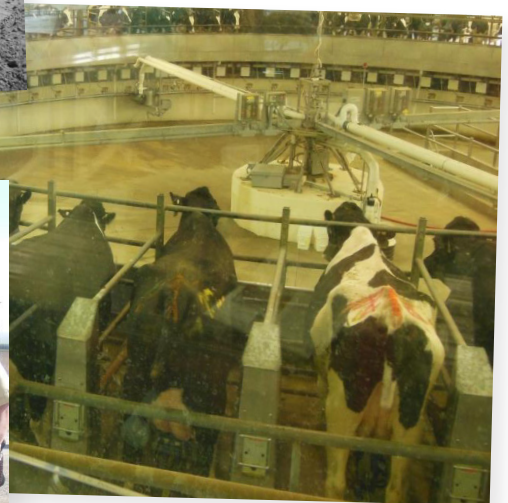
Holsum's Elm Road dairy, a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), has 3,700 cows. They are a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Green Tier business that has not only installed a digester to capture methane, but also incorporated water saving technologies and a communal calf barn that potentially improves socialization over traditional calf huts.

The digester is designed to produce 1.5 megawatts of electricity (about the same as a large wind turbine) however Holsum has been having problems with two of the digester's chambers running at lower temperatures due to a water pipe leak. The digester not only turns waste into energy, it also saves money and reduces odor. Between their two locations (Elm Road and Irish Road), Holsum saves \$64,000 a year in fuel usage costs and \$95,000 a year in electrical reductions. After capturing the energy and fibrous material from cow waste, Holsum's effluent has 82 percent less dry matter, 32 percent less nitrogen, 75 percent less phosphorous pentoxide (44 percent phosphorus), and 49 percent less potassium oxide (83 percent

electricity. Additional technologies are needed to reduce pathogens or remove phosphorus or nitrogen from waste produced at these operations. Therefore, one should not automatically assume that farms with digesters eliminate water pollution.

We also learned the dairy business is extremely competitive, and statewide regulations or consumer pressure are key to enacting change, since investing in costly technologies is more likely when it doesn't hinder profits. For example, consumers in New York and Pennsylvania successfully obtained bans on the growth hormone, bovine somatotropin, which is still used in Wisconsin. This suggests that voluntary and local regulations may not work as well as changing statewide or federal standards and subsidies.

Another point to keep in mind is that all farms, regardless of size, have the potential to be either polluters or good land stewards. Still, the vast scale and number of CAFOs

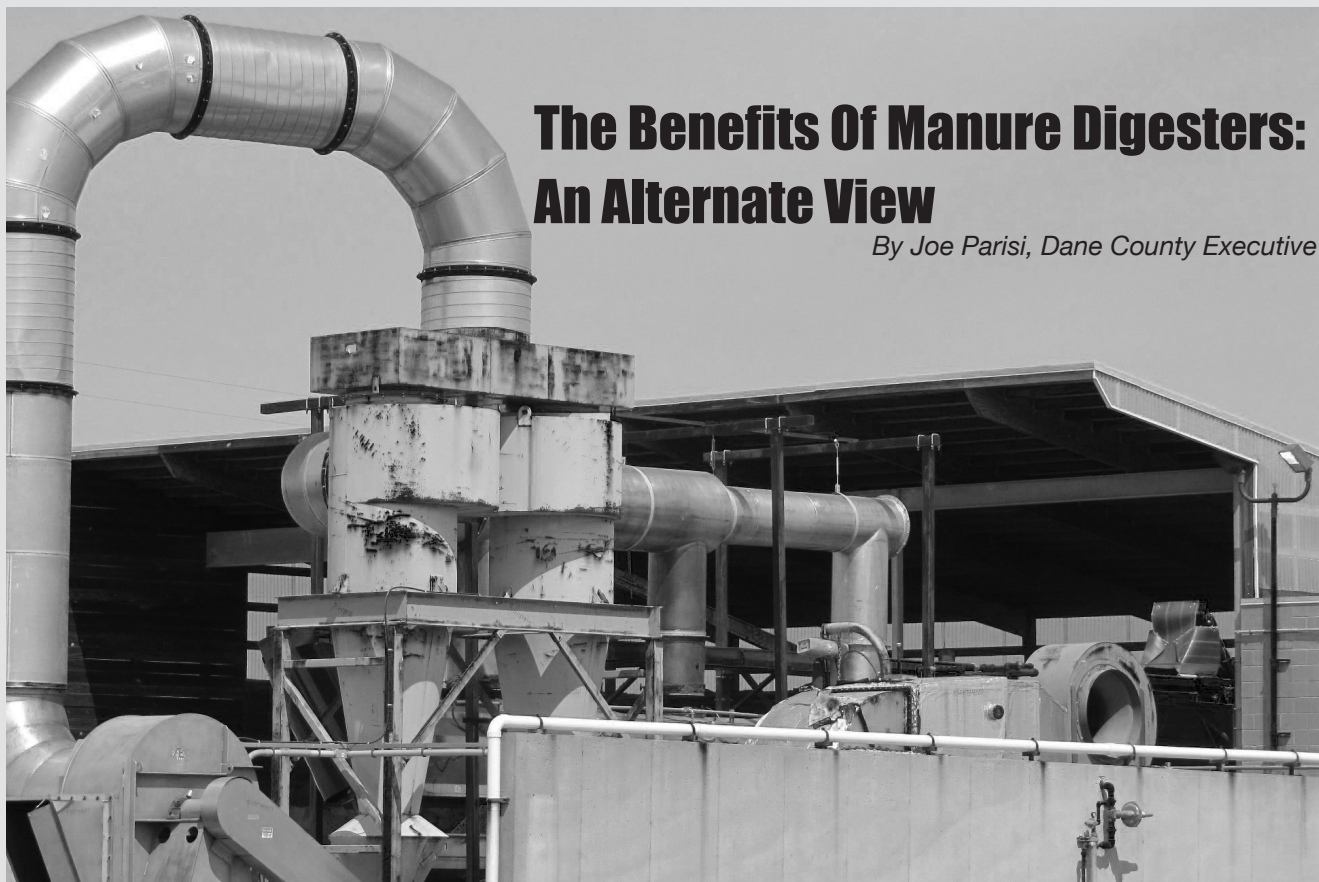


(Wisconsin currently has 263) makes them an acute concern. The DNR has the authority to improve the situation by reducing the number of emergency manure spreading permits, increasing enforcement actions, and expanding staff and site inspections.

In the future, the Water Sentinels plan to tour an organic dairy to compare and contrast with the practices at Holsum Dairy. We feel that expanding firsthand knowledge about the various types of farms in our state will be the key to developing an effective

strategy for protecting Wisconsin's water.

For more information or to get involved in the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels program contact Shahla Werner at shahla.werner@sierraclub.org



The Benefits Of Manure Digesters: An Alternate View

By Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive

I have a special affinity for Dane County's chain of lakes, but our watershed—like too many others—faces challenges.

Fortunately, in Dane County we have an unprecedented partnership in place between environmentalists, farmers, the private sector and county government to clean up our lakes that are too often fouled with algae during the hot summer months.

The main source of algae pollution is phosphorus; a single pound of phosphorus can produce 500 pounds of algae. The largest source of that phosphorus is agricultural run-off.

Among the most important tools in our effort to reduce phosphorus run-off are our community manure digesters; community digesters are those that receive manure from more than one farm.

Our first digester in Waunakee is shared by three neighboring farms. The manure produced by the 2,500 cows on these farms is used to produce clean renewable energy – enough to power 2,500 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equal to 4,000 cars – all while reducing phosphorus levels by 60 percent.

Since it began operating in late 2010, this digester has kept 173,000 pounds of phosphorus off farm fields. Our second digester in the Town of Springfield will have the same clean energy benefits and pilot a new technology to achieve 100 percent phosphorus reduction.

As a Sierra Club member since 1982, I am passionate about protecting our environment—particularly our lakes and streams. I have great respect for the Sierra Club and plan to be a member for years to come; but I do respectfully disagree with the Club's position in opposition to manure digesters.

Digesters are an important part of our county's comprehensive approach to eliminating phosphorus pollution and reducing greenhouse gases. It would be a blow to our efforts to have that option taken off the table.

Joe Parisi is Dane County Executive and a former member of the Wisconsin State Assembly

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES

Leadership of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club is entrusted to a 16 member volunteer Executive Committee. Committee members provide direction to the chapter on fiscal matters, policy, fundraising and prioritizing issue work. Nine Executive Committee members are elected by the Chapter membership at large and serve staggered, 3-year terms. Each of the chapter's six local groups annually appoints a delegate to represent them on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Three at large seats are up for election this fall. Please read the following candidate statements and use the ballot on page 15 to vote for up to three candidates.

Candidates were asked the following questions:

1) Please discuss when and why you joined the Sierra Club, and describe any leadership or volunteer activities with our organization or other non-profit groups that will help you fulfill your role.

2) What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background (fundraising, legal, accounting, communications, Board, political) will you bring to the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee?

3) Why are you applying to become a candidate for the Executive Committee of the John Muir Chapter?

4) Although the John Muir Chapter works on a variety of conservation issues, we focus on a limited number of priority issues affecting Wisconsin. Currently these are:

- Protecting the Great Lakes and other Water Resources
- Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy
- Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation
- Protecting Habitats from Destructive Mining

Of the Chapter's priority issues, which one are you most passionate about and why?

DON HAMMES

Middleton, WI



1. I served on the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation board of directors for approximately 15 years. I was chair of the Wetlands Committee for seven years. I also served on the McKenzie Environmental Education Center Advisory Board for three years and have served on numerous other local boards. I lobbied for conservation programs in Washington on four occasions and testified at many state legislative committee hearings on various bills either in support or against. In 2007 I received the President's Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service. In 2012 I received the President's Award "For Distinguished Service and Dedication to the Wetlands Committee and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation."

I joined the Sierra Club in June of 2014 after the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation board of directors refused to oppose the Gogebic Mine in northern Wisconsin. I did not want to be a part of an organization that did not work to oppose a mining project that would bring so much destruction

to Wisconsin's natural resources. I decided to join the Sierra Club because I knew they actively worked to protect Wisconsin's natural resources and did oppose the Gogebic Mine.

2. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin where I majored in Communications and Public Address. My communications skills help me in testifying before legislative and county environmental committees, they help with organizational communications and in developing communications for issue campaigns. The perspective I would bring to the Sierra Club would be one as a life-long conservationist and as a life-long sportsman. I have many connections to the hunting and fishing community in Wisconsin and would work to help Sierra Club gain their support on important issues. As former chair of the WWF Wetlands Committee I am well acquainted with DNR, Army Corps and EPA regulations regarding wetlands.

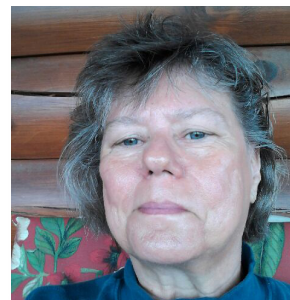
3. I would like to use my communications skills and my broad background in conservation to help the Sierra Club meet its conservation goals and objectives as well as help the Sierra Club develop priorities and new goals and objectives to protect and preserve Wisconsin's natural resources.

4. I support the Sierra Club's work on all four issues, but the one I am most concerned about at this time is protecting habitats from destructive mining. Both iron ore mining and frac sand mining are or will bring the greatest amount of damage to our

State's natural resources. We need to fight against this destruction and I am a fighter.

CAROL JOHNSON

Deer Park, WI



1. I have been a contributing member since the late 1980s. I knew that when I retired I wanted to focus on volunteer work for the environment and looked for opportunities with Sierra Club. I worked for a few months as a co-treasurer for the Chapter and have served on the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Subcommittee since its inception. I am also a contributing member of Renew Wisconsin and Clean Wisconsin and assisted with getting the Clean Energy Choice resolution approved by Polk County. I also presented two resolutions addressing the mining issues in Wisconsin to the St. Croix County DNR Conservation Congress in spring of 2014. One of the resolutions was approved and moved on to the state meeting.

2. I have assisted on many political campaigns throughout my adult life, most recently the presidential campaigns of

CANDIDATES – CONTINUED

2008 and 2012. I have worked on “get out the vote” initiatives, door knocking, phone calling, and office duties like updating databases, putting together mailings and packets for volunteers to take door-to-door, and whatever else is needed.

I have spent the last several years, since late 2009, fighting an anti-wind energy group in my township. We have been unsuccessful in defeating them completely but the wind farm development has been kept “alive” and is currently going through the courts.

In my professional life, I have been a business owner of 8 years, several of those years working as a consultant on wind energy developments. My expertise was related to real estate (appraisal, title research, document drafting, etc.) and negotiating agreements.

3. I live in a part of Wisconsin where there is very little support for environmental activism. If I am fortunate enough to be elected to the committee, my hope is to influence a greater involvement of environmentalists in my part of the state (Midwestern & Northwestern).

4. I care about all of these issues but Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy is what I am most passionate about. In so many ways, clean energy impacts all of these issues in a positive way.

LD ROCKWELL

Elkhorn, WI



1. I joined the Sierra Club in 2000, because I was very interested in protecting the environment and working for clean energy. I recently worked with the Illinois chapter to establish the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. I’ve also been a member of the Veterans for Peace, working to support peace and served as co-chair and treasurer.

2. I have been a member of the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee for two terms and currently serve as a board mem-

ber on the League of Women Voters. I’m working with Veterans for Peace (VFP) in South Central WI to form a VFP group. I’m also a member of the Walworth Democratic Party and participated as a candidate for the State 11th Senate seat.

3. I would like to continue to be a member of the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee and act as liaison for the Sierra Club’s Council of Club Leaders.

4. I am most passionate about protecting the Great Lakes and Wisconsin’s water resources. Water is the most precious and valuable resource that we have. In addition to a life supporting value it also brings recreational values to the economy.

ERIC URAM

Madison, WI



1. I joined the SC back in 1982 when I began college and fought James Watt’s efforts (in the Reagan administration) to limit Wilderness set-asides and funding for public lands. I have been a member since 1998 (under the current system) and have served as staff and a volunteer leader during that entire time.

For over eight years I worked at the Sierra Club’s Midwest Regional Office in the Great Lakes and Partnerships Programs. During that time I served as staff liaison to the Environmental Quality Strategy Team’s Air and Toxics Committees and the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee’s Coal-Fired Power Plant and Mississippi River Campaigns. While an employee, I also represented Sierra Club on the Clean Air Network and served as the CAN air toxics committee chair.

I currently serve on the Sierra Club’s Grassroots Network’s National Toxics Team and the Zero Waste/EPR Team. For the last two years, I have served on Sierra Club’s National Outings Team. I have held a number of John Muir Chapter Executive Committee positions. I have contributed to Chapter

and Group work days and participated in Sierra Club outings, including serving as a leader trainer, leader mentor, trip leader and assistant trip leader. I have also served as a volunteer board member with local fishing clubs and as the environmental member for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) under federal EPCRA requirements.

2. Executive Director – SafeMinds, an international organization dedicated to understanding the environmental causes behind childhood neurological impacts in order to be able to provide the means for prevention and treatment.

Canvasser, Field Manager and Canvasser Director – CLEC Canvasser Network raising funds for Clean Water Action, WI Citizen Action, MN Senior Federation and MN COACT at various locations. Other experience includes canvassing for Greenpeace, volunteering for Bill Clinton, Tammy Baldwin and Russ Feingold campaigns and being the Associate Media Representative – Sierra Club Great Lakes Program.

3. It’s in my DNA

4. There is no disconnection of issues. The issues I follow most passionately involve the elimination of problematic materials and processes in order to create a safer world for future generations.

I also follow issues around protecting our remaining wild places, and conserving resources by reducing our uses, recycling materials and reusing what we can. I also understand the need to find solutions to the problems inherent in energy use, generation or extraction and energy transfer.

Ultimately, I believe we need to implement strategies that embrace long-term sustainability – economically, environmentally, and socially. I find these problems need solutions at global, regional and local levels not all of which can be universally applied.

**BALLOT ON
PAGE 15
PLEASE SEND IN BY
NOVEMBER 6TH!**

GREEN REVIEW

This quarter we take a look at a selection of National Geographic Kids books.

National Geographic Readers: Storms, by Miriam Goin, 2009, 32 pages



Storms is a level one reader book; part of National Geographic's "Super Reader" program. While the writing is targeted for emerging readers, the illustrations are realistic photographs that appeal to all ages. The style of the book

would not seem childish to older children or to those learning English. The series encourages both a love for learning about the natural world and for reading.

Simple concepts and fascinating facts appeal to children's need to understand their world. Storms often scare little ones, and mastering some basic concepts about storms just might replace fear with knowledge. Facts include:

- Lightening is electricity.
- Australians call sand storms willy willys.
- Jupiter's storm, visible from a telescope, has been blowing for over 400 years.

Children may also begin to understand what's going on when Mother Nature gets angry. Why does the wind howl? Why does it rain for days? How do rivers overflow? What are thunder and lightning, monsoons, hurricanes and tornadoes? Is weather different in other parts of the world?

Goin packs in information without cluttering the page: the marginalia offers extra information and jokes. Perhaps small children enjoy these corny jokes. If not, they are unobtrusive.

Readers can join the corresponding Super Reader program on the National Geographic website that offers encouragement, games and prizes. Other level one books include *Caterpillar to Butterfly* and *Spiders*.

National Geographic Readers: Sea Turtles, by Laura Marsh, 2011, 32 pages

The beautiful photography in *Sea Turtles* respects the subject and young readers' aesthetic. Aimed at level two readers—who can read somewhat independently—the

vocabulary expands and includes definitions (for example, algae, instinct, and hatchling). The bright blue and green turtle photography beguiles the reader—so that adults will likely want to share the experience with their favorite young reader and be on hand for help with the new words. Adults are apt to learn, too. Does every adult know how many species of sea turtles exist?



Readers explore traits and habitats of the seven known species of sea turtles and identify features that enable them to thrive in the ocean, while requiring air to breathe. Some facts amaze: A full-grown loggerhead turtle can weigh more than 10 men! Some of the jokes may make anyone laugh: What do you get when you cross a turtle with a porcupine? Would you turn the page to find the answer?

After getting to know turtles, Marsh enlists the reader to help them. She shares five ways to advocate for turtles. One way requires eschewing plastic bags that look like jellyfish, a favorite turtle meal, when floating in the ocean. It's a satisfying read, and in the end you'll leave with a wealth of information, including what you need to cross to make a "slow poke."

Other selected level two titles: *Planets*, *Sharks*, *Lizards*, and *Elephants*.

National Geographic Readers: Deadliest Animals, by Melissa Stewart, 2011, 48 pages

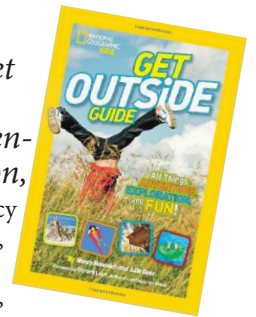


When National Geographic photographers are in charge, the pictures are apt to be stunning and realistic. *Deadliest Animals'* pages meet every expectation. Most children will enjoy the realism, but you may

want to consider the effect on sensitive children—especially when reading as a bedtime story. This level three reader offers a dense array of facts and more complex language and sentence structure. You'll also find more jokes!

Stewart presents the dangers of the predatory animals you'd expect, yet goes further. Facts and mortality statistics about the dangers of kangaroos, fish, frogs, mosquitos and others contradict mythologies about just which animal is the most deadly to humans. However, readers don't learn why we might want to protect these deadly animals, so more balanced reading should follow. Other level three titles in the series include *Great Migrations: Whales*, *Great Migrations: Elephants*, and *Cats vs. Dogs*.

National Geographic Kids Get Outside Guide: All Things Adventure, Exploration, and Fun! by Nancy Honovich, Julie Beer, with forward by Richard Louve, 2014, 160 pages



This book could help to change a child's life. Most kids don't have parents who are nature and outdoor experts. The *Get Outside Guide* introduces the world and offers a beguiling series of invitations to step outside. While a child would enjoy this text, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and mentors will discover inspired ways to enjoy open air together.

The information and activities will help readers understand their connection to the entire planet while getting to know their own backyard. Begin to learn to identify birds, tracks, rocks, constellations, leaves, wildflowers, shells, tide-pool animals, phases of the moon and much more.

Find inspirational, inexpensive and fun activities including making a kite or a solar oven, leaf rubbing, using a telescope, making an underwater viewer, floating a paper boat, and more. Go hiking, orienteering, snow shoeing, tracking and more. *Get Outside* includes activities for every season of the year while nurturing relationships and building life-long interests that help make life healthier and sweeter.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting. Contact her through her site at www.AmyLouJenkins.com if you'd like to offer a book for possible review.

John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2014

Instructions: Read the candidate statements on pages 12 and 13. Select up to three candidates.

Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box.

Only ballots from mailed copies of the Muir View with legible membership numbers on the back are valid.

One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

Voter #1:

Voter #2:

Don Hammes

Don Hammes

Carol Johnson

Carol Johnson

LD Rockwell

LD Rockwell

Eric Uram

Eric Uram

Write In:

Write In:



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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Ballots must be postmarked by November 6, 2014

Mail to: Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter, Madison, WI 53711-1429

**Support the Sierra Club Foundation
through Workplace Giving**



Does your employer offer a Community Shares workplace giving campaign? Designate your gift to the Sierra Club Foundation and you'll be supporting our work to protect Wisconsin's clean air, water and special places.

For a list of workplace campaigns or information on starting a campaign, visit the websites below.

Sierra Club Foundation is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee



www.communityshares.com 608-256-1066



www.milwaukeeshares.org 414-342-0883

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

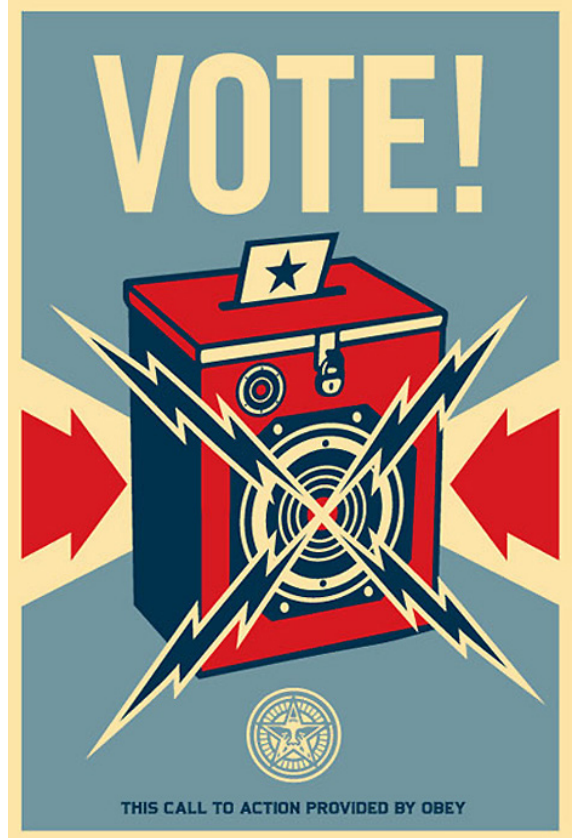
Events Calendar:

- October 8** **We Energies Rate Case Hearing**
2 p.m. & 6 p.m., 2601 W Howard Ave., Milwaukee
- October 9** **We Energies Rate Case Hearing**
9:30 a.m., 610 N Whitney Way, Madison
- October 10-12** **2014 Autumn Assembly with Ron Seely**
Phantom Lake YMCA, Mukwonago: <http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>
- November 4** **Fall General Election**
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/political/Endorsements.asp>
- Nov 15** **University of the Wilderness**
(a narrative concert featuring the music of "Chance" & writings of John Muir) Cedarburg Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m., http://www.chanceworld.com/john_muir/

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Oct 23** **Executive Committee Conference Call**
6:30 p.m.
- Nov 15** **Executive Committee Meeting**
MATC - Portage Campus (tentative location), 10:00 a.m.

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NOVEMBER 4