



Public, Private, international ownership of US waters?

2015 winter edition
REZ RECYCLER

“Water has emerged as the target of choice for the robber barons of globalization. As freshwater supplies dwindle, global investors are scrambling to own what’s left. “Water promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th century,” Fortune observed just as the new millennium arrived. The World Bank already values water privatization at \$1 trillion and predicts that many of the wars of the 21st century will be fought over water. And the wars have already begun as citizens in South and Central America have fought back against water moguls whom they regard as bullies trampling democracy and basic human rights. When Bechtel, in 2002, privatized the Bolivian city of Cochabamba’s water & then raised rates high enough to threaten the lives of poor residents, the city erupted in deadly violence. The “Bolivian Water War’ ejected Bechtel and toppled the city government. Control of Syrian waters by corporate agriculture during a prolonged drought helped trigger the current rebellion there.

Could this happen in the US? It already is. Chinese and European sovereign wealth funds & global private-equity firms are taking control of America’s waterways by purchasing the assets of industrial companies which once held hydropower licenses granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which, ironically, was established to keep the nation’s waterways in public ownership & to assure that the waters are used for public not private benefit.” -Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of Waterkeeper Alliance.

“**Three Native American tribes filed a lawsuit** in 2002 against Perrier’s subsidiary, Great Spring Waters of America and Michigan Governor John Engler. (Because Nestle bought Perrier in 1992, this makes Great Springs part of their portfolio). The Michigan natives claimed that Perrier was violating the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by extracting water from the Great Lakes Basin to be bottled and resold. The plaintiffs claimed that the practice of pumping out 575,000 gallons per day would lower the water table for the entire Great Lakes region. They went on to predict that this would diminish local rivers and streams, affect navigation on rivers and lakes, and harm the commercial fishing industry. Nestle and the state argued that bottled water is classified as a food product, and therefore exempt from the WRDA. The judge ultimately threw the case out before it saw conclusion, saying the plaintiffs did not have the right to sue under the WRDA. The state of Michigan still has no limits to the amount of water that may be extracted. – source Maggie Rice’s article ‘*Detroit Water Brigade Fights for Basic Human Right for Clean Drinking Water.*’”



“Water is constantly in motion, which means it cannot be the property of any one place. Water’s circulation is a line between times past, present, & future. What we do with it now, will thus be of decisive importance to the future of us all.” Terje Tvedt- professor at the Department of Geography, University of Bergen, and Professor in Global History, University of Oslo



Watershed assessment grant given to PEP– V. Potts



FYI: The PBPN- Planning & Environmental Protection Department’s logo, as seen above, and acronym is **PEP-** (**Planning & Environmental Protection**)



FYI: The official logo and acronym for United States Environmental Protection Agency is **EPA.**

The Planning & Environmental Protection (PEP) Department’s water program was selected by the US Army Corp of Engineers to participate in a Section 203 watershed assessment. The PBPN watershed assessment is 100% funded by the US Army Corp of Engineers at a value of 100K. This study will analyze existing conditions of the watershed, based upon available data. No new data will be generated as a programmatic condition of this grant. By using a watershed-based assessment and evaluation, this information can be used to identify feasible plans to address current conditions and challenges. Identifying those challenges that affect water quality and quantity are addressed in two scenarios: one with future water planning and management or a future without water planning and management.

This past September, the US Army Corp of Engineers, PEP Dept., PBPN Land’s Dept., PBPN Road & Bridge Dept., BIA, IHS, local NRCS, KSU, Jackson County Conservation District & the contractor, Vireo, met to discuss plans and stakeholder involvement. Vireo will be the primary coordinator, developing the watershed assessment report. “Vireo is a planning and design firm in the business of creating **healthy places** for people and we’ve built the firm on the design of environments that are **attractive, livable, vibrant** and **sustainable** – places where people want to be”- source Vireo. Vireo will utilize its’ hydrologist, conservation ecologist, senior environmental planner, and a variety of other environmental professionals to compile and develop a preliminary assessment. The final report should be done by June of 2015.

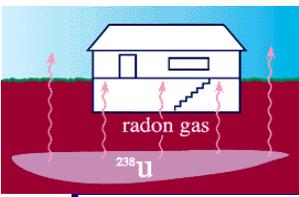
Water is directly tied to our economic, social & political structure. This watershed assessment will be a document that will be of great value to the Nation’s future water resource planning and management. The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, states “Human societies cannot be healthy, prosperous and just without adequate supplies of clean water”.

Rural Water District #3– new water rates for 2015

Effective January 1, 2015 water rates will be increased by 3%. This represent a 0.19¢ increase per thousand gallons of water. RWD #3 does purchase water from other water source suppliers. As these other water suppliers approve and increase water rates, this cost is eventually passed on to the consumer. For instance, when Topeka’s governing council approved rate increases this past year, people that live outside of Topeka will continue to pay “*rates outlined in the ordinance will take effect Jan. 1. Customers living outside Topeka will continue to pay 175 percent of the city rates*”-source Topeka Capital Journal. RWD# 3 does purchase some of its’ water from Topeka via (RWD #1-Hoyt). You can contact RWD #3 at the following number, 785-364-3056, for any concerns with your water supply.

- ◆ In 2002– PBPN water rates were \$4.20/thousand gallons
- ◆ In 2000– a water meter cost \$3,085





It's Your Home, Test for Radon

PEP Welcomes Billie to the team!!!!



The PBPN Division of Planning and Environmental Protection are looking for members within our Tribal reservation to open their homes for radon testing. The Division of Planning and Environmental Protection has a Radon Measurement Certified Environmental Technician with the capability to execute radon testing using a continuous monitor.

Radon is a radioactive gas that contributes to approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths a year. Testing for radon and knowing your levels will help decrease associated health risks by helping you identify and correct foundation cracks and other necessary maintenance adjustments needed to stop radon gas from entering your home.

Please contact the PBPN Division of Planning and Environmental Protection, 785-966-2946, if you want to learn more or become a willing participant.

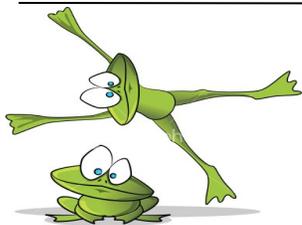
Hi, my name is Billie Toledo. I live on the reservation with my husband and 3 children and became the new Environmental Technician for the Air Quality Program this past July. I am very grateful to be in a position within our Nation that allows me to identify Air concerns for our Tribe and take corrective measures to help improve the health of our people and our environment. If you have any questions regarding Air Quality I am more than happy to assist. Thank you for your time and I look forward to contributing to our Nation.

ASTHMA: Take Control— B. Toledo

Asthma is a disease that causes the airways of the lungs to tighten and swell.

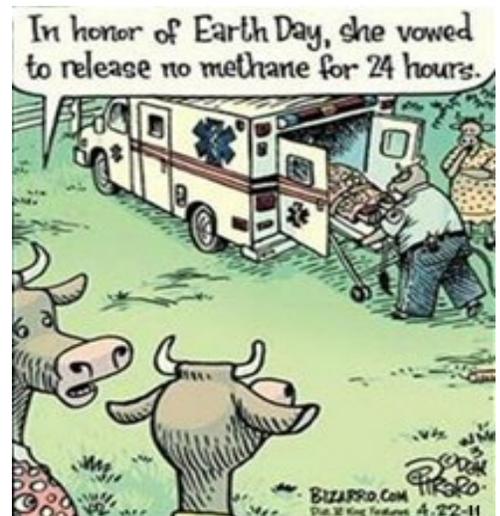
It can be a scary experience when an asthma attack hits us or our loved ones. This experience intensifies when we are unfamiliar to asthmas symptoms and the triggers that initiate attacks. An asthma attack and its triggers are different for everyone; the only way to determine trigger sources and decrease attacks is to become informed and create an action plan.

Asthma can be controlled by eliminating or avoiding the source of triggers in the environment, indoor or outdoor. Once the source is established there are methods or solutions to help decrease attacks; www.airnow.gov is an excellent resource to determine the outdoor air quality. Air Now monitors the Air Quality Index (AQI) which allows you to see the air quality in any area you're at, helping determine if the air outdoors will trigger an attack during activities. To eliminate indoor asthma triggers it is easier accomplished with regular housekeeping and pinning trigger source. Cleaning regularly and ridding a home of dust mites, pet dander, secondhand smoke, mold or other trigger sources will help prevent respiratory irritation and/or an asthma attack. To learn more about asthma contact your local provider, allergist or look out for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Division of Planning and Environmental Protection's Asthma Screening Workshop coming Summer 2015.



KID's Corner

- **What did the sea say to the shore? Nothing, it just waved.**
- **What should we do with crude oil? Teach it some manners of course!**



International Wetlands in Kansas

The state of Kansas contains two sites listed as Wetlands of International Importance on the Ramsar List. Cheyenne Bottoms is a sizeable wetlands spanning 27,127 acres northeast of Great Bend. The area is considered the most important shorebird migration point in the western hemisphere. Approximately 45 percent of the North American shorebird population stops at Cheyenne Bottoms during spring migration.

About an hour south of Cheyenne Bottoms is the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The inland salt marsh is rare in this region and spans 22,135 acres. Both parks are open to the public and free of charge. They provide excellent viewing opportunities for bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. For more information about Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism at <http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-3/Cheyenne-Bottoms>. For information about Quivira National Refuge, visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Quivira/>.



Blue-Winged Teal migration at Cheyenne Bottoms. *Photo by Dan Witt, reprinted from Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area Newsletter, Issue 75, October 2014.*

World Wetlands Facts



As of October 1, 2014, the number of designated Wetlands of International Importance on the Ramsar List is 2,186



Wetlands listed on the Ramsar list combine for a total coverage of a half billion acres or an area slightly larger than the country of Mexico.



The Pantanal is one of the largest wetland areas in the world spanning portions of three South American countries: Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay. It covers an area three times the size of Ireland.



64% of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900. An additional 23% disappeared between 1700 and 1900 for a combined loss of 87% worldwide since 1700.



Rice, grown in wetland paddies, provides 20% of the world's nutritional intake.



A single adult oyster in a tidal flat (a type of wetland) can filter approximately 52 gallons of water a day, removing sediments and chemical contaminants.



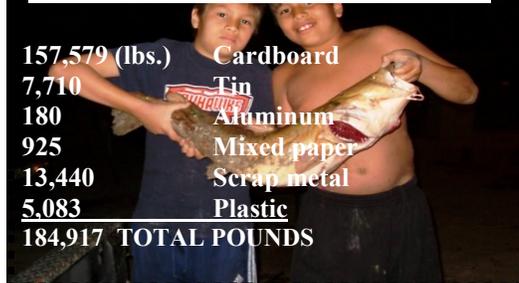
1981

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Vernon Potts, Clint Potts & Willie Potts handfishing photo taken July 1981. Reverend Vernon Potts relished in teaching youth the lifestyles of living off the land, like his dad & grandpa taught him. Big Soldier is a historical, cultural and traditional waterway within the PBPN Reservation. The fish weighed about 50-55 pounds!!!!

RECYCLING TOTALS FOR 2014

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 157,579 (lbs.) | Cardboard |
| 7,710 | Tin |
| 180 | Aluminum |
| 925 | Mixed paper |
| 13,440 | Scrap metal |
| 5,083 | Plastic |
| 184,917 | TOTAL POUNDS |



← The next handfishn' generation:

Clint BekShkah
"Patch" Potts (lft)
Knowee Potts (rt)

Photo taken June 2010

National Parks -the Complicated Journey —V. LeClerc

The complicated and controversial journey leading toward the establishment of our country's national park system began more than 150 years ago. In 1851, members of the Army's Mariposa Battalion were sent to the Sierra Nevada Mountains to drive out Tribes indigenous to the area. At that time, the (now called) Yosemite Valley was home to Paiutes, Miwok, Monos and Aw-wah-nee-chee peoples. This expedition is the first documented account of white men in the area and is regarded in history to be the "discovery" of Yosemite. Following the initial Mariposa battalion account, others followed. Explorers, artists, writers, photographers and businessman visited the Yosemite Valley and word of the breathtaking beauty of the wilderness landscape slowly spread. Policy development was eventually sparked and carried out by notable conservationists and politicians such as John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Stephen Mather, and Horace Albright. Overcoming decades of arduous lobbying, battling with opposing private interests, and the daunting challenges of war and economy, the country eventually designated 58 national parks. Yellowstone was the first in 1872. Additionally, the National Park Service was created and several Acts were codified to protect the parks, monuments, artifacts and wildlife in general.

The creation of this system delivered protection to our country's natural treasures. It also meant displacement and exclusion to many native people and history hasn't always reflected this truth accurately. Although at the cost Native American cultural life ways, the landscapes that we now call our national parks would have likely been exploited by private interests had the government not intervened. Today, many of the parks acknowledge the historical presence of indigenous people and seek to correct neglectful misinformation through educational outreach. Education is a very effective key to empowerment in all situations of historical telling.

The Division of Planning recently created a large interactive presentation for the Boys and Girls Club of the PBPB. The board includes visual representations of National Park features and encourages youth to travel and explore the National Parks. The Division sends the same message of learning and adventure to all of our readers!

The following resources were utilized for this article and are available if you would like additional information on the history of national parks, Native Americans as original habitants of national parks:

<http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/>

<http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

<http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1070&context=socssp>



Solid Waste Program Notes

Recycling Route Reminders

- Toters must be placed at the end of the driveway by 8:00 am
- In cases of inclement weather, recycling route will be suspended until the next business day

Trash Route Reminders

- Toters must be placed at the end of the driveway by 8:00 am
- In cases of inclement weather, trash route will operate AS SCHEDULED

Community Dumpster Locations

Please help keep all public dumpsters clean. Do not leave items outside of dumpsters.



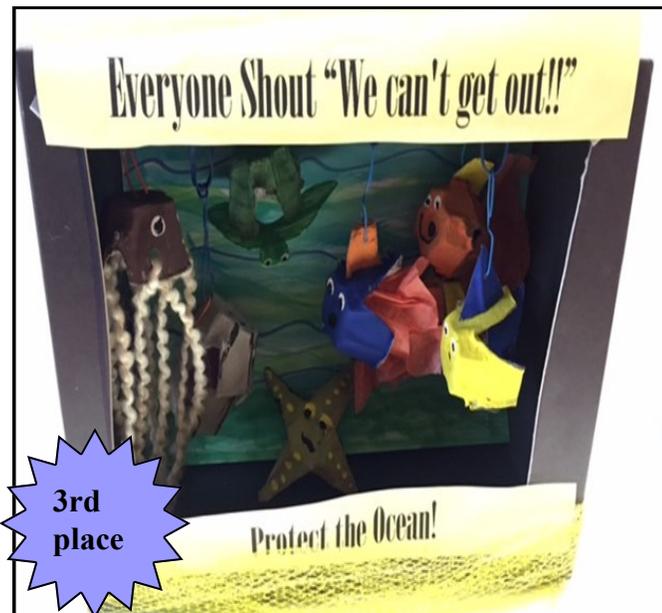
If you think you've witnessed an environmental crime in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska:
Call 913-551-7999 or send an email to r7cidtips@epa.gov to report it to the EPA Region 7 Criminal Investigation Division.

Announcing: Environmental Art Contest Winners!

The Division of Planning and Environmental Protection recently sponsored an Environmental Art Contest. The contest required youth artists to pair up with an adult family member to create their entry. We received 13 entries from artists' age 5-17 years.

All of the work was superb and the environmental insight and awareness was brilliant! We appreciate the participation from all and we hope the contest generated family conversation on environmental topics. Our distinguished panel of judges/experts had a difficult time selecting the top four entries but the following were chosen for 1st-4th place awards.

- **1st place:** Artist– **Thomas Holcomb**, age 8, 2nd grade. Assistant– Shawnda Holcomb, mother. TOPIC: *“Deforestation: This portrays a child hugging the last tree standing in the forest.”*
- **2nd place:** Artist– **Hayley Harmon**, Age 11, 6th grade. Assistant– Rebecca Harmon, mother. TOPIC: *“Where are the bees? Recently bees have been disappearing. It’s not known exactly why but changes in the environment are most likely the cause. These changes may be from pollutants & global warming.”*
- **3rd place:** Artist– **Eli Holcomb**, age 6, Kindergarten. Assistant– Shawnda Holcomb, mother. TOPIC: *“Ocean pollution: The sea life in the ocean is at our mercy. We have to be more responsible.”*
- **4th place:** Artist– **Micaella Wamego-Martinez**, age 17, 12th grade. Assistant– Edith Wamego, mother. TOPIC: *“Animals are looking for homes for their families but there’s*



THANKS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEST JUDGES!!

Joseph Brewer II, Warren 'Hardy' Eteeyan, & Jodi Webster.

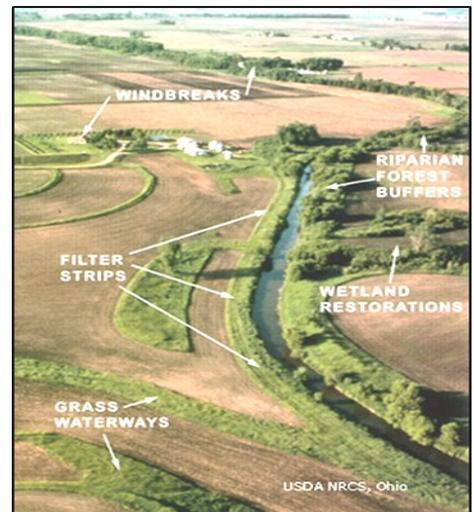
According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who has the authority to hunt and/or fish on trust lands? On allotted lands, a landowner does have the right to do so. But can he or she authorize a third party to go hunt and/or fish on the allotted tract? No. And a lessee does not have the right to hunt or fish on leased property. And if there is a tribal interest on an allotted tract, a tribal member who is not an owner on the tract does not have right to hunt or fish on the tract. Tribal trust and fee land - that is up to the Nation on whom they allow to hunt on the tribal property. One thing to remember is that there are tribal members who hunt and fish to furnish these offering for tribal ceremonies.



PBPN Law & Order Codes: Title 18– Conservation Code can be viewed at: www.pbpindiantribe.com. Report all suspected illegal hunting immediately to the PBPN Police Department– 785-966-3024.

Nonpoint Source Program Overview

The Division of Planning and Environmental Protection (PEP) receives funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to inform Reservation landowners, tenants, and the surrounding community about nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is mostly contributed by poor agricultural practices, bacteria from animal (including human) feces, nutrients from fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment accumulation in local waters. A portion of the EPA funding is set aside for a best management practice (BMP) demonstration project. BMPs include activities such as no-till farming, installing grassed waterways, constructing terraces, establishing sediment basins, and planting cover crops. BMPs also include installation of vegetated buffer strips along streams, streambank stabilization projects, and creation of wetlands. Each of these BMPs is designed to slow down water as it passes over the land encouraging percolation. As water trickles down, loose soil particles are deposited onto the soil surface and nutrients and bacteria are absorbed back into the soil rather than flowing over the surface into nearby streams. For more information on BMPs, please contact Kalonie Hulbutta at 966-2946.



An agricultural landscape with conservation buffers. Photo courtesy USDA NRCS, reprinted from Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture website.

Brownfields Update– K. Miller

The Brownfields Tribal Response Program (T.R.P.) ensures the protection of the Potawatomi Nation’s natural resources by inspecting the reservation for illegal or abandoned sites. These sites may contain solid and/or hazardous substances, consists of waste materials that are unknown until investigated. These materials may have the probability to contaminate the natural resources of the reservation, and may cause severe health risks to the public and our water resources. The Brownfield’s TRP Program conducts inspections through an approach that consist of: sample collection, laboratory and chemical analysis, field investigation, research, photos, observations, documenting, interviews, and inquiries. This information will assist the program to ensure that the health & safety of the community’s natural resources.

The Brownfields TRP Program has attended numerous training sessions on Brownfields, solid waste, and hazardous waste contaminants. Currently, the program is conducting a reservation wide baseline Brownfields Inventory with sites added to the inventory as well as recognized sites. Any questions or environmental concern contact the Brownfields TRP Program, Kyle Miller– Environmental Specialist, 785-966-2946.



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Demonstration Project in Progress— K. Hulbutta

Last fall, a cover crop seed mix of cereal rye, triticale, hairy vetch, clover, and forage rape was planted on a tribal plot near the South Branch of Soldier Creek. The purpose of planting these cover crops is to increase overall soil health and reduce erosion by providing year-round ground cover.



EPA funded the planting of this demonstration cover crop plot. Additionally a roller/crimper was obtained for the purpose of conservation outreach demonstrations.

The roller/crimper is an attachment that fits on the front or back of a tractor. It weighs a little over a ton when empty (it can be filled with liquid to make it heavier). The purpose of the roller is to terminate crops by knocking them down creating a weed-suppressing mat that breaks down and serves as mulch for the next crop. In addition, the roller/crimping process can cut herbicide use in half depending upon completeness of kill.

The PEP office would like to thank the Land Maintenance Department for their assistance with the cover crop demonstration project. Be on the lookout for a Cover Crop Field Day on the Reservation in April. The public will be invited to view the cover crop plot and see the roller/crimper in action. Speakers, date and time will be announced in late February or early March.