



**Waukesha County Environmental Action League**

E-newsletter-October 2016

***“America’s true history is not about ‘Great Men’ but about grassroots rebels and movements.”***

*Jim Hightower*

**Wisconsin Public Service Commission Sets a Bad Example**

By Dave Gennrich

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission is sending the wrong message to the residents of Wisconsin. For many years the PSC promoted programs to save energy such similar to Focus on Energy and the federal government’s criteria for phasing out incandescent lighting in favor of compact fluorescent or LED lighting, promoting Energy Star appliances that operate more efficiently by performing the same task by using less energy. The benefits to the consumer were evident in lower utility payments, to the environment by reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses that were produced and to the utilities by delaying the need to build expensive new power plants to serve an increasing population.

Last year the PSC granted a 75% increase to WE Energies in the fixed charge that consumers pay for their electricity and lowered the per kilowatt charge for usage. Their message they are sending tells the customers to use more energy. Currently

**The Wisconsin Public Service Commission is sending the wrong message to residents of Wisconsin...their message tells consumers to use more energy**

PSC is looking at an application from Alliant Energy which serves customers in west and central Wisconsin that will raise the fixed customer charge by 135% over two years. The Wisconsin PSC has approved fixed customer rate increases averaging 60%. As

**The Wisconsin PSC has approved fixed customer rate increases averaging 60%**

reported in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, the fixed charge rate increased by an average of 14% in other states and many have rejected fixed rate increases altogether. What is the effect of the fixed rate increases that are being sought? Look at the comparison of the effective rates that customers pay in SE Wisconsin since the last fixed rate increase:

- ❖ 100 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.2882/kwh
- ❖ 200 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.2093/kwh
- ❖ 300 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1830/kwh
- ❖ 500 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1619/kwh
- ❖ 800 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1501/kwh
- ❖ 1100 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1447/kwh

- ❖ 1500 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1409/kwh
- ❖ And 2000 kwh/month the effective rate would be \$0.1383/kwh

SE Wisconsin already has some of the highest electric utility rates in the Midwest and the current position of the PSC is to shift an ever-increasing burden on the small and efficient users of their electrical power.

Call or write your assemblyman or senator and let them know that the energy hogs should be paying more for their excessive usage, that conserving energy should be a goal to help resolve the problem of greenhouse gasses and improve the quality of the air that we breathe and that we want to maintain a sustainable environment for our children and grandchildren to live in.



**Stakes are High for Waukesha West Bypass**

By: Allen Stasiewski

We're just a bit short of a modest summer fundraising goal. Can you please help?

Let me show you why the donation you make today matters so much. It's hard to look at this partial list of damage the West Waukesha Bypass will cause.

- **Destruction of the Pebble Creek Environmental Corridor**
- **More dangerous to drivers due to more large truck traffic**
- **More dangerous to children due to higher speeds and more traffic**
- **More sprawl, just look at the East Waukesha Bypass**
- **More air pollution**
- **More water pollution**
- **More light pollution**
- **Destruction of farmland**
- **Waste of \$56+ million**

We can't stop fighting the unnecessary West Waukesha Bypass. Our federal lawsuit is alive and well. And, it may be our last chance to stop this huge highway expansion project. We can't afford to take care of the highways we have, and yet the DOT wants to build a \$56 million highway that won't help anything. Our "No Build, Improve" alternative would improve HwyTT/Merrill Hills Road at a fraction of the cost.

**We can't stop fighting the unnecessary West Waukesha Bypass**

It would be shame if we fought this battle all the way to the Federal Court and then ran out of funds at a critical time. Several recent developments help our case! Won't you help NOW too? Every dollar you donate goes 100% into our Bypass fight!

[Make a contribution to our West Waukesha Bypass Legal Fund - at www.weal.org](http://www.weal.org)

We're getting close to the end game. We can make a difference! We can win this! And you can be part of it!

The stakes are too high to stand on the sidelines. That's why your contribution matters so much right now. I have been fighting this highway since 2010 and I won't give up now. And, I know that you believe in our fight. Can you step up right now and make a donation...large or small...\$5 or \$50? Everything will help!



Thank You  
Allen Stasiewski, WEAL and Coalition  
Opposed to the West Waukesha Bypass



# **Waukesha County Environmental Action League**

**Invites you to attend its**

**Annual Meeting**

**November 3, 2016 7PM**

**Retzer Nature Center**

S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188

Questions? Phone 262.782.4908

## **Wetlands of Southeast Wisconsin**

**An interactive presentation with Q/A**

**By Tracy Hames**

**Executive Director of Wisconsin Wetlands Association**

- ✓ Tracy's presentation will overview the types of wetlands that are present in SE Wisconsin,
- ✓ Why they're important,
- ✓ How they keep our waters and watersheds healthy,
- ✓ And address the wetland issues we're facing in SE Wisconsin.
- ✓ He will also include information specific to wetlands in the Pebble Creek Watershed.

### **Tracy Hames**

- ✓ Tracy is the Executive Director of Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA), a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of Wisconsin's wetlands.
- ✓ Before returning to Wisconsin in 2011, Tracy gained decades of experience protecting, restoring and managing large wetland projects on the Yakama Indian Reservation in eastern Washington state.

**The event is free and open to the public  
Refreshments served**

**November 3, 2016 7PM**

**Retzer Nature Center**

