



Wisconsin  
League of  
Conservation  
Voters  
Institute

2009  
annual  
report



# Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute

## ...a track record of success.

At Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute, we believe in getting results. Whether we're protecting the beautiful waters of the Great Lakes or fighting to keep your family's drinking water safe, WLCVI isn't satisfied until we see your values represented in the Wisconsin Legislature.

Some of WLCVI's most important past victories for Wisconsin's natural resources include:

- Leading the successful campaign to pass The Strong Great Lakes Compact in Wisconsin, protecting Wisconsin citizens, businesses and communities from water diversions that would jeopardize our public health, economy and environment;
- Passing Wisconsin's Clean Energy Bill, moving us toward a cleaner energy future by requiring 10% renewable energy sources by 2015; and
- Increasing funding in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund from \$60 million to \$86 million per year, protecting Wisconsin's most important wildlife areas and maintaining our outdoor traditions for future generations.



In 2009, WLCVI continued that track record of success. With WLCVI's support, the Wisconsin Legislature passed, and Governor Doyle signed into law, seven important pro-conservation bills in 2009.

Those bills ranged from protecting musky to preserving some of Wisconsin's most pristine rivers. Some of the highlights include:

- Cleaning up our lakes by banning phosphorous in lawn fertilizer;
- Preserving the Totogatic and Brunsweler Rivers for future generations by granting them "Wild Rivers" status;
- Keeping toxic electronic waste out of our landfills by requiring proper disposal;
- Reducing our dependence on dirty fossil fuels by promoting clean, renewable wind energy.

We are proud of our track record of success at WLCVI, but we know it would be impossible without your support. You play an integral role in our ability to ensure that future generations will be able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and recreate in the beautiful places that make Wisconsin special. Thank you.



Kerry Schumann  
Executive Director



Thomas Thoresen  
President

# Program Highlights



## Mission

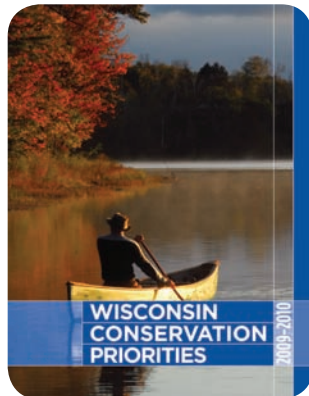
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute protects public health, natural resources and sporting opportunities by

enhancing the capacity of the conservation movement. WLCVI Institute works to connect conservation-minded citizens with the policy making process through education, advocacy, public opinion research, and the implementation of voter participation techniques.

## Conservation Priority Agenda

At the start of each legislative session, WLCVI brings together organizations and individuals from across the state to determine the top legislative priorities for the conservation community. In 2009, WLCVI engaged over 80 diverse organizations, ranging from

hunting and fishing groups to land trusts and environmental advocates, in setting the 2009-2010 *Conservation Priority Agenda*. The priority issues for 2009-2010 include Preserving Groundwater; Stopping Global Warming in Wisconsin; Protecting Wisconsin's Drinking Water; and Restoring Conservation Integrity.



## Conservation Lobby Day

Conservation Lobby Day, organized by Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute, is a day

for conservationists from across the state to come to the Capitol and let their legislators know that they care about Wisconsin's natural resources and



to advocate for the *Priority Agenda*.

In 2009, over 400 people attended Lobby Day, where they asked their legislators to support Conservation



Integrity, resulting in a majority of legislators in both the Senate and Assembly sponsoring the Independent DNR Secretary Bill.

## Local Communities



In order to best provide the link between citizens and the policy-making that happens in Madison, WLCVI has staff based in communities around the state.

In 2009, WLCVI had offices and staff in Green Bay, Milwaukee, Eau Claire and Madison. WLCVI staff connect citizens and local conservation groups with their legislators, provide tools and training to improve the effectiveness of citizen involvement, engage community leaders, and ensure media coverage of environmental issues.



"With WLCVI, we had an organization that represented our values and beliefs, so it was a natural

fit. WLCVI is a really impressive organization."

-WLCVI Supporters Dan & Jean Engelke



“I’ve gotten a lot out of the whole WLCVI program. WLCVI does a lot of legwork to get conservation bills passed. It’s great that WLCVI stands up and coordinates things like Lobby Day and work around the conservation priorities.”

-WLCVI Supporter Gene Ecklor

**WLCV Institute  
2009 Board of Directors**

- Thomas Thoresen  
*President*
- Jayne Meyer  
*Vice President*
- Sherrie Gruder  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- Hilary Carroll
- Jim Feldman
- Eric Olson
- Marc Schultz

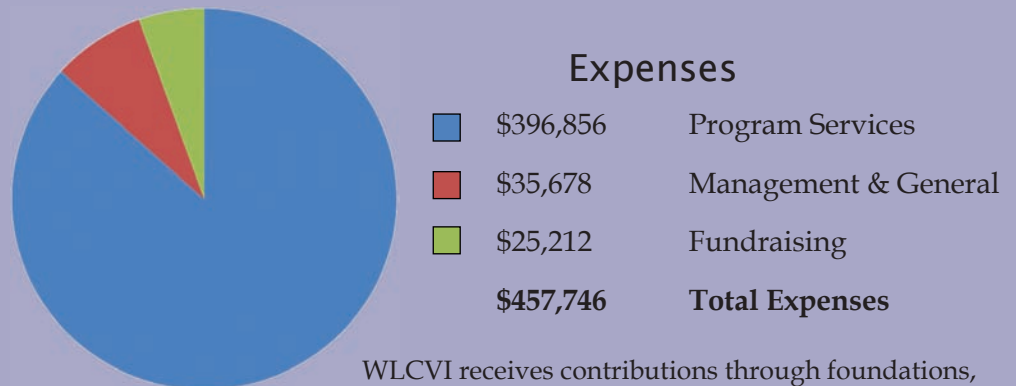
**Staff**

- Kerry Schumann  
*Executive Director*
- Anne Sayers  
*Program Director*
- Jessica Garrels  
*Organizing Director*
- Jennifer Giegerich  
*Capitol Liaison*
- Angela West Blank  
*Development Director*
- Heather Mullee  
*Southeast Organizer*
- Tom Stolp  
*Western Organizer*
- Joseph Syverson  
*Systems Manager*

**Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute thanks the following organizations and individuals for their generous 2009 support:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Brico Fund</li> <li>League of Conservation Voters Education Fund</li> <li>REAMP</li> <li>Grant Abert</li> <li>Center for Civic Participation</li> <li>Rusinow Family Charitable Foundation</li> <li>Whole Foods Market of Madison</li> <li>State Voices</li> <li>Melinda &amp; Kenneth Krei</li> <li>Trout Unlimited-</li> <li>Wisconsin State Council</li> <li>Sierra Club John Muir Chapter</li> <li>Brown County Conservation Alliance</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Koermer</li> <li>Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society</li> <li>Wisconsin Wildlife Federation</li> <li>Wisconsin Farmers Union</li> <li>Dale Druckrey</li> <li>River Alliance of Wisconsin</li> <li>Midwest Environmental Advocates</li> <li>The Wildlife Society</li> <li>Clean Wisconsin</li> <li>RENEW Wisconsin</li> <li>Trout Unlimited-Green Bay Chapter</li> <li>Jerry &amp; Pat West</li> <li>Susan Winecki</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**Financial Summary for fiscal year 2009  
(January 1, 2009–December 31, 2009)**



WLCVI receives contributions through foundations, partner organizations, individuals, and special events.