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No Heritage River nomination

Effort for national designation for the Fox River falls short

By Larry Blithe
Press-Gazette Washington Bureau

Efforts in Wisconsin to garner national prestige for the Fox River fell short Wednesday when an advisory panel opted against recommending the river for national designation.

An advisory committee released a list of 16 rivers it would present to President Clinton for such designations. Clinton could accept or reject the recommendations, as well as add other rivers to the list.

The 16 chosen were the Connecticut River in New England, the Detroit River, the Hanalei River in Hawaii, the Hudson River in New York, the New River in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, the Rio Grande in Texas, the Potomac River in Maryland,

Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, the St. Johns River in Florida, the Upper Mississippi River in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the Willamette River in Oregon.

Advisory Committee Chairman Byron Bolton said the committee had a difficult task in selecting 16 rivers from 18 nominations.

The designation is part of Clinton's plan to add 16 new rivers to the list.

"I was extremely gratified to see such an outpouring of grassroots enthusiasm from communities large and small," Bolton said.

He added that the committee wanted to achieve geographical balance and looked for proposals that showed strong community support and reflected the "diversity of the American experience."

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said he was disappointed because he thought the Fox River proposal met all the criteria.

"I qualified on all counts," Johnson said. "The community came together and nominated a river that was unique and outstanding and had a role in the history of the community."

Applause Mayor Tim Hanna, who led the effort to name the Fox River Forward, said that while he also was disappointed, he was pleased by how people united to support the project.

"I've said all along that we've already accomplished a lot just by going through the process," Hanna said. "This brought together river advocates who had never met in the same room before. There was a lot of energy in that room, and there have been partnerships formed on other river issues."

Bill would give governors veto of Superfund designation

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Environmentalists fear a Wisconsin compromise will try again to block the contaminated Fox River's potential designation as a Superfund cleanup site.

U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann, R-Green Bay, said he would introduce legislation in Washington today that would give governors nationwide the authority to veto federal designation of Superfund sites within their state's borders.

The legislation would take the form of a rider attached to a budget bill for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the Superfund program.

"They're trying to do this sneak attack on the Fox River cleanup," said Brett Haley, spokesman for the national Sierra Club's Madison office. "This would give Gov. Thompson veto authority

over everything EPA does." Thompson strongly opposes a Superfund listing for the river, but the legislature attempted a nearly identical strategy last summer, but was blocked by Rep. Dave Obey, D-Wisconsin, when the measure was before the House Appropriations Committee.

Proponents of that decade of negotiations between the state and the feds have brought the issue back to the state House.

Neumann is expected to introduce the rider today to a companion bill of the House Appropriations Committee, now working on Superfund listing for the river, the legislature attempted a nearly identical strategy last summer, but was blocked by Rep. Dave Obey, D-Wisconsin, when the measure was before the House Appropriations Committee.

The price of democracy is river and riparian. And Haley said this is a good example of that.

Seven Fox River Superfund sites are targeted with a cleanup that officials say could cost \$1 billion.

The river is contaminated with an estimated 70,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls. Neumann's office could not be reached for comment Wednesday night.

Student faces charge for alleged threat to teacher

WHITEFISH BAY (AP) — Police said Gary Schumacher, pressman at charge against a 15-year-old boy who allegedly threatened to kill his business science teacher.

The boy drew a picture on his final exam showing a hand shooting a gun into the face of the teacher.

Whitefish Bay police said the allegedly violent 15-year-old student drew a picture on his final exam showing a hand shooting a gun into the face of the teacher.

The teacher discovered the picture on the back of the exam sheet the having corrected it at home last week, police said.

"The teacher was quite shaken," said Gary Schumacher, pressman at charge against a 15-year-old boy who allegedly threatened to kill his business science teacher.

Police said the first threat came June 11, the day before the exam, when the boy told the teacher, "Don't turn your back. I know where you live. I'm going to get you."

The day of the exam, the student tried to hand in the 10-question exam while the teacher, in the district's policy that a student permit in class for a full period.

When that he could not leave, the boy loudly told the teacher, "I'm going to kill you."

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