



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

September 21, 2004

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you! I was happy to hear that the Citizen-Based Monitoring Conference was such a great success. Your attendance and involvement helped make it a landmark conference. Although I was unable to attend the conference, I was very interested in your ideas concerning the involvement of citizen groups in the monitoring of our State's natural resources.

One of Governor Doyle and my top priorities is to support and develop the Department's partnerships with local organizations and citizens like you. To that end, I sent key members of my staff to the conference so that I could be briefed on your priorities and goals. I could not agree more with your vision and mission, and I would like to share with you the immediate steps the DNR is taking to support citizen-based monitoring:

- Support the creation of a statewide citizen-based monitoring network and increase staff awareness of the potential of such programs.
- Draft legislation creating an advisory board to work with the DNR on monitoring priorities, funding opportunities, legislative support and agency responsiveness. The Governor supports this legislation as a DNR Secretary's Advisory Board.
- Identify full-time citizen-based monitoring coordinator support and staff the proposed advisory board.
- Shift available funding to establish a citizen-based monitoring grant program.
- Through the Department's Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory Program, create and maintain a citizen-based monitoring website to serve as a clearinghouse for monitoring data, training and protocols.
- Work with the advisory board to identify DNR's data gaps and strategies for how citizens can help fill those gaps.
- Work with the advisory board to review administrative rules and department policies with regard to citizen monitoring.
- Create a river monitoring strategy.
- Integrate citizen monitoring in conservation plans.

I am very excited about the outcome of this conference and what it means for the future of citizen-based monitoring in Wisconsin. In order to ensure we do not lose momentum, I will be forming an ad hoc committee to address some of the most time-sensitive issues prior to the Advisory Board being formed. Among these issues would be reviewing draft legislation establishing the advisory board and providing guidance concerning criteria for the new grant program. More information will follow on the formation of the ad hoc committee in the coming weeks.

I want to emphasize that we are not looking to change successful, established programs, like our lakes monitoring partnerships. I want to do everything we can to provide basic support for newer and emerging

groups – and enhance more established programs when needed. I believe the actions outlined above are a good start.

Thank you for your participation in this conference. I know that by working together, we will be successful. If you have any questions or ideas concerning this initiative, please contact Erin Crain at 608-267-7479 or [Erin.Crain@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Erin.Crain@dnr.state.wi.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Scott Hassett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Scott Hassett  
Secretary