

DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



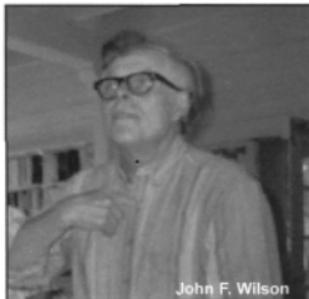
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Fall 2010

The Message From One Of The Founders

In beautiful Door County, the pressure is on: large development projects subject to big money availability, heavy pollution along the Lake Michigan shore, our drinking water aquifer being simultaneously polluted and drained, highway traffic increasing every summer, more people, more shops, more congestion, more noise, and what seems like inadequate planning, zoning and enforcement of the laws that do exist. If this is the year 2010, what will we have in another decade or less? But, it isn't. I'm talking about 1970!

Forty years ago, this is the situation we faced, and a group of us, more frustrated than most of the population decided to form the Door County Environmental Council. Wilbur Johnson (an advertising executive from Milwaukee) John Wilson, (a businessman from Green Bay) Phil LeTourneau (a Chicago accounting individual) and Harvey Matzahn (a local entrepreneur) held a series of meetings and carefully drew up plans for an activist organization that would stand up for the environment and the wildlife that resided in it.



John F. Wilson

One of the very first involvements was opposing a massive trailer camp that was planned for the Fish Creek Bluff. There was no comprehensive zoning and only amateurs appointed by the county board to try to regulate the mess that Door County was fast becoming. There were huge developments planned for places such as North Bay's Marshall Point that would have looked like the maze that is the Island of Crete had it been permitted. Each village had its own grandiose plans for an expanded residential area and the builders and various contractors that stood to profit thereby, vigorously promoted the projects and defended them against critics. There were even plans for a new coal-fired power plant along the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal, opposed by virtually one man in the beginning: Jerry Viste who later became a vigorous member of the DCEC. In almost every case, the DCEC was the main opponent to these "improvements."

Membership grew rapidly as did the influence we wielded. The county began to operate in a more sophisticated way, establishing various departments of government that did planning and required obedience to the laws that were regularly passed by the county and the State of Wisconsin. While much has been accomplished, new problems arise and old problems become more complicated, all of which we are compelled to confront.

It is obvious that we humans are incapable of leaving Nature, no matter how beautiful and perfect, alone and untouched. We must always alter and adjust and yet rarely improve what exists. Hence, a need for an organization such as the Door County Environmental Council will always be required: to balance, to monitor, to protect this beautiful place.

And, likely, midst the ever-increasing mass of humans there will be enough of those who will continue to do these things into the future.

John F. Wilson

DCEC History and Accomplishments

1 In the beginning a planned trailer court development for the Fish Creek bluff area aroused public sentiment
9 in opposition and influenced the town board to not allow progress with the necessary permits. DCEC was
6 formed by a group of Fish Creek area residents concerned about increasing development pressure and the
9 lack of effective land use controls at any level. The Gibraltar Planning Committee was requested to
participate with the County Planning Office to research and design a zoning plan specific to the Town of
Gibraltar needs, as brought out by these development plans.

- 1 • DCEC incorporated as a Wisconsin non-profit organization.
- 9 • Original Directors of DCEC listed in 1970 incorporation documents dated 31 December 1970:
7 Wilbur E. Johnson, Fish Creek; John F. Wilson, Fish Creek; Philip J. Letourneaux, Fish Creek;
0 Harvey M. Malzahn, Jr.; and J. P. Malzahn, Fish Creek
- Wilbur Johnson also designed the official DCEC logo at that time.

- 1 • DCEC was granted 501 c 3 tax-exempt status by IRS.
- 9 • Gibraltar Town Board adopted Door County Zoning in an emergency meeting, only to find that most of the
7 provisions were not acceptable. Town Planning Committee was directed to work with the County office to
1 come up with a zoning proposal that was suitable for the Town.

- 1 • The Town of Gibraltar imposed a temporary moratorium on new projects until the Planning Committee
9 returned with an acceptable zoning proposal.
- 7 • Powers are at work to ensure that zoning for the town does not create severe limitations on projects that
2 "would be beneficial to increase the tax base of the Town", a false concept that will be used in opposition
to zoning in other areas of the County.

- 1 • DCEC was involved in Bailey's Harbor Ridges Sanctuary opposition to the rezoning petition of the
9 adjacent Voeks property which began in 1972. The County Zoning, Industrial Development and Protection
7 (ZIP) committee had denied the request with support of many organizations, only to have the County
3 Board reverse the decision and approve the rezoning request of property owned by a County Board
member.

- 3 • We supported the Ridges in a complaint about failed septic systems that were contributing to huge algae
blooms in the protected swales of the Ridges Sanctuary.
- DCEC aligned with Citizen's Civic Association and others in promoting a downtown corridor for location of
the new bridge in the preliminary planning stages.

- We cooperatively promoted Jackson Harbor Ridges Conservancy on Washington Island successfully
supporting Louise Erickson's efforts.
- 1 • DCEC's position regarding talks of a possible four-lane expansion of Highway 57 to Door County reminds
9 all that this County was a destination and not a continuance to somewhere beyond. Highway 42 was
7 underutilized as a result of County promotional groups suggestions.

- 4 • The OMNIBUS Corporation has requested a variance to change the former ski hill zoning from single
family residential to resort commercial, bypassing the Gibraltar Advisory Board's recommendations going
directly to the County Zoning Board.
- DCEC Board consensus was that there are dedicated people needed on the County Board to represent
and promote environmental issues.

- 1 • DCEC Board meeting had representation by town officers present who agreed that Bailey's Harbor town
9 was ready to adopt County zoning, if it wasn't deemed too stringent and restrictive. It was also suggested
7 that mixed hardwoods be planted to supplement excessive plantings of conifers at that meeting.
- 5 • Summer program featured Doug LaFollett, prominent Madison political figure addressing more than 200
attendees on the politics of environmental protection in Wisconsin. His presentation was titled, "*Door
County, the Goose that Lays Golden Eggs*".

- 1 • Town of Gibraltar Advisory Planning Committee has a proposal (liberalized) zoning plan for the town that
9 c make all land presently zoned agricultural available for development. This appears to be contrary to the
7 o aims of the County Planning Commission was opposed by DCEC. DCEC implemented a series of
5 t environmental cartoons by W. Lahey regularly featured in the Advocate to bring quick awareness of
critical issues to the public.
- DCEC has formulated a critical listing of unneeded highway improvements and for controlling the new planned highway corridor. This transportation corridor request was forwarded to the Highway Committee, who promptly tabled it.
 - The Goony Golf proposal by Arden Johnson has returned from 1975 and its denial was again being supported by the Sister Bay Planning Commission and DCEC.
 - A request from Claybanks Town to have Hornspier Road and South Lake Michigan Drive as a Rustic Road to preserve the character was denied by the state Rustic Road Board.
- 1 • Alarming news that more than 150 wells have gone dry in Door County in March,
9 bringing water conservation efforts to the forefront.
- 7 • A formal petition presented to the County Board from DCEC requested that:
- 6
1. Zoning be made mandatory in the entire County.
 2. Extraction of minerals and non-metallic controls be established with bonding to cover possible damage and remediation.
 3. An obtrusive lighting ordinance was enacted to control night lighting impact.
 4. All year round flowing streams regardless of size be given same control as navigable waterways.
 5. 5-acre minimum lot size be imposed for single-family dwellings on agricultural lands with no housing subdivisions allowed in recreational land areas.
 6. Transportation corridors be zoned into the County immediately with power line corridors to follow existing routes.
- The Marshall's Point Conservancy agreement with Wisconsin DNR would have minimized development and the resultant resource damage. Fortunately, Klaus Nobel purchased the Bailey's Harbor property and thereby cancelled the Marcantonio plans for creating a mega-development on the property. DCEC meanwhile secured EPA Water Study and Environmental Impact Assessment. DCEC and other parties filed suit against the County to obtain injunctions halting the issuance of any building permits contrary to the application of the Zoning Ordinance. The suit claimed that provisions of the ordinances are so ambiguous to preclude further definition, or are basically invalid.
 - Liberty Grove project, *Cedar Cliff Condominiums* was planned on property that was being sold on contract by the University of Chicago to Lewis and Mochem. This suit also claimed that building permits would be issued under *conditional use permits* rather than a provision of the zoning ordinance that would be proper.
 - With the December date for completion of the new bridge approaching, the problems associated with the 18th Ave. corridor preservation were becoming more evident and need to be properly addressed by the appropriate county board committees.
 - A plan for development of 36 condominium units in 9 separate buildings on 16.7 acres of property has been submitted to the County Resource Planning Committee. The land was zoned R-1 for single-family dwellings and would be located adjacent to Peninsula Players in Gibraltar Township. This project was opposed by DCEC and others because of concerns over wastewater hauling, scenic destruction and the known impact of additional traffic and need for services.
 - Hidden Harbor (Friedmann property) in Fish Creek had many environmental concerns and DCEC requested a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A DNR Hearing was requested to address the impact of a 100-condominium project, to prove if the project will impact our Door County water resources, and the hearing was granted.
 - DCEC challenged the right of the DNR to exempt areas of concern from the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA). This was a result of the DNR deciding that an E I S was not necessary, in spite of public testimony supporting the need. Our filed suit claimed the DNR's environmental assessment was inadequate, even though the Federal government was engaged in an area wastewater treatment study. Attorneys representing DCEC were Paul Jonjak in Sturgeon Bay and Brady Williamson in Madison.



- DCEC joined the opposition to the Claybanks Horns Pier Marina proposal with limited township cooperation. The area has since become a valuable Historic Township Park area.
- As a result of a planned trailer court, Claybanks also adopted Agricultural Zoning which dictated that 30-acre minimum was required for a residential building site. This control will help maintain the status of agriculture as the major industry of this rural town.
- DCEC investigated the extensive clear-cut logging of red pine in Peninsula Park with the finding that the Park Personnel have no say in the logging, which was done under the orders of the DNR State Forester. The State Parks are under management plans which dictate *proper forest management* in those publicly held lands.
- DCEC's summer program at Bailey's Harbor entitled, "*Door County Speaks Out*" was a forum with a panel of Board members directing questions at invited County and Town officials in attendance. Questions from the audience ranged from legal sewage disposition, to land use planning, and extensive condominium development without proper examination and easy permitting.
- An effort was made to establish Agricultural Zoning in the town of Bailey's Harbor with smaller requirements for lot size.
- Board member Eileen Etherton reported on the excessive waterweed growth in the upper Bay and many dead ducks in the canal. The responsibility and culpability of the Sturgeon Bay sewage outfall will be investigated with a possible suit as the result.
- Negotiations with the Hotz family, owners of the Newport Park property resulted in successful DNR purchase and conservation of this wilderness area, promoted by DCEC since 1976.
- Our summer program focused on water conservation with David De Porto, Concord, Massachusetts, He spoke in detail from his experiences with development issues in that part of United States.
- DCEC suit against the County was directed at zoning issues raised by the James Corp. Friedmann Hidden Harbor project. We asked the court to prevent the County from issuing permits prior to the resolution of the legal issues in our suit. The legal action was defeated and the Friedman Estate was blessed with the largest holding tank in the Midwest, with the precedent being established for more condominiums in the County.
- DCEC was the primary force cooperating with Door County Natural Beauty Council and Save Our Soil (SOS) in opposition to plans for a coal-fired generating plant near Sturgeon Bay by Wis. Pub.Svc. Corp. and the utilization of vital farmlands for ash disposal. After a year of legal battling and research to enable citizens to halt the eminent domain process, the utility abandoned plans for the canal property, claiming the need was not sufficient. The property had originally been purchased for a nuclear plant but those plans were abandoned, as the parcel was not stable enough for a large nuclear facility.
- Peter Anderson, of the Wisconsin Environmental Decade was the speaker for our summer program and addressed issues of electric power needs and construction in Wisconsin.
- DCEC's position was in opposition to SB 512, which would exempt Wisconsin Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations (DILHR) from compliance with Wis. Environmental Protection Act (WEPA) under the urging of Kathy Falk, atty. with Wis. Env. Decade.
- It was noted that there are excessive amounts of algae on the shore of Green Bay and it was decided to contact the County Board about having all septic systems examined on a regular basis. The point was raised that plumbers shouldn't be in charge of inspections because of a possible conflict of interest; the responsibility for inspections should lie with the sanitarian's office.
- Summer program to focus on "Protecting Property Values in Door County" with Richard Lehmann, Madison attorney specializing in land planning law, as the speaker. A petition was initiated requesting the County Board initiate countywide zoning and planning.
- DCEC testified at a DNR hearing in Ashwaubenon regarding permitting of holding tanks in Wisconsin. Consensus was that people's rights are being trampled by the manner in which formal hearings are conducted.
- DCEC opposed Motel projects near the Reinhard farm and the Hanson proposal on the Ellison Bay Hill before the RPC.

- DCEC had voted to support the opposition of a large development to be located at the end of Tacoma Beach Road in Sturgeon Bay in an area that was wetland but not designated as such. A previous development attempt was halted and the fill placed there was ordered removed by the DNR. The Asher plans were for a marina and subdivision to be located at the end of the present road, and the subdivision has since been completed.
- There are reports of raw sewage being sighted along the shore in Ephraim and this was reported to the DNR office in Green Bay along with the excessive amounts of algae in Bailey's Harbor. It was found that a fault in the new municipal Ephraim sewer line has caused the Bay problem.
- We began DCEC sponsorships of Student Scholarships for High School students to the summer workshops at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station as an effort to bring young people into involvement with environmental issues and interest. The experience at the Center was outstanding for students interested in nature and related activities and will provide a basis for future education.
- DCEC initiated a County-wide essay contest for students in the grades 5-8 and 9-12 to be held annually with cash awards to the winners. The first contest drew 130 entries on the subject, "How Can I Help Preserve Our Natural Resources?"
- DCEC began exploration of alternative wastewater systems for homeowners because of the proliferation of holding tanks in the County as replacements or substitutes for failed conventional systems.
- DCEC was also promoting an eventual ban on the use of holding tanks in the County as other locations have done successfully. Sauk County officials told of their holding tank control measures at our summer program.
- DCEC had grown beyond the volunteer management status and the Board determined that an executive director was needed and hired Jerry Viste to coordinate all of the functions of the corporation.
- Hired Dr. James Zimmerman, Madison Ecologist, to act in an advisory capacity for DCEC, and to promote the concepts originated by Dr. Zimmerman for critical resource protection. Dr. Zimmerman and his wife Libby are both recognized experts in wildlife and ecological protection and familiar with all County areas.
- DCEC began the study of formation of a land trust organization in Door County.
- DCEC summer program featured William P. O'connor prominent Madison attorney who has created land trusts all over the State, and gave suggestions on forming a land trust in the County. As a result the "Door County Land Trustees" was formed which evolved into the "Door County Land Trust", an independent non-profit corporation which was growing in scope and function today.
- Involved as a sponsoring organization for the "Gibraltar Preservation Council" which was dedicated to preserving the rustic status of Highway 42, Egg Harbor to Fish Creek. The effort had limited success with acceptable plans after a compromising effort by a different organization. The group continued to lead in efforts to defend the purposes of zoning with testimony and opposition to mega-projects throughout the County.
- Participated as co-sponsor of author Rushwell Kidder's presentation at Gibraltar High School.
- Participated in "Globescop 88" two-day conference on sustainability for the Midwest held in Oshkosh, WI.
- Participated in an advisory capacity for preservation of rustic Cherry Road near Sturgeon Bay. Sevastopol Town proceeded with prior easements on private properties to halt the eminent domain process and using of private property for the easements, The Town was faced with challenge from the Foley/Lardner firm representing the WPSC and local officials were overpowered and intimidated.
- The Town effort was defeated when WPSC mustered corporate utility support from the entire state to counter the Township legal opposition to the eminent domain process. The end result was that state utilities cooperatively formed the *American Transmission Company* (a holding company made up of the state utilities), which controls all major power lines in the state with large legal firm access to squelch local opposition efforts.



- 1 • Began the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture as a tool for farm economic help and water quality
9 improvement in Northeast Wisconsin.
- 8 • DCEC applied for and received DATCP grants to hire a consultant and establish a network of concerned
9 farm people with the current emphasis on rotational grazing and limited crop input.
- Influenced the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters (through Dr. Zimmerman) to hold its
annual conference in Sturgeon Bay, with the theme. "The Niagara Escarpment". This statewide conference
panel members and professionals.
- DCEC furnished copies of *The State of The World* to each of the schools and libraries in the County as an
Earth Day gift. This guide to public policy was published by the WorldWide Institute and shows the
consequences of our action in relationship to resource sustainability. We applied for additional funding to
enlarge the sustainable farmer network in Northeast Wisconsin for the purpose of promoting and
developing sustainable practices for farmer operators.
- 1 • Began the series of DCEC sponsored Sustainable Agriculture Institute meetings held in Sturgeon Bay
9 weekly to engage farmers and others to participate in sustainable farming practices. The Sustainable
9 Agriculture weekly seminars in winter months provided lecturers and speakers from far away as New
0 Zealand. Initial total cost for the entire winter series of meetings was \$25 to cover speaker expenses.
- Co-litigated with the Ridges Sanctuary Board and private property owners to stop the wildlife harassment
1 by ultralight flights near the Ridges and other shore land wildlife areas. The complaint alleged that
9 nuisance low-level flights were interfering with the wildlife of the Ridges, North Bay and at Kangaroo Lake.
- 9 • The Statewide sustainable agriculture summer get-together was sponsored by DCEC and held at the Don
1 Rudolph farm property north of the Experiment Station. The popular event drew dignitaries from Madison
and out of state for two days of speakers and tours of local sustainable practices.
- 1 • DCEC became a supporter of efforts the obtain Federal listing of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly and
9 supported designated habitat for the dragonfly as suggested by Dr. James Zimmerman and in cooperation
9 with the owner of Three Springs Estuarine Sanctuary. DCEC participated in numerous local and statewide
2 hearings on the proposed listing.
- Co-litigated the protection of the Three Springs Estuarine Sanctuary in Liberty Grove with limitations and
patrol of an industrial expansion located near by. This was a formal action to force the DNR to follow their
regulations that have since been modified to eliminate repetition.
- 1 • Cooperated in finally securing the Federal Listing of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly as an endangered
9 species along with a similar State listing following.
- 3 • Cooperated in the effort to secure a full EIS in the Sister Bay Marina expansion project. A scale model
was required and modifications were made to the proposal as a result of the contested case hearing.
- The first DCEC sponsored presentation by Frances Hamerstrom, central Wisconsin avian researcher at
the Liberty Grove town hall to a big audience. Her presentation was entitled,
"Wisconsin Birds of Prey" and involved some of her student researchers.
- Dr. Frances Hamerstrom (The Bird Lady) engaged as the
1 DCEC Summer Program speaker to a full house at the
9 DC Auditorium in Fish Creek. This was the second
9 appearance of Dr. Hamerstrom and this presentation was
4 titled, "The Hunting Peoples of the Rainforest". Her travels
and adventures were shown in a powerful slide color
presentation.



Dr. Frances Hamerstrom

- Co-operated with objectors in Northport Breakwater project expansion for the WI Ferry Dock. The contested case hearing was lost, but the ramifications as predicted are presently there, annual dredging was needed to control littoral drift sand.
- Began Environmental Citizen of the Year award presentations at the summer program with 97-year-old Estelle Rondeau first recipient for her battle to save Cave Point Drive ecology.
- DCEC assembled the unique Zimmerman Ecological Maps of Door County now made available for Public display.



- Primary force along with the owner in the effort to halt the destruction of the Delwiche Pineries in Southern Door with the plans for Highway 57 expansion. The Wisconsin DOT had agreed to by-pass the Pineries but we are still in opposition to the four-lane plans as being an unneeded duplication of Hwy 42.
- As a result of DCEC's testimony, the County Board withdrew support of the Highway 57 proposal only to have it re-instated by one County Board member later.
- Participated in the lengthy Contested Case Hearing to limit expansion of the Alibi Dock in Fish Creek. The result was fifteen conditions imposed on the development and this was a lengthy cooperative effort with the Gibraltar Preservation Council.

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- Involved as co-litigant in the battle to preserve the former Nor-Ski-Ridge property in natural state as a relatively pristine area. Plans for a huge development complex were challenged in the local zoning processes, appealed to Circuit Court, District Court and finally petitioned for hearing by the State Supreme Court. A large number of ski hill proponents testified in support of maintaining the ski facility at the County permit hearings, to ensure that young people would have a place to ski.
- The plans were modified and scaled down from the original huge buildings to duplexes, with a more acceptable impact. One of the faults of the County regulatory procedure became evident when duplexes are allowed in over-the-counter permits. The State Court declined our petition for review and the project continues at the former ski hill.

- DCEC was engaged in litigation to bring about effective zoning and enforcement in Door County. Suit against the County to force adherence to State Statutes for subdivisions and to establish the proper recording and definition of these same subdivisions. Involved in promoting proper land use and expedient zoning in the other townships of Southern Door with limited success.
- Final program in the Sustainable Ag. Series featured Ed Minihan, an authority on development right options from Town of Dunn near Madison. After the presentation, the opposition began working immediately in Liberty Grove to cause the *development right proposals* to be voted down in a referendum in that Township.



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- Began a focused effort to secure regulation and supervision of holding tanks as a method of choice for waste water treatment in Door County. Sanitation Department personnel from Sauk County gave presentations at our summer program outlining the methodology used in their County to control holding tank use.
- The DCEC Board gave approval to begin an ultimate ban on holding tanks in the County.
- Stephen John (wastewater expert from Illinois) was contracted to do the necessary research and development of a manual describing the long-range effect of the use of holding tanks and the detrimental effect on the entire County infrastructure.
- Summer program and a follow-up to the Sustainable Ag. Series for the year dedicated to problems associated with population growth and its effect on quality of life and resource protection in the County. Dramatic population explosion was the dramatic power point topic presented by Doug Lafolette at our summer program.
- State of Wisconsin DOT again agrees not to involve the Delwiche Pinery in the highway plans for Hwy 57 in Union.
- DCEC was represented at the Madison anniversary of Aldo Leopold's death in 1949 at the Monona Terrace facility, the tour of the International Crane Foundation and the Leopold Shack.
- Stephen John report made available and copies distributed to all counties in Wisconsin and officials at State, Federal and local levels.
- Nina Leopold Bradley (eldest daughter of Aldo Leopold) was the highlight of DCEC summer program with a family legacy presentation on the anniversary of Aldo Leopold's untimely death. Her slide presentation was entitled, "A Daughter Remembers" and drew a full house.
- DCEC began presenting information on Created Wetland systems for homeowners as an option to mound systems. David Flowers, professional engineer of Cedarburg was the leading authority on created wetlands and was working with DCEC to plan promotion of these new systems.
- DCEC began the focus on phosphorus as the nutrient responsible for the green "stuff" algae on our beaches with information with Cladophora as the plant primarily responsible.
- Began a campaign with assistance from *Alliance for the Great Lakes* to promote and urge support for the Charter Annex (precursor to the Great Lakes Compact governing water diversions from our Great Lakes).
- Cheryl Mendoza of the Alliance urged support of the Annex at our summer program.
- DCEC maintained a position in support of an alternate shorter route as Wisconsin DOT revealed new plans for Highway 57 that create a four-lane route with high impact to the entire town of Union and the entire route in Door County.
- *Ahnapee River Watershed Alliance* made up of citizens from the entire river watershed area began through cooperative efforts of DCEC, John Slaby and Patrick Robinson. The goal was to protect and maintain the integrity of the Southern Door/Kewaunee County watershed through stewardship efforts.
- DCEC was engaged in publicly calling attention to the nutrient releases of municipal sewage systems that are operating under State and Federal requirements. This will be an on-going effort to eventually lower the requirements for discharge to zero. Municipal wastewater must be eventually discharged into natural filtration areas rather than our surface waters.
- Stephen John commissioned to create a manual "Homeowners Wastewater Systems" to be given to the public as an aid in making proper wastewater decisions.



- 2 • We are engaged in promotion of phosphorus control through proper disposal of animal waste, controlling
0 excessive farm run off, and municipal sewage treatment evaluation.
- 0 • DCEC created awareness of nutrient levels and oxygen depletion in Green Bay waters as a direct result
3 of upstream and Fox River flows and the impact on Door County, with the nutrients contributing to the
"green stuff" problem.
- Summer program addressed the problem with Vicky Harris of UW/GB Seagrant Institute, with a detailed
explanation of the processes involved in locating the nutrient sources.
- Stephen John Homeowner Wastewater manual made available to homeowners and officials.

- 2 • DCEC involved in cooperative litigation to force Wis. Pub. Svc. Corporation to remove the Mercury
0 discharges from the Pulliam Generating Plant in Green Bay. That facility has been out of compliance with
0 State and Federal regulations every quarter since 1999. The resultant court decision ordered compliance
4 with the regulations.
- Endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat survey work proceeded as a result of cooperative litigation
with the Center for Biological Diversity and Natural Resources Defense Council both national groups that
have been involved in habitat protection for the Hines Emerald Dragonfly.
- Dr. Bud Harris, UW/GB (retired) gave a summer program presentation on municipal wastewater
contribution to the algae/nutrient problem, addressing the impact of constant discharge into our waters.

- Engaged in a cooperative effort with the Door County Land Trust to conduct a comparison study of land
uses and resultant costs. Dr. Mary Edwards of U/I Urbana completed the study and the revealing results
were given to all town officials and made available to the public. The study was available on line at
www.dcec-wi.org/cocs_dcec.pdf, for download.
- 2 • Established a dedicated DCEC website with valuable information for public use including the Zimmerman
0 Maps and many other documents available for download.
- 0 • Began promotion of wind energy through the DCEC Renewable Energy Task Force with meetings at
5 Maplewood and other locations. The new independent organization Community Wind Energy was formed
as a result of high interest in wind generation and began using wind-monitoring towers to locate best wind
generation sites in the County.
- Summer program on entire invasive problem with several presenters addressing aquatic and terrestrial
invasives, including Pat Robertson, Bob Bultman, and DNR's Chris Pagel.

- The Emerald Ash Borer, the enemy of native ash trees, was getting close to Door County and Linda
Williams, DNR forester, spoke at our seminar giving pointers to help keep these nasty invasives away.
- DCEC along with other conservation groups and citizens has opposed the request for horse trails to be
established in the pristine Door Bluff County Park. This proposal would destroy many of the protected
2 plants and the wilderness concept of that remote parkland. After evaluation and study of the features, the
0 county declared the park should remain in natural state with no improvements.
- 0 • A grant was awarded from Focus on Energy to the Community Wind Energy (CWE) subgroup of our
6 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) to develop a marketing strategy for eventual placing of wind
turbines in Door County.
- DCEC supported changes to NR 243 which would tighten the rules governing animal waste spreading.
The new concerns over mega-farm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) prompted a
Crossroads seminar with Russ Tooley of Centerville Cares telling of their local battles with a mega farm
operator near Cleveland, Wisconsin.

- We began a series of seven public summer seminars on subjects relative to environmental issues at
2 Crossroads at Big Creek, with Virge Temme – green building architect and other presenters.
- 0 • Summer program was dedicated to Great Lakes Water Wars with cooperation by Alliance for the Great
0 Lakes presenter, Frances Canonizado.
- 7 • Renewable Energy Task Force sponsored several events and tours promoting green building and energy
conservation.
- Sponsored a showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" the Al Gore documentary on global warming at
Crossroads.

- Continuation of the public seminars at Crossroads at Big Creek on: energy conservation, water quality maintenance, and created wetlands for homeowner wastewater disposal.
- Annual summer public program with Peter Annin, former Newsweek reporter and author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars* speaking to a full house at Bailey's Harbor.
- DCEC began working with officials and installers to expedite the inspection/correction process for failed waste water systems. The *DCEC Water Committee* has formulated plans for further exploring solutions to create a more rapid inspection and to assist homeowners in voluntary updates to failed systems. We began focusing attention on nitrates in our drinking water.
- Organizations involved with DCEC in the Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat have again proceeded with litigation to correct the areas left out from designation, both segments of the Hiawatha National Forest in Upper Michigan and other areas.
- DCEC challenged the DNR removal of a major portion of natural tree growth in Potawatomi State Park to construct a large group motor home camping facility. Alternative locations exist within the Park that have already been cleared. The funding for this project was to come in part from the Wisconsin State Stewardship Fund. The location of similar private campground within 1/4 mile was ignored, and the project was completed.
- Purchased exclusive rights for "A Sense of Wonder" the story of the last years of Rachel Carson's life. She was the author of "Silent Spring" the book that touched off environmental concern over the excessive pesticide and herbicide use in the world. This video was shown in May at Crossroads at Big Creek to a full house and again in August at the Auditorium in Fish Creek. DCEC offers use of the video to groups to promote environmental responsibility in northeast Wisconsin.
- DCEC annual summer program in August was highlighted with canoeist Valerie Fons, who traveled from the Arctic Ocean in Canada to Cape Horn in southern Chile, and holds several long-distance canoe records.
- Reinforced the DCEC position in opposition to the proposed harbor project planned for Schauer Town Park south of Jacksonport. The studies conducted by the DNR and Lawrence University bear out the disastrous effect that dredging has on shallow spawning areas and natural habitat. The shallow, rocky lake bed would necessitate dredging for several hundred yards to create a useable channel to a non-existent harbor.
- Designed, produced and printed the "Created Wetland System for Homeowners" brochure to be available to the installers and the public. This brochure explains the benefits of created wetland systems as opposed to mounds presently used to replace failed systems.
- The DCEC Water Committee has been working on plans to begin a specific well-water testing program for Liberty Grove town with UW/SP as a cooperative partner along with the town in the effort to establish base-line data utilizing the results.
- The Board of Directors reinforced the position in opposition to opening still another gravel/quarrying operation in Sturgeon Bay town. This small town already has lost more tax base to mining than any other town in north east Wisconsin. The project was proceeding because of a permit timing error.
- DCEC along with the national partners has prevailed in the effort to restore deleted critical habitat lands that were included in the former US Fish and Wildlife Service designation, but were removed in 2008. Habitat lands restored are in the Hiawatha National Forest in upper Michigan, several plots in Missouri and Illinois, doubling the amount of critical habitat lands. In addition, 147 acres were added in Door County including the Kayes Creek watershed and Kellner Fen near Sturgeon Bay. This legal action was the result of 10 years of litigation and the support that DCEC has made since the Hines Emerald Dragonfly was given protection status nearly 15 years ago.
- Plans are underway for a homeowner created wetland system to be installed at a location in Southern Door to serve as a demonstration project for future use throughout the County in areas of little topsoil. The cost is higher than a mound system but will have a much longer use-life, estimated at double that of a mound system.
- DCEC presented an important seminar on the prognosis for Asian Carp in our Lake Michigan with Dr. Phil Moy of US/Sea Grant as the expert authority.



Dr. Phil Moy

door county environmental council

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Annual Memberships Are Due!

REMINDER: Your membership in DCEC runs with the calendar year with renewals starting each November. So we're rapidly approaching renewal time. You can save DCEC some mailing costs by renewing for 2012 using the above coupon. We appreciate your generosity! Thankyou for your support. You are DCEC!

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DCEC Celebrates Forty Years ...The Story is Inside

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The DCEC Board of 1987

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...and, after you read this newsletter, please pass it along to a friend.



DCEC Incorporated in 1970 under the laws of Wisconsin as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation