

TROUT UNLIMITED  
WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 1, No. 1  
September, 1970

State Council Formed, July 22, 1970

Pete Van Gytenbeek, "Van", National Executive Director of TU from Denver was on hand along with delegates from the Green Bay, Wolf River, S.E. Wisconsin and the Southern Wisconsin Chapters. After a flurry of foot-shuffling and a few oblique glances around the room, the following members and delegates were elected to the State Council's various management and executive posts: Chairman, Jim Stewart, Madison; Vice Chairman, Dennis Bryan, Green Bay; Secretary, Fred Horn, West Bend; Treasurer, Dick Ela, Madison; Water Management, Ray White, Madison; Legal and Legislative Officer, John Lawton, Madison; Publicity, Public Relations and Publications, Jack Walworth, Milwaukee; Membership, Ed Lloyd, Madison; Fund Raising, Joe Simpson, Milwaukee; Division of Scientific Information, Vacant.

The State Council Board of Directors consists of the President and one delegate from each chapter plus the officers of the State Council.

Governor Knowles Joins T.U.

Governor Knowles participated in the State Council formation by accepting a membership in TU. He was photographed in his office receiving the membership along with several T.U.ers. We are hoping to receive club publicity in the state and local newspapers and magazines featuring the Governor Knowles photo and a news release covering the State Council formation. The photograph was made compliments of Madison Chapter member, internationally famous photographer, Bill Wollin.

Doug Hart, Green Bay Packer, Attends State Council Formation.

Defensive halfback, Doug Hart, from the Packers assisted in getting the State Council off to a good start. Good luck to Doug and his teammates for the '70 season (football that is).

Nature Conservancy.

During his recent discussion in Madison about TU's national objectives, Pete Van Gytenbeek suggested that TU explore a joint venture with The Nature Conservancy, wherein that organization would purchase stream-side properties for TU to manage. That will take some doing. In the meantime, if you are not familiar with the outfit and would like to know more about it, drop a note to:

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
1522 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005.

Film List.

It was proposed that a list of films pertinent to TU and its activities be compiled and issued to all chapter presidents for use in local meeting and programs. A start on that list will be along, shortly. Additional film sources will follow as they are selected from numerous manufacturers' and film distributors' lists we are soliciting. See Jack Walworth for your copy.

Conservation Directory, a Good Buy.

Published annually by the NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, the CONSERVATION DIRECTORY provides the most complete tally of conservation organizations available. It lists hundreds of agencies, groups, associations and individuals at federal, state, educational and private levels involved, in one way or another, with the problems confronting TU. If you'd like a copy . . . a buck and a half will do it . . . write:

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
1412 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Waterway Easement Bill.

"Van" mentioned during his stay that a Congressional bill is being developed wherein the federal government will subsidize people who grant permanent easements on private property along waterways. He suggested we work directly with Ray Kotrla, TU's Representative in Washington.

Membership.

There are over 200,000 trout fishermen in Wisconsin, based on the latest DNR Survey. "Van" suggested we set up a statewide membership goal, chapter by chapter. Ed Lloyd's plan for each member to get one new member could double the membership. TU Folders are available in quantity from Jim Stewart. Sign up a new member today.

Streams.

Enclosed is a detailed report by Ray J. White covering the status of water management matters. Many thanks to Ray for his tremendous effort on the water management committee.

Bois Brule, Douglas County.

There have been statewide discussions amongst some members regarding the promotion of the Bois Brule as a canoists' river. The objections were on the grounds that a great amount of canoeing disrupts fishing and the habitat. We will contact the state agencies involved as to their feelings about value priorities on the Brule River.

Red Cedar River, Barron County.

TU has asked the Federal Power Commission to delay the granting of a permit to the Northern States Power Company to build a hydroelectric dam at Cedar Falls until the aesthetic values and values as a fishery can be studied.

We cannot believe that the principal consideration here is hydroelectric power development, but rather another recreations impoundment with temporarily inflated land values, resulting in huge profits for the developer and another stagnant, odorous, man-made lake for the community.

Moreover, extensive real estate development around such lakes in Wisconsin in the past has produced sewage treatment problems.

BLM "Land Grab".

The Public Land Law Review Commission, Representative Wayne Aspinall (Colorado) Chairman, has asked President Nixon to release 465.5 million acres of public land for commercial and industrial development. The Commission's report cost \$7 million and

took five (5) years to prepare. The lands, mostly in western states, represent almost 2/3 of all the land the Federal Government owns (including National Forests, Parks, Refuges, etc.). The lands in question are those managed by the Bureau of Land Management. 17,500 miles of fishing streams flow through this wild country and three million big game animals live there.

Wisconsin TU has asked Trout Unlimited National to lodge a protest with the Commission and Congressman Aspinall and to take any other action possible to prevent this land giveaway.

Interesting developments are "in the winds" and will be reported on soon. We hope to be a little "faster on the draw" with the newsletter now that the season is over.

"And ete the olde fisshe, and leve the yonge, though't they moore towgh be uppon the tonge." Piers of Fulham, fifteenth century.

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STATUS OF WATERS MANAGEMENT MATTERS

General:

This is the first in what will probably become an occasional series of memos on affairs that affect trout waters in Wisconsin. I hope to put them out several times per year. We try to send individual messages to each member that has brought items to our attention. However, when informational shortcomings occur, perhaps most of the news will be available in these memos to each chapter.

At the beginning of March, Jim Stewart requested that TU be on DNR's mailing list for notices involving waterway modifications. In the five months since then, we have received:

- 38 notices of application to modify (3 on trout streams)
- 37 notices of hearings to be held (6 on trout streams)

Usual procedure is for me to check with DNR or local fishermen on trout values, then Jim responds to all those shown to involve trout water.

For applications, we would like to see brought to hearing, he sends letters of request to DNR. For hearings in which trout interests are at stake, he enters letters of opposition or concern. Where the issues have warranted the effort, arrangements have been made for TU representation in person at hearings. Bronson LaFollett spoke for TU at the New Wood hearing in February, Jim Stewart at the Hulburt Creek hearing in March, I at Steiner Branch in May, and Herb Buettner at the Lily hearing in June.

The TU-action streams are discussed below. Most of the notices we receive, however, involve such non-trout matters as boat ramps, boat channels off of lakes and rivers, other alterations of lake shores, and ponds to be dug near warm-water streams or rivers. Some pertain to building breakwaters in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. If you are aware of any bad effects these have on trout or fishing, please let us know.

In addition, as membership rapidly increases, as TU becomes better known to Wisconsinites, and as anglers find there is a channel through us, we are beginning to receive reports and inquiries on waters problems. In June there was one; in July, eleven. We will investigate all that comes to us. Calling our attention to your complaints; observations on trout stream abuses help the watchdog part of TU's program. National Executive Director, Pete Van Gytenbeek, stressed this at the July Wisconsin Council meeting

as having been so important in other states.

Certainly the DNR cannot, all by itself, keep tab on every trout stream or waterway violation. We must not be always criticizing them for this. The problem is simply too great - and we should be helping. The DNR deserves great credit for its forward-looking overall trout program. There is a good start on classifying trout streams according to suitability for various managements. Habitat management is reputedly the best anywhere. Trout stocking procedures are becoming increasingly suited to biological potential of each stream. Acquisition and leasing of stream banks has progressed rapidly. The trout research unit is small but excellent; and, there is a growing force of biologically trained field men who get right out into the streams to diagnose problems and find violations.

Due to these and other efforts, DNR is acknowledged to have one of the nation's better trout programs. It is also acknowledged to be far from adequate.

A clear disregard of trout values showed up when the National Resources Board decreed that there shall be no opposition to Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) damming of the New Wood River. The New Wood is, by DNR's own official listing, the longest remaining stretch (13 miles) of class 1 stream that contains wild brook trout exclusively. Trout water uninvaded by browns or rainbows is rare in Wisconsin and the U.S. The DNR faltered again when it failed to oppose damming of Steiner Branch, despite adoption of a policy that it would vigorously protect any trout stream in the state. Iowa County's Cave Hollow Creek had been similarly sacrificed some years ago. The politician types who don't care about our trout resources are prevailing over the biologists and fish managers on the DNR technical staff. We have found example after example of DNR actions taken on trout matters without making use of the trout expertise that exists within the DNR. Even more disturbing are reports that field men who discover illegal alterations of trout streams are sometimes unable to arouse action against the violators. The question in some cases seems to be the political importance of who did the damage, not what was done.

In addition, DNR personnel simply cannot find all beaver dams and natural or man-caused mishaps on the state's thousands of miles of stream. Thus, trout stream protection depends to some extent on citizen report (and outcry!). Your help is needed.

#### Inquiries and Reports by Anglers:

##### Michigan Brule River, Forest County: Pollution

In response to single-handed action by TU member, Les Bishop, Monroe, the State of Michigan has admitted that a mining company and four communities are polluting this Wisconsin-Michigan boundary water via the Iron River. Wisconsin TU and Senator Gaylord Nelson have asked the Wisconsin DNR to investigate the matter and encourage the State of Michigan to put a stop to the pollution. As a result, DNR scheduled a July 27 field survey of the situation, requesting Michigan to participate and provide information on waste disposal and mining operations. They will advise us of findings.

##### North Branch of Oconto River, Forest & Oconto County: Inadequate treatment of sewage.

It was reported that, due to insufficient funds, a new sewage disposal system was being built at Wabeno, which will discharge improperly treated wastes into this trout stream. Jim Stewart passed the allegation on to the DNR. Thomas Frangos, head of the Division of Environmental Protection, replied that the Bureau of Water Supply and Pollution control had reviewed and approved the plans. DNR believes the facilities will provide "a high degree of treatment" sufficient to "maintain" the present water quality in the

North Branch of the Oconto. (Is present water quality good enough?) Wabeno has access to state and federal grants, and has also obtained a Farmers Home Administration loan for construction, so should have plenty of money.

Plover River, Marathon County: Sewage Plant Pollution

This county has just been placed in the district to be covered by DNR's Oshkosh office. On checking by phone with the district trout habitat manager, Robert Heding, I found he had not yet been informed of any trouble on the Plover, but would look into it upon making his first survey of that stream. At his suggestion, I will contact the Environmental Protection Division here in Madison, where records are kept of sewage disposal facilities and problems.

Big Creek, Monroe County: Illegal Streambank Modification

In the first call for help from a non-TUer (but a fellow who has diligently passed petitions for us), it was reported that Big Creek near Cataract had been straightened and partially filled by bulldozing early this summer, that the culprit had been arrested but had seen fit not to appear in court, since bail had been set at a mere \$80.00. The complaining angler wondered if the matter would have to end there. A call to DNR's waterway investigative branch revealed that the violation and arrest had not been reported to them, as is proper procedure, but had probably been handled on a strictly local basis by a county warden or policeman. Simultaneously, Jim Stewart inquired about it by letter to DNR Director Voigt. The findings of DNR on the incident are reportedly now on their way to us.

Mecan River, Waushara County: Illegal Water Level Manipulation

Anglers complained that sudden extreme rises in water level disrupted prime evening mayfly fishing this spring. They had heard that this was caused by illegal piling of rocks in the outlet of the Mecan's headwater spring pond, followed by someone else tearing out the structures -- perhaps DNR personnel. I have personal knowledge of similar trouble at this same place dating back over 20 years, but none so inopportune as to ruin mayfly hatches. District habitat manager, Heding, tells me the problem had become in the last few years a point of local feud, that it had come to a head last year, and that he had finally gotten agreement on both sides last year, settling the matter for once and for all.

He was very disappointed to hear it had cropped up again, and said he was fairly sure it would not have been DNR men who tore the rocks out or he would have been told. Heding is very concerned about that stream, will check on the problem again, and feels he may have to undertake some completely new measures to clear it up. He will write us a note on the situation.

Willow Creek, Washara County: Complaint on DNR Brush Cutting

Word that a new problem might be forming at Waupaca, expressly in reaction to DNR brush-cutting on Willow Creek was distressing to me personally, since brush removal is just what trout biologists consider to be the main habitat need in that part of the state at present, and I was one of those pushing for that practice when I worked with the old WCD. I would heartily urge that group to join TU, and would like to do whatever I can to clear up doubts they may have about advisability of cutting brush along trout streams. Where water temperature is not a critical problem, brush and tree removal is often essential in our small Wisconsin streams. Many miles of hard-won streambank acquisition will be rendered almost useless for fishing as it becomes "brushed in". In addition, trout populations will grow and survive far below potential. Many years of experience with creeks having sand and soil banks (rather than rock) have shown that

when timber and tall brush arch a channel, trout habitat generally deteriorates. Hiding places for trout become fewer and fewer as the canopy shades out the grasses and low bushes at stream edge. This low vegetation is also the kind that keeps banks firm and the channel narrow and deep. Remember those meadow holes?

Through State Membership Chairman, Ed Lloyd, I have passed word along on the complaint regarding the brush problem and reporting my contact with habitat manager Heding on the specific area of the Willow in question, I have proposed a field trip to that site and other high quality trout waters in the area which illustrate this and other habitat problems. Heding has agreed, and I am sure that an on-site meeting would stand to clear up any misunderstanding.

Cave Hollow Creek, Iowa County: Dam Already Under Construction

An angler has raised with us the question of the status and propriety of an already permitted dam being built on this class 2 trout stream. Jim Stewart wrote DNR Director Voigt and received a reply from John Brasch, Southern District Supervisor of Fish, Game & Enforcement. Brasch wrote that "after consideration of all ramifications" the Department had decided several years ago not to oppose the dam. It has been built under the Federal Small Watershed Act (P.L. 566 program of farm subsidies for "conservation" practices) and will be closed off to impound the stream this September. Two miles of class 2 quality trout water will be lost, with 3-1/2 miles (mostly class 3) remaining. In place of the loss, DNR believes "considerably more additional recreational opportunities will be available to the public."

It is my understanding that the proposal for this day was pushed through in the years before public concern over chipping away at the state's trout resource had really developed, before there was a Southern Wisconsin TU, and before the Attorney General's office had become actively involved in environmental problems. Jim and I have approached the Attorney General's office about Cave Hollow and they have agreed to review the matter; for, even if it proves futile to now save that stream, study of the methods used to obtain the dam's permit should be helpful in preventing such stream destruction in the future.

Little Green River, Grant County: Is There Permit for Dam?

A member has asked if it is true that a Madison attorney has obtained a permit to dam this stream for a resort development. The Little Green is listed by DNR as class 2 quality, with natural reproduction brook trout. I have not yet checked into this one closely, but I do have a 1967 publication, "Recreation Land Development", by several state economic agencies, which describes the proposal. It is the \$20,000,000 "Xanadu" resort, planned by Mid-America Ranch & Recreation Corporation, headed by Attorney Charles H. Johnson, Madison. Included are a 40-acre lake on the Little Green, a masters golf course, a ski hill and jump, a rodeo arena for 10,000 persons, restaurants inns, and facilities for over 2,000 conventioners. Offhand recollection of a DNR biologist, contacted briefly, is that the lake permit has already been approved. We will check into the matter further.

Blue River, Grant County: Beaver Dams

Calls to the Governor Dodge Park office of area fish manager, Robert Bredemus, responsible for Grant County, have thus far landed at times he is in the field. I will send him a note of inquiry.

Neenah Creek, Adams & Marquette Counties: Beaver Dams

The report of beaver workings above Oxford has been passed on to district habitat manager Heding, who believes there has already been some beaver control carried out

on that stream this year, but will check into the situation in that particular area.

Wolf River: Complaint of Land Schemes by N. E. Isaacson

This has been taken up with the Attorney General's office. Within Monominee County, the state has a dearly-paid-for easement 200 feet deep along both banks to hold them until details of preservation by the federal government under the Wild River Act are worked out. But Isaacson might be leasing his way somewhere along the back of this strip and connecting up with possible bank access in Langlade County in order to pipe water down to the controversial "Menominee Lakes" which are proving difficult to fill with water. This matter will certainly be followed up.

Point Beach Nuclear Plant: Inquiry on Public Right to Protest

The Attorney General's office explains that the issue at the hearing in question is a 3-year provisional operating license, not approval or disapproval of the power plant. At present, nobody really has information upon which to judge whether or not the plant will be harmful to Lake Michigan or its fishes. A panel of experts, including some of the state's most concerned ecology professors, is at work on the problem. Engineering of the radiation safety aspects is thought to be nearly foolproof, but there remain grave doubts and insufficient data on possible thermal pollution. The 3-year operating license is regarded as a trial run which should furnish any evidence needed to order modifications in the plant, condemn it, or approve it. The company has admitted that cooling towers could be added for both unit 1 and unit 2 of the Point Beach installation, should that be deemed necessary. The study panel says that the very latest improvements in environmental protective devices could not be installed without complete reconstruction of the plant.

A new federal law has been enacted with regard to nuclear power plants and the environment. While this has not yet been thoroughly studied by the state, it reportedly provides that if the state fails to formally approve the operation before the 3-year test period has elapsed, the plant is automatically killed.

Of the 30-day period for public right to protest, about ten will remain by the time this reaches you. Formal objection is not recommended at the occasion of this sub-issue. I infer that protest on this might well interfere with obtaining data needed to bring about sound modification, reduction, or even complete prevention of the whole nuclear power generation scheme on the Great Lakes. Anyone with very good reason to protest could certainly do it now, but he should do it only if he has a solid case prepared, with ample legal and scientific resources.

Nuclear Power Sequel: Proposed Comprehensive Hearing

There has been a request to the state by the Ecological Society (Green Bay) for a general hearing on standards for radiation, smoke, and thermal emmissions from power plants. This would air all aspects of the nuclear power-environment problem. Great Lakes power plans could be scrutinized in breadth and in detail by all interested. As in the DDT hearings, environmental groups could combine resources. Here would seem to be the place for a TU stand, if any need be taken.

Applications to Dam Trout Streams

East Branch of the Lily River, Langlade County

Represented by Herb Buettner (Wolf River Chapter), Wisconsin TU appeared in opposition at a July 9 hearing on an application by Sheldon's, Inc., designed to legalize a dam built without permit in 1966. Sheldon's is distributor for "Meps" spinners. TU takes

exception to DNR's position of non-opposition to the Sheldon structure, which would appear to damage trout habitat and which is so built as to prevent access of anglers to some two miles of stream within the Sheldon land holdings.

Herb Buettner reported at the July state council meeting that Sheldons stated under oath that they had knowingly built an illegal dam. Buettner asked about the possibility of getting Sheldons fined and ordered to remove the dam right away, before the months of getting Sheldons fined and ordered to remove the dam right away, before the months have passed that it usually takes to obtain a DNR decision. The Attorney General's office, also represented at the hearing, says they certainly can be taken to court right now if TU wants to undertake the considerable effort. But, they are confident that in view of the evidence, DNR cannot but deny the permit and order the dam removed. This, they feel, will be a great penalty and expense for Sheldons.

#### Steiner Branch Creek, La Fayette County

TU Southern Wisconsin Chapter, represented by me, was one of three opposition parties appearing at the May 27 hearing on an application to dam this trout stream to provide a lake for a second-home suburb development. There would be 3,500 homes, with 10 to 12 thousand seasonal residents expected. (Population of Darlington, the county's largest town is 3,146).. The applicant was Boise-Cascade Corporation, which has gone into the lake homesite business on a national scale. This would be their first project in Wisconsin. Steiner Branch is tributary to the Yellowstone River above the DNR's Yellowstone Lake impoundment. Although some DNR technical specialists gave careful scrutiny to the application at the hearing, DNR had already taken a position of nonopposition. Indeed, DNR personnel wishing to appear in opposition to the dam were not given permission to do so.

DNR's representative stated their position that loss of this legally navigable trout stream was, in view of its present abused and deteriorated condition, felt to be immaterial. The creek is small in size and due to poor farming practices is badly grazed, trampled and silted. But the high-quality supply of spring water is still there, hence potential for restoring excellent habitat, as admitted by the DNR biologist. I had already objected during my testimony to a recurrent theme among Boise-Cascade witnesses; namely, "Since this creek is in such a damaged state already, what is the point of trying to preserve it as a trout fishery."

A release into Steiner of 1,000 seven-inch brown trout and 1,000 three-inch rainbows in April, 1969, had survived and grown extremely well, according to DNR's own data. In only 11 months, these groups of trout reached lengths of 10 and 12 inches respectively. In the official DNR list of trout streams, Steiner is shown partly as class 3 and partly as class 2. Class 2 means that stocking is recommended, but that some naturally reproduced trout are present. However, as part of carp eradication in the Yellowstone System in 1968, Steiner was completely poisoned out. Time has been too short for spawning a new population of wild trout.

The major item in the TU statement I presented was to point out the dangerous precedent which damming of Steiner Branch would contribute to. Such cases would tend to open the way for invasion of the entire trout water resource for developers, polluters, irrigators and others. To emphasize the contradiction of DNR's Steiner Branch position to their stated responsibility, I read word for word from the adopted policy of the Natural Resources Board that the Department will act vigorously to prevent all destructions and damages to any trout stream in the state.

With Les Bishop, chapter member who has fished the stream, I had made an on-site inspection. Observations therefrom were presented at the hearing, including the finding of (1) ample gravel for natural reproduction of trout and (2) pools so deep that we could not wade them with hip boots. This latter point refuted testimony as to lack



of "holes" by locals appearing in favor of the dam.

Local opposition to the dam came from Dr. David Ruf, a Darlington physician, speaking for a signed group of "Yellowstone Area Users", mainly hunters and fishermen. He expressed concern for the pollution and overcrowding of recreational resources that the planned influx of city-escapees would bring. Ruf is the Darlington sanitation officer. While in Darlington during recesses in the hearing, several other citizens opposed to the dam introduced themselves to me. Some were anglers who asked about TU. From what they said, it was evident that Dr. Ruf was the only local person who felt free enough of intimidation to make a formal objection.

The third party opposing the dam was Joseph Koonce, doctoral candidate in limnology at UW-Madison, with special expertise in water chemistry and lake ecology. Koonce had come to the hearing in a neutral capacity to see how the Steiner Lake proposal fit into the overall problem of trying to create impoundment recreation in lakeless southwestern Wisconsin. He was so appalled by the developer's disregard for ecological problems in "selling" La Fayette County on the dam and in presenting its application, that he switched and appeared in opposition.

Koonce, using chemist data obtained by DNR on Steiner Branch water, explained the likelihood of rapid eutrophication of the lake due to high fertility of the water in that valley. The result would be noxious algae scums, frequent unsuitability for quality water sport, and depletion of oxygen to a level permitting only a meager fishery. This was illustrated by failure of the planned fishery in the nearby DNR Cox Hollow impoundment, which has had a much better protected (non-agricultural) watershed than is even planned for in Steiner valley.

Skepticism about quality of the proposed lake was heartily entered into by DNR men at the hearing. Boise-Cascade had present in the room, a hired UW professor of water chemistry engineering and a respected North Carolina fishery ecologist, contracted to advise them in the last few days before the hearing. Neither came to the stand to try to refute the testimony on damage to the stream and on riskiness of the lake venture given by Koonce, the DNR, or myself.

One of the Boise-Cascade's repeated "selling points" was that the dam would have water outlets at mid-depth and bottom of the lake, as well as at the top, enabling discharge of cold water. This purportedly would enhance the stream below as a trout fishery. I believe I made it abundantly clear for the record, however, that this was a ludicrous "recreational promotion", since their plan for filling and maintaining volume of the lake called for holding back all the creek water that is legally allowable: 3/4 of "legal low flow." This would leave the downstream channel with insufficient water for much of any fishery. The legally defined 1/4 of low flow that they would have to let through the dam would provide only 2 or 3 inches of water in a footwide channel; or if the channel were 5 feet wide, water would be less than an inch deep.

#### Hulburt Creek, Sauk County

Destruction of a class 1 wild brook trout stream to impound another "second-home" lake with problems of eutrophication is imposed by N. E. Isaacson. Transcript of the lengthy March hearing is not yet issued. DNR decision must wait for that. We are confident that a permit for damming will be denied. An encouraging sign of Isaacson's discouragement: His firm has halted all operations in the valley, except to kick fishermen off of parts under his control. In cooperation with Isaacson, the City of Wisconsin Dells has "annexed" Hulburt Creek Valley and are patrolling it with their squad cars. This is contested by the township, which has refused to part with the area. Summaries of the hearing are available through Jim Stewart for anyone not

already amply informed of those proceedings. It is a heartening instance of strong and effective DNR opposition to trout water destruction.

A re-ent benefit from the Hulburt case: An aspiring lake developer nearby in Columbia County had attended the Hulburt hearings and had convinced himself he should ask DNR to determine trout values in the creek; he had his sights on BEFORE he went ahead with acquisition, engineering and application expenses. The fish manager's investigation revealed a brook trout population similar to that in Hulburt. The developer gave up.

#### New Wood River: Lincoln County

An unqualified victory for the trout resource! WVIC has withdrawn not only their state application for a dam, but also their proposal to the Federal Power Commission. The latter was considered the key indicator of their intentions. Should WVIC ever again want to try for a dam permit on the New Wood, they will have to go through considerable rigamarole of re-applying. Hats off to The New Wood Society who organized opposition to the dam!

#### DNR Hearing on Illegal Re-establishment of Dam

#### Mill Creek, Iowa County

Jim Stewart sent a TU letter of qualified opposition to replacing the lapsed mill dam. If Mill Creek contains trout above the damsite, we would object; otherwise, if the impoundment would aid groundwater supply to Trout Creek (in adjoining valley), we would not. Hearing was July 16th. No decision yet.

#### Applications to Irrigate from Trout Streams

#### Little Amnicon River, Douglas County and Hay Creek, Chippewa County

In this joint application, George Carson of Spooner seeks permission to withdraw stream water for rice farming. Hearing was begun at Shell Lake on July 16 (TU letter of opposition sent by Stewart), but continued to a later date (September?) when it was almost immediately determined by a DNR representative that details of the application had not yet been properly complied with. DNR is vigorously opposing this one, not only because trout water is involved, but because a State Park is on the Amnicon system.

#### Application to Straighten a Trout Stream: Onion River, Sheboygan County

TU Southern Chapter formally opposed application by a farmer to change course of the channel to make way for a new barn. This would have shortened and damaged habitat in one of the stream's better angling areas. Hearing was held April 6th. Transcript was issued June 12th. Jim Stewart wrote DNR to check on progress toward decision. Reply July 22nd was that the hearing had not been closed, but was instead adjourned for six months, giving the applicant time to adjust his plan to overcome objections raised by DNR's fish managers.

#### Federal Conference on Pollution of Lake Superior and Basin

Pollution of interstate waters of Lake Superior is the subject of this conference which is to reconvene August 12-13 at Duluth. Wisconsin TU has been invited to attend. We would urge any of the members with interest or having experience in the taconite waste problem to be there. It is not planned to have Wisconsin TU officially represented, but this could be arranged if someone wishes. Frankly, it would be almost impossible for Jim Stewart or I to attend. Anyone else?

Proposed Rough Fish Poisoning in Black Earth Creek, Dane County

DNR has phoned to find out what our position might be on a possible plan to eradicate carp and suckers from Black Earth Creek by rotenone poisoning this fall. The object would be to create better conditions for the trout fishery. They would like to set up a more intensive stocking program for the lower miles of stream (down to a proposed fish barrier at Lake Marion below the Village of Black Earth), and feel it would be well to have other kinds of fish out of the way. They would capture the vast majority of the present trout population by electrofishing, hold them during poisoning, and release them again into the stream again. This could easily be done between end of fishing season and start of fall spawning, thus would stand to cause little damage to the substantial wild brown trout population in the upper part of the creek.

I have not yet talked the situation over in detail with the fish managers. At first glance, it seems like it might do a lot of good. As for fears of poison residues: Rotenone, though more expensive than other chemicals, is used because it is non-chlorinated and is supposed to break down quickly without producing harmful residual byproducts. However, I will certainly look into the matter soon to see if there is really a proven need for doing this at all, and to get a slant on the state of the fishery and how it might change due to the added stocking.

DNR has a stepped-up program to preserve Black Earth Creek. The stream is biologically one of the state's most productive, but is plagued with advancing urban sprawl and gravel mining. If freeing the water of rough fish should look like it will serve no vital service to the trout fishery, the money might much better go toward rescuing the stream from people.

Sincerely,



Ray White  
Water Management Committee

RW:aes

TROUT UNLIMITED  
5850 E. JEWELL  
DENVER, COLORADO 80222

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

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