

DNR Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Sheet/Hearing Appearance Slip
Proposed Kohler Golf Course, Town of Wilson, Sheboygan Co.

Do you wish to make an oral statement? Yes No

Name*: June Spoerl

Representing: _____

Address: 5933 Garden Grove Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

PLEASE TURN IN COMMENT SHEET
UPON COMPLETION.

or P.O. Box 90
Sheboygan, WI 53082

Phone: (920) 208-2949

E-mail: _____

Check box to subscribe to email updates about the proposed Kohler golf course. (Be sure to include an email address above.)

* Personally identifiable information collected on this form is used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requesters under the public records laws, ss. 19.31 to 19.39, Wis. Stats.

Please provide your comments on the Draft EIS (please use the back of the sheet if necessary):

Please consider the following 6 points:

① The DNR's Legacy
Do you want to be remembered as the agency that preserved the Sheboygan County Dunes + Shoreline and the Black River Habitat or the agency that sold out to the highest bidder? The only people that spoke/speak in favor of the golf course have a financial interest. See the attached Exhibit A.

② The Town of Wilson is Not the Town of Mosel
Approximately 400 residents lived in the town of Mosel when Whistling Straits was built, compared to about 3000 in the town of Wilson — that is 7 times the number of wells, people, etc. that →

will be impacted by the proposed golf course. The congestion caused by one golf tournament alone would be tremendous. Imagine the traffic jams that would be created on I-43, S. Business Drive and S. 12th Street by Town of Wilson residents simply wanting to get home from work and school. They would be required to show identification to prove that they live there, just like the town of Mosel residents have to do, (I guess visiting friends and family are out of luck!) Not only will residents like me be inconvenienced by traffic jams, but the procedure required to prove the golf course caused wells to run dry is egregious! We are not talking about a handful of residents, like there were in the Town of Mosel!

③ Destruction of Native American Heritage

Rather than quietly honoring the Native Americans who lived in the Black River area like we have been, their memory would be completely obliterated by the proposed golf course. The Wisconsin Burial Sites Law has prevented this type of construction before, and it should be applied here.

- (4) The Withering "No Name?" Creek Behind My House
When I moved into my house in 1998, there was a swiftly moving creek that was always at least half full. In fact, it flooded my back yard on a regular basis. In the last 3 years, it has become barely a trickle. There are already many reasons for the diminishing level of water in my creek, including global warming and prolific growth of the subdivision to the south and west of my house, but I fear that the "No Name?" creek will become the "Nonexistent" creek with the golf course as the last straw.
- (5) The Defunct Squires Golf Course in Belgium WI
P. 50 of your "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" states that "14 courses were built in the US. in 2013 while almost 160 shut down". See the attached Exhibit B. It's ironic that the defunct Squires Golf Course has been turned into the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory (thanks to the Ozaukee/Washington County Land Trust). If revenue for the Town of Wilson is really
- 

an issue, then the State Park should remain untouched and unchanged. It has brought in a steady stream of customers since it opened!

⑥ monarch Butterfly Farm

The DNR's walking trail on S. 15th Street has a beautiful supply of milkweed. If you take a walk in the northwest corner at the right time of year, you will find yourself in the middle of a monarch butterfly farm. It is breathtaking! Construction and traffic from the golf course would surely destroy that habitat.

Thank you for your time

June Sporel
8/24/16

Prevea Kohler Health Center opens

The new Prevea Kohler Health Center, 950 Woodlake Rd., opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, June 27.

The new health center will provide urgent care, family medicine, chiropractic, lab, X-ray and physical therapy services to Kohler Co. associates and their families, as well as area residents and guests of Destination Kohler.

Dr. Ashok Rai, president and chief executive officer of Prevea Health Inc., said the center already has 29 patients scheduled for health care services and a dozen for physical therapy.

David Kohler, president and CEO of Kohler Co., said health and wellness is something that is very important to the company and its associates.

Prevea has been a partner with Kohler Co., operating their medical department since 2013. Many associates asked for extension of that benefit to their family members for primary and urgent care, according to Kohler.

The clinic is also available for associates who don't have a primary care doctor and as an amenity to village residents and guests of Destination Kohler.

"Our company has had a commitment to the village of Kohler dating well back into the early days of the last 143 years and you've seen that in our support for education, cultural events, recreation and the entire community," said Kohler. "But it's really such an honor to now partner with Prevea and rally see Prevea come into the community and enhance the community as well."

Kohler also lauded Prevea for investing in the communities it serves. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be made by calling (920) 783-3150.

Urgent care for minor illnesses and injuries is also available, with no appointment necessary, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



ON HAND MONDAY, JUNE 27, to cut the ribbon and open the new Prevea Kohler Health Center were (left to right) Rich Otradovec, president and CEO, RODAC Development and Construction; David Kohler, president and CEO, Kohler Co.; Dr. Ashok Rai, president and CEO, Prevea Health; Laura Kohler, senior vice president - human resources and stewardship, Kohler Co.; and Kate Hogan, vice president of corporate relations and innovation, Prevea Health. The new health center, at 950 Woodlake Rd. in Kohler provides urgent care, family medicine, chiropractic, lab, X-ray and physical therapy services to local residents, as well as Kohler Co. associates and their families. — Submitted photo

Course. Whistling Straits consists of the Straits Course and the Irish Course. All four courses are ranked in the top 100 public golf course list in Golf Digest Magazine's 2015/2016 issue (Whitten, 2015). The Straits course was ranked 4th in the U.S. An estimated 40,000 visitors play 100,000 rounds in Sheboygan County each year (SB Friedman, 2015) and Kohler anticipates that approximately 23,000 additional rounds of golf would be played at the new course.

While Kohler's projections are optimistic, other articles and assessments have addressed a decline in the number of active golf players and the subsequent closing of golf courses. According to one report by Bloomberg Business in May of 2014, The National Golf Foundation stated that 400,000 players left the sport the previous year. The report also states that 14 courses were built in the U.S. in 2013 while almost 160 shut down.

Employment, Labor Force, and Income

According to the 2010 census (U.S. Census, 2010), the population of employed civilian citizens over the age of 16 in the Town of Wilson, Wisconsin was 1,797 (Table 8). Median household income is also greater in Wilson than Wisconsin or the U.S. (\$83,311, \$52,413, and \$53,046 respectively). Employment in the Town of Wilson, City of Sheboygan, and Sheboygan County is predominantly in the manufacturing sector (greater than 30 percent). Educational and health care sectors employ greater than 15 percent of the workforce followed by the retail sector (approximately 10 percent).

Table 8: Employment and Income Comparison (2010)

LOCATION	POPULATION	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME ¹
Town of Wilson	3,330	1,797	\$83,311
City of Sheboygan	49,288	26,873	\$43,533
Sheboygan County	115,507	28,131	\$52,920
Wisconsin	5,686,986	2,872,104	\$52,413
United States	308,745,538	138,668,798	\$53,046

¹2010 Census data not available, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates used for comparison

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2013 American Community Survey

SB Friedman Development Advisors (SB Friedman) was retained by Kohler to estimate the economic impact of the Project on three geographies including the Town of Wilson, Sheboygan County, and an 11-county region consisting of Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago counties. In order to quantify the impacts, specific data was analyzed using IMPLAN Professional®, an economic assessment software that assisted in the quantification of the economic impacts associated with the proposed Project and associated facilities.

Sources of direct economic impacts include temporary construction impacts over a three year period, expanding golf as an ongoing economic engine, and creating significant public sector tax revenue benefits. When fully operational, the proposed golf course is projected to create 227 full-time equivalent permanent jobs and generate nearly \$21 million in annual economic activity for Sheboygan County households and businesses. Quantitative impacts are given in 2014 dollars. When fully operational, Kohler anticipates employing 168 people in full and part-time jobs with approximately \$3.6 Million in annual associated salaries and benefits. Kohler has stated that approximately 88 percent of the positions are expected to be filled by residents of Sheboygan County. Expenditures from guests and hospitality are also expected to increase due to the proposed course, generating an additional \$6.5M in lodging and purchases of food, beverage, and retail goods. The executive summary of the economic study is available by following the hyperlink in the electronic version of this document.

Temporary Construction Impacts

Total development costs of the Project are estimated at \$25 million including hard and soft costs. Construction is expected to provide an immediate economic benefit for the three geographic regions analyzed as shown in Table 9 below. During the 3-year design and construction period, construction spending is expected to create an average of 67 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the Town of Wilson. This equates to an annual increase of \$3.9 million in salaries and benefits and an overall impact of \$9 million using economic multipliers.

To Whom it May Concern:

Please, please do the right thing for Wisconsin and vote down the Kohler proposal for a new golf course. The DNR works for us - not Kohler and other big companies! Our wetlands and forests are rapidly declining, especially in the southeastern part of the state. Once these areas are destroyed, a retention pond or two and some trees planted are not replacements. The # of jobs and money brought in are basically for the rich & by the rich - remember greed is one of the seven deadly sins!

"The earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." - Gandhi
Thank you for your consideration Kathy Eriepentrog

A personal note ...

This message is for Scott Walker
Keep our state park intact & no
more deals for donors.

It stops here!

Why does Herbert Kohler, Jr.
want to use Andrew State
Park for his own private profit?
He already has enough golf
courses.

I pray this letter does some
good to stop Herbert Kohler, Jr.
He will fight for our resources

Sincerely,
Betty Davis
1329 Maryland Ave.
Shub. Nisc.
- 53081 -

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

1149 Arboretum Lane

Shelbygan, WI 53081

July 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Schielfelbein,

Please consider the impact on the Natural Environment the Kehler Golf Course will have. The destruction of an ecosystem, disturbance of a natural habitat for wildlife, chemical runoff into Lake Michigan and wetlands, defiling Native American Burial grounds and depletion of aquifers for more than 3000 residents is reason to deny Kehler a permit to continue plans for construction of another golf course.

Thank you for your attention
to this matter.

Jacith C. Guerrero
Jacith C. Guerrero
Town of Wilson

MILWAUKEE WI 530

MEMORIAL DAY POSTCARD

6206 The Parade

A reproduction of Decoration Day Series No. 173 by Frances Brundage, originally published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, circa 1900
Printed in the USA

POST CARD

USA

Red Knot

POSTCARD

I am absolutely
against destroying
forest land so the
kohlers can build
another golf course.
How low will the
DNR sink ? shame.

Lynn Reizler
voter & tax payer

Jay Schiefelbein
Dept. of Natural Resources
2984 Schukunio Ave
Green Bay, WI
54313-6721

July 29, 2016

Dear Jay Schiefelbein,

I am concerned about the Sheboygan County lakefront park called Terry Andrae. The people, plants, animals and the general well being of the area need to be preserved. How special the park has been to my family and still is so anyway I can make the area stay the same is important to me. Thank you for listening to my letter

Sincerely,

Diane Lipman
West Bend, WI

To Jay, 7/20/16

I pray the DNR
knows what will be
sacrificed if you
approve the Golf
course on the shores
of Lake Michigan.

We would not have
State and National Parks
if it weren't for the
farsight of men who
thought of the future!

I thank you for your
time - God Bless you all

Jay Rogers



OR



An Old Indian Quote:
When you've cut
down All the Trees
Poluted the water
Made the air impure
Killed All the
Animals and their
Habitats;



Man will then
Realize
You can't eat
Money!

OVER

*And if you have faith,
everything you ask for
in prayer, you will receive.*

- Matthew 21:22



OR



Jay Schiefelbein
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313-6727

July 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein:

We have read the draft EIS for the proposed Kohler golf course located along the shoreline of Lake Michigan in Sheboygan County.

We oppose the removal and fragmentation of more of Wisconsin's migratory bird habitat along the Lake Michigan shoreline. We oppose the filling of more Wisconsin wetlands. We oppose the introduction of large amounts of lawn and turf chemicals into the water cycle and so close to Lake Michigan.

Both of us have birded along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Lord knows we have enough cleared and grubbed, graded and leveled, filled-in and developed lake shoreline lands and chemically dependent lawns in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Nancy Richmond and Jeff Herrett. The signature for Nancy Richmond is on the left, and the signature for Jeff Herrett is on the right, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of his signature across the page.

Nancy Richmond
Jeff Herrett
903 Randall Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501

Janet Smith
520 Elm Ct.
Plover, WI 54467

July 21, 2016

Jay Schiefelbein
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313-6727

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
For Proposed Kohler Golf Course
Town of Wilson, Sheboygan County
June 2016

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Kohler Company's proposal, as stated in the DEIS, the purpose of which is "to create a top-rated public golf course that would enhance Sheboygan County as a world-class golf destination and create economic development."

Though the DEIS indicates the above *Purpose*, it does not state any *Need* for the project, which, per The Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), is required (Purpose and Need statement). The DEIS states that this project is supposed to be similar to the Whistling Straits course, which is located on the Lake Michigan shoreline as well. Kohler also owns Blackwolf Run golf course in Sheboygan County.

Thus, there are already two "world-class" golf courses, among at least 8 others, in Sheboygan County, one of them already on the shores of Lake Michigan. I see absolutely no *Need* for this golf course, given the presence of so many other courses in the County.

The Kohler-Andrae Dunes is noted as a Legacy Place in the Central Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape (*Wisconsin Land Legacy Report*, WDNR, 2006). Thus, the area slated for the project has been identified by WDNR and others as part of a critical landscape to protect. This project would set a terrible precedent in taking state park land from Kohler-Andrae State Park, one of the most-visited and popular state parks. Per Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location." The proposed development violates Section 6(f), as the proposed development is not in accordance with the comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan, nor is there any property along the lakeshore adjacent to the state park that could replace the land that is proposed to be taken by Kohler.

Per WEPA, the EIS must consider "Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented." The impacts to this shoreline forest and wetland complex will be irreversible and irretrievable, and set a terrible precedent. Development of this proposal would **permanently destroy** one of the few remaining intact, large tracts of coastal forest and high-quality [REDACTED]. As has been noted by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology in their comments, this coastal forest and associated wetlands has been identified as an "Important Bird Area, or IBA, a worldwide program in which Wisconsin participates. This area was recognized as an IBA due to the extensive use by birds as on-shore migratory stopover habitat and off-shore wintering waterbird habitat.

This area has also been identified by the Wisconsin Stopover Initiative as a Tier 1 area, the highest level of significance for bird migration stopover habitat."

This area provides critical habitat for migratory birds, some of them state-listed [REDACTED] and many bird species in decline.

Despite the requirement for wetland mitigation and mitigation of other natural resources and cultural impacts, as per WEPA, and the Clean Water Act, mitigation is only to be considered **last** in the regulatory sequence of "Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate (Compensate)". Additionally, compensatory mitigation is only to be considered if there is **NO Other Feasible Alternative**. Kohler owns or can acquire hundreds of acres that are not on the Lake Michigan shoreline, and that would not forever destroy critical migratory bird habitat, rare plant species, rare, high-quality wetlands, and archaeological artifacts of critical importance to Native American tribes. Kohler can build another "world-class" golf course elsewhere, but there will never again be a forested tract like this one once it is destroyed. It cannot be adequately mitigated.

Based on the lack of demonstrated Need, scientific data, pertinent laws, regulations, policy, precedent-setting nature of the proposal, and the fact that the project would cause irreversible and irretrievable harm to the natural and cultural environment, I ask that this proposal be denied.

Sincerely,


Janet E. Smith

cc: Senator Tammy Baldwin
Representative Ron Kind
State Senator Julie Lassa
State Representative Katrina Shankland

Ed Mueller
1821 Birch Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
312-696-2502

August 24, 2016

Jay Schiefelbein
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313-6727

Re: Draft EIS for Kohler golf course

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein:

Our family owns the property at 610 Beach Park Lane, inside the KohlerAndrae state park shown on your maps as "Private Parcel" or "Camp Taswood", Tax Parcel Number 59030458260.

There is no reason to use the Park Entrance Road to get into Kohler's proposed golf course, if the course is approved. Attached is a drawing showing two entrances that would not impact traffic to the park or to our private property, and would not interfere with any paths used by hikers. These entrances would be well away from the trails and trail head further North on County V. If you drive out to the site of the proposed course, you can see that no private parcels or driveways would be anywhere near these proposed entrances. Kohler can build a new bridge over the Black River to spare wear and tear on the historic old bridge on the V Road by the Park entrance, which bridge is used by bikers and hikers as well as by cars getting into the park and into our property (My 71 year old sister fell into the Black River or was pushed by my cousin when she was about 5 years old, falling from the supports for this very bridge – but that is another story).

Any maintenance shed should be as far from the Park and from our property as possible and far away from other private properties. Per the draft EIS, operations start at 5 a.m., with heavy machinery, etc. Kohler's engineers are placing the maintenance shed near our property so that golfers and clubhouse users will not have to see it and hear the engines and suffer any pesticide spills! The shed should be conveniently located in the

Jay Schiefelbein
August 24, 2016
Page 2 of 2

center of his property, away from the private houses on the north and our cottage on the south, near the proposed driving range and near the new club house. Let the noise and chemical pollution at least take place on the property of the polluter!

To reiterate another point made by many others, anticipated problems with water wells have to be fixed in advance. The draft EIS admits that there will be an effect on the water table for shallow wells, like ours. We cannot have water service interrupted. It is callous to think that this problem can be fixed by someone coming out a few weeks later and drilling a deeper well.

Please take these comments into consideration. This letter is not in any way supporting the new course, but if it is approved, steps should be taken to limit the damage to private properties and public parkland from the callous and indifferent plan that Kohler's advisors have proposed.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward B. Mueller".

Ed Mueller

Aug. 27, 2016

To Jay Schiefelbein,

The Black River Forest is part of the North American Mississippi bird migration flyway. It is a primal forest containing Indian Mounds and could be registered as a National Natural Landmark. The reason the land remained pristine is because it is a wetland.

Kohler Co. can develop a sustainable use for the forest. One that would provide year-round jobs and tourists. One example is a Native American Cultural Center, which could include butterfly and bird watching. With the professional marketing of Kohler Co. this would provide world wide recognition. National support may also benefit the project and our area, bringing in other employment which would be sustained year-round.

Removing 50% of the forest and applying chemicals repeatedly to create a golf course will devastate the habitat.

With a recent phone call to a small local golf course I discovered the cost for spraying the course was \$5000.00. This is repeated many times each year. The Kohler golf courses use many times the amount.

Please do not allow Kohler Co. to build a golf course on their Black River Forest land. May the land remain pristine as was intended by The Kohler family.

Sincerely,

Joanne Friedman
W6654 Cty Rd V
Cascade, Wi.

53011

Jay Schiebelbein
WI DNR
2984 Shawano Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54313-6727

August 25, 2016

Dear Jay,

Over the last two and a half years I have spoken at the EIR and EIS public hearings, written to and met you and your colleagues, presented to the DNR staff as well as the Natural Resources Board regarding why the Kohler Co. should not be allowed to build their 5th championship golf course in the Town of Wilson/Black River area.

I am now reading 2 books that confirm my viewpoints about the dangers of allowing this course to proceed and the threats it will pose on our community, its water supply, Lake Michigan, and the forest, its plant and animal inhabitants.

The first book is written by Jane Goodall titled: **Seeds of Hope. Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants.** She describes the forest as a

“living, breathing entity of intertwining, interdependent life-forms. It is perfect, complete, a powerful presence, so much more—so very much more—than the sum of its parts.” pg.59.

pg. 301— “[W]e really do NEED our forests. They provide us with clean water, protect the watershed, and prevent erosion. They provide food and medicinal plants, and support a very wide range of different animals and plant species, thus protecting biodiversity. Moreover, forests are often referred to as the ‘lungs of the world’, as they take in CO2 from the air and release oxygen.”

Pg. 302— [W]e need to be wise enough to understand how they (forests) work and gratefully accept the benefits they offer. However, in this greedy, materialistic world it is useful to be able to point out that it makes more economic sense to protect rather than to destroy the trees—in other words to assign a monetary value to living trees, particularly those in an intact forest.”

She continues on that page-- Sir Nicholas Stern, chief British scientist studying the economics of global climate change, said **“the cheapest and most efficient way of slowing down global warming was to save and restore our forests.”**

In my Black River/Town of Wilson world-- Bulldozing this forest ecosystem, and bringing in foreign soils and plants to put in a golf course with all of its damaging chemicals just doesn't make one iota of sense to me. Planting grass seed where there was once a prolific, sustainable forest floor doesn't make any sense either.

Furthermore, I lost my sand-point well years ago and had to get a new deeper one. I sure don't want to have to worry about the safety of this one because the golf course, (just through the woods from my home), would be pumping millions of gallons of water every summer to irrigate the greens and fairways. Yikes!

Someone has to say "NO!" If Jane Goodall were here, that's exactly what she would say to you-- the decision makers on this project.

The second book I'm reading is written by Professor McKay Jenkins titled: **ContamiNation. My Quest to Survive in a Toxic World.** This entire book is about how we are slowly and methodically killing ourselves with all of the 80,000 chemicals we are exposed to, many on a daily basis. Plastics of all types, flame retardants (on our clothes, drapes, car seats, and furniture), and, yes, fertilizers and pesticides. All of these are designed not to break down. It is a sobering book to say the least. I encourage all of your team to read it.

I have included 3 pages from Jenkins' book regarding lawn (and golf course) fertilizers for your edification. There is nothing minimalist (as Kohler touts) about putting chemicals on the earth to keep things green, bug and weed free. . . because they all just end up, one way or another, in the water we use to drink, cook, bathe and swim in. And the tress and wetlands won't be there to protect us! Also, Jenkins has a whole chapter on the topic of water in his book, but I've said enough already. Sobering and scary!

I've enclosed a copy of the comments I said at the Sheboygan Falls public hearing. I don't envy any of you the job you are faced with. . . making your bosses and a billionaire happy or saving our environment. I, for one, would like you to have the courage to stick to the DNR's mission:

To protect and enhance:
our air, land and water;
our wildlife, fish and forests
and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

And to consider the future
and generations to follow.

This is the wrong place for a golf course. It's too sensitive, too unique of an area to ruin it with that. I hope Mr. Kohler will pursue other options for this land (like a Native American Cultural Center and Wildlife Research Center & Observatory) that will allow it to be protected and preserved and for more of us to be able to enjoy it. This would create a positive and lasting legacy for him as well.

Sincerely,



Claudia J. Bricks
314 Pioneer Rd.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

My name is Claudia Bricks. I have resided at 314 Pioneer Rd. in Sheboygan, Town of Wilson for 30 years.

After reading the EIS, I had 3 major concerns:

1. It's incomplete. Why was it written now, before Kohler had any permits, (or even an application on file)? This would have forced them to give more information to the writers of the EIS so it was more complete.
2. Given the DNR's stated mission to protect and enhance our natural resources, why are you even thinking about approving this project? Here's what I found . . .

Section 6- Department Evaluation of Project Significance- page 58-unavoidable impacts-

- Drawdowns of residents' wells as being probable and unpredictable because of Silurian Dolomite fractured Aquifer. **THIS NEEDS MORE STUDY**
- Destruction of acres of functional and rare wetlands
- Deforestation of 50% of the trees,
- Destruction of plant and animal habitats and dunes, some of which are rare or endangered.
- Leaching of pesticides and fertilizers into the shallow groundwater aquifer, wetlands and eventually Lake Michigan and the Black River. **THIS NEEDS MORE STUDY**

My biggest concern:

3. Giving Kohler 4 acres of State land, (probably more like 20 acres) to build a round-a-bout to accommodate campers and golfers alike. This seems unthinkable! This Park is visited by over 400,000 people each year, that's close to the number of people who descended on the Whistling Straits 2015 PGA Championship last summer.

How are all those cars and people going to get over that one bridge into the area? **THIS NEEDS MORE STUDY**

My other comments:

Impacts not mentioned, glossed over or need more study:

- Potential Septic system failure due to high water table
- Beach access for beach walkers
- Migratory Bird habitats with 50% deforestation.
- Just exactly how much State Park land will be given away for this project?
- Archaeological findings
- Air quality impact of hundreds of cars idling as they wait to park during a major tournament.

I could go on and on. . . they are listed in my letter to you.

I want to focus on . . .

- Economic impact in part. . . 227 jobs and \$121 million in County revenue. Most Town residents won't play golf here and will only see a fraction of this predicted revenue, BUT they will experience the named impacts/consequences listed in this letter. They will also have to put up with the impacts of construction for 2-3 years.

How do you put a price tag on that?

I have another economic view point:

How do you put a price tag on monarchs feeding on milkweed?

Or spring peepers using the wetlands each spring?

Or a muskrat? Or a red tailed hawk? Or a great blue heron?

Or a fox and its kits? Or a turtle basking in the sun on a log?

And yes, the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

How do you put a price tag on these?

The truth is. . . you can't. They are priceless. If their home is destroyed, where will they go?

Your stated mission in part is:

To protect and enhance:

our air, land and water;
our wildlife, fish and forests
and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

And to consider the future
and generations to follow.

If you don't protect these and our other natural resources as your mission states. . . who will?

This is the wrong place for a golf course. There is just too much impact to get beyond.
Someone has to tell Mr. Kohler that and say "NO, not here."

I hope it is you.

If this land is destroyed, it will be gone forever.

Thank you.

Claudia J. Bricks

"A *Silent Spring* for the human body."
—RICHARD PRESTON, author of *The Hot Zone*

ContamiNation

My Quest to Survive in
a Toxic World



from
Claudia's
Books

McKay Jenkins

Previously published as *What's Gotten Into Us?*

a Toxic World

ContamiNation

McKay Jenkins

Gro, perhaps the most famous synthetic chemical fertilizer ever put on the market.

But don't expect Scotts to sit and wait for you to find them. The company sends our house a mailing every spring, urging us not to fall behind our neighbors. "What's wrong with your lawn?" the flyer asks. "What do you need to do now to protect your lawn from unsightly weeds, insects you can't even see, and damaging turfgrass disease? Call Scotts LawnService like so many of your neighbors who had those problems. You'll see us treating their lawns throughout the season."

This is designed, of course, to cause you anxiety, and then, if you use their products, to offer you comfort. Included in the mailer are before and after photos, showing a lawn that miraculously changes from a shabby patchwork of green and brown to a green mat as uniform as Centre Court at Wimbledon or the eighteenth green at Augusta. There are also plenty of customer testimonials. "Our lawn is looking better and better," says one Robin M. "We get so many compliments on it and we want the lawn to continue to look its best. A lawn has many challenges and Scotts has been a real plus in our lawn's overall health and appearance!"

So: Is your neighbor's lawn greener than yours? Less weedy? What might this mean? Is their net worth higher than yours? Are their kids smarter? Is their sex life better? A TruGreen flyer we got this year features a photo of a smiling young man sharing a patio moment with not one, not two, but three beautiful women. If that comes with the lawn treatment, who could refuse?

Like countless other lawn-care companies, Scotts promises visits to your home by its team of "professionals" who are "trained" by Scotts LawnService Training Institute. The "professionals" will analyze and diagnose your lawn's "problems" and then recommend a course of chemical therapy. "No common, agricultural fertilizers are ever used," the flyer notes. "We apply Scotts professional slow-release fertilizer—the same ones [*sic*] developed, tested, and used on tens of thousands of lawns." A basic regimen might include regular applications of Scotts® slow-release fertilizers, plus Scotts® Halts® Crabgrass Preventer, Ortho® Weed B Gon® Pro™

actly straight and narrow. Tukey followed the family's agricultural tradition but charted his own way through central Maine's growing suburbs. For years, he operated one of the region's largest landscaping services, tending the lawns of more than eight hundred customers. He considered his job ideal. He worked sixteen hours a day, but he worked outside, in shorts and sandals. He never bothered with protective gear.

Then one day in 1993, he started getting nosebleeds. His vision became blurry. But that spring, with business booming and a new baby boy, Tukey was too busy to worry about his health.

As his business grew, Tukey took a job tending the grounds of a hospital in Portland. He had hired a group of graduate students for the work, and one day, the students' professor, an eminent horticulturist named Rick Churchill, came by to say hello. In Maine's gardening circles, Churchill was something of a hero, and Tukey, like many of Churchill's acolytes, ached for the elder man's approval. Tukey reached out to greet him.

Churchill's eyes remained focused on the ground. The weeds, which Tukey and his team had recently doused with synthetic herbicides, had begun to curl up and turn brown. Churchill gave Tukey a dismissive grunt and turned his back. He wouldn't even shake Tukey's hand.

"I didn't mince words," Churchill said. "I asked him how anyone in good conscience could be applying pesticides on the grounds of a hospital where there were patients being treated for cancers that could be linked to their exposure to pesticides. I asked whether he knew anything about the toxicity ratings of what he was applying, and how dangerous many of these compounds were to an individual compromised by illness. When I left his demeanor had changed."

Churchill's words cut deeply. "It was devastating psychologically," Tukey told me. "In Maine, Rick Churchill is an icon. His approval was a stamp that we all craved. It was especially daunting for me way back then because I had no idea at all how to get rid of those weeds without the chemical weed killers."

Tukey was stuck. Here he was, with twenty-eight employees, a

They offered to replace the depleted nitrogen, which home owners used to get for free, with synthetic nitrogen, for which they have to pay.

And pay. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, as in watersheds all over the United States, nitrogen runoff is considered among the worst problems for water quality. There are 3 million acres of turf grass in the Chesapeake watershed, most of it fertilized with synthetic fertilizer. Since synthetic fertilizers are water-soluble, a good bit of it will run off your lawn after a rain—which is a waste of your money and creates genuine problems in river water once your fertilizer mixes with the runoff fertilizer of thousands of other homes. This is because fertilizer doesn't just feed the grass on your lawn; it also feeds plants that grow in the water. Doused with chemical fertilizers, underwater algae can grow exponentially, creating "algae blooms" that—as they die and decay—suck most of the oxygen out of a lake or a bay. Some estimates say that each pound of phosphorous (which also comes from things like conventional laundry detergents) entering the water produces twenty pounds of algae; the cost of removing twenty pounds of algae is roughly \$200. Now start multiplying.

River-protection groups talk about pollution "loads" that build up from the rain running off farms, roads, and households. The thousands of pounds of fertilizing chemicals then create massive "dead zones," in which nothing—not fish, not plants, nothing—can grow. This is as true in the Gulf of Mexico as it is in the Chesapeake. In 2007, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation offered its annual report card on the bay's health, and the intertwined threats show just how much trouble chemicals can pose. The bay got an F for nitrogen pollution, a D minus for phosphorous, an F for water quality, an F for dissolved oxygen, and a D for toxics. All told, on a scale of 100, the bay's health was rated at a 28.

In California, scientists are discovering something even more haunting. Algae blooms off the coast are not only removing oxygen from the water, they are releasing a toxin that appears to be causing sea lions to go into epileptic seizures. The toxin, domoic acid, enters the food chain when sardines and herring eat algae,

Dead
Zones

then moves into the amniotic fluid of sea lions who eat the fish. If the sea lion happens to be pregnant, her fetus can be contaminated by the toxin and, years later, develop epileptic seizures. Documentary footage of a sea lion in seizure is something you need to see only once.

And it's not like Americans enjoy manicured lawns only at home. They also create them in order to play that most chemical-dependent of all pastimes: golf. By 2004, there were just under 15,000 golf courses in United States—all told, a patchwork of chemically treated turf the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. A 1990 survey of 52 golf courses on Long Island, conducted by the New York attorney general's office, found the courses covered with 50,000 pounds of active ingredients—about 18 pounds per acre per year, or six times what was needed to control weeds. "If you scraped a golf green and tested it, you'd have to cart it away to a hazardous waste facility," said Joseph Okoniewski, a biologist with New York's Environmental Department of Conservation.

Half

A former colleague of mine, an avid golfer and a cigar aficionado, once told me that he would never rest his cigar on the turf when he set up to hit the ball. He said he knew a man who claimed to have gotten mouth cancer from pesticides on the golf course. What I found striking about this story was that this man, a lifelong journalist and professor, was more worried about pesticides (about which the science is considered "inconclusive") than he was about smoking (about which the science is anything but).

Which brings me, inevitably, to the story of the Irish golfer who (how do I say this delicately?) liked to lick his balls. In 1997, doctors in Ireland reported the strange case of a sixty-five-year-old retired consultant engineer from Dublin who went to see doctors complaining of chronic lethargy, ink-dark urine, and acute abdominal pain. The doctors diagnosed hepatitis. After ruling out such other causes as drug or alcohol "indiscretions," the doctors came to a startling discovery. The man said he was a widower who played golf every day, and had developed a peculiar (if apparently not uncommon) habit: whenever he lined up to putt, he would clean his balls with his tongue. This despite signs on the course expressly

warning against "licking balls," because of recent applications of 2,4-D. Once the doctors advised against licking, the report said, the man "ceased his habit, and within two months his liver function tests had returned to normal and he felt well."

Four months later, however, the patient returned for more liver tests. He was sick again. He told his doctors that he had grown skeptical of their diagnosis and, just to prove them wrong, had "resumed licking his golf ball." Once again, his tests showed hepatitis. Convinced at last, the man accepted a diagnosis of "golf liver," and now, the researchers reported, he plays golf regularly, carries a damp cloth to clean his golf ball, and "remains well."

Paul Tukey knows a thing or two about pesticides; the man who invented 2,4-D was a distant cousin. When Tukey was a kid in the late 1960s, his grandfather would hire a biplane a couple of times a year to spray his 300 acres of fields in Bradford, Maine. The fields were mostly planted with feed for a herd of 260 cows, not with crops intended for human consumption. The presumption, apparently, was that pesticides sprayed on the feed crops would not enter the human food chain—despite the fact that the cows were milk cows and Paul drank their milk. But none of this was on Paul Tukey's mind as he and his grandfather drove out to watch the airplanes. Spraying day was, for a young boy on a farm, a thrill.

"My grandfather would go out in the field, dressed in his wool underwear and thick heavy pants, and wave the biplane over his field," Tukey recalled. "They'd drop this white powder, and he'd get back in the truck looking like Frosty the Snowman. Then we'd drive to the next field, and he'd do it again. My grandfather was getting doused twenty times a day, but he would never let me out of the truck. I would *beg* him. I always wondered why I couldn't go out and get dusted."

Tukey's grandfather died of a brain tumor at the age of sixty.

Now tall and athletic, with sun-bleached hair, Tukey combines the easy charisma of a ski instructor with the ardor of an evangelist. And like any convert, his road to enlightenment was not ex-

Dandelion & Weed Control, and Ortho Max® Pro™ Guaranteed Season-Long Insect Control. A Plus package gets you all that plus Scotts® GruEx® Guaranteed Season Long Grub Control and some "core aeration," which means a guy pushes a roller around your yard, punching holes in it. The Complete package gets you all this plus some lime for pH balancing and some extra grass seed.

Even grass seed, nowadays, comes coated with chemicals. A bag of Scotts grass seed is labeled "Pure Premium," as if it's a cut of good beef. A closer look reveals that the seed has been treated with Apron XL LS fungicide, whose scientific name is, and I quote, (R)-Z-([2,6-dimethylphenyl]-methoxyacetyl-amino)-propionic acid methyl ester. Perhaps because of the double parenthetical, the bag helpfully notes that the fungicide is "commonly known as Mefenoxam or Metalaxyl-M." That does help. The bag also requests, in bold black type, that it be kept out of the reach of children, and that anyone using the seeds "wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks and waterproof gloves," and that the gardener "remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse." The bag also provides a phone number for "emergencies" related to the fungicide: call Syngenta Crop Protection, 1-800-888-8372.

Did you know that grass seed could contaminate your clothes?

Anxiety about the toxicity of lawn chemicals has presented companies with a significant public-relations challenge. In Baltimore, Scotts ends a radio commercial with the request that home owners "remember to sweep fertilizer off your driveway to keep drinking water clean." This gesture seems disingenuous at best; sweeping chemicals from a driveway back onto a lawn would prevent a fraction of the treatment from washing away during heavy rains. And as Jerry Kauffman would be quick to point out, all of this stuff ends up, one way or another, in our water supply.

As the use of chemicals has become more and more widespread, chemical companies have realized an unexpected source of profits. Herbicides like 2,4-D preserve grass but kill clover; that's why people buy them. But clover, unlike grass, can pull nitrogen out of the air and "fix" it in the soil. Without clover, soil becomes nitrogen-poor. So what did the chemical companies do?

lover

“An invaluable resource.”

—ROBYN O'BRIEN,

author of *The Unhealthy Truth* and founder of AllergyKids Foundation

A few years ago, journalism professor McKay Jenkins went in for a routine medical exam. What doctors found was not routine at all: a tumor the size of a navel orange was lurking in his abdomen. When Jenkins returned to the hospital to have the tumor removed, he was visited by a couple of researchers with clipboards. They had some questions for him. Odd questions. How much exposure had he had to toxic chemicals and other contaminants? Asbestos dust? Vinyl chloride? Pesticides? A million questions, all about seemingly obscure chemicals. Jenkins, an exercise nut and an environmentally conscious, organic-garden kind of guy, suddenly realized he'd spent his life marinating in toxic stuff, from his wall-to-wall carpeting to his drinking water. And from the moment he left the hospital, he resolved to discover the truth about chemicals and the “healthy” levels of exposure we encounter each day as Americans.

Jenkins spent the next two years digging, exploring five frontiers of toxic exposure—the body, the home, drinking water, the lawn, and the local box store—and asking how we allowed ourselves to get to this point. He soon learned that the giants of the chemical industry operate virtually unchecked, and a parent has no way to know what her child's toy is made of. Most important, though, Jenkins wanted to know what we can do to turn things around. Though toxins may be present in products we all use every day—from ant spray, perfume, and grass seed to shower curtains and, yes, baby shampoo—there are ways to lessen our exposure. *ContamiNation* is an eye-opening report from the front lines of consumer advocacy.

“Chock full of suspense.”

—SANDRA STEINGRABER, author of *Living Downstream*

“Entertaining and positive.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



McKay Jenkins is the author of *The Last Ridge*, *The White Death*, and *Bloody Falls of the Coppermine*. A professor of English, journalism, and environmental humanities at the University of Delaware, Jenkins lives with his wife and two children in Baltimore.

MCKAYJENKINS.COM

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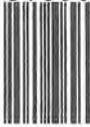
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July 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the WDNR transferring any portion of Kohler-Andre State Park to Mr. Kohler or anyone else for that matter. The Wisconsin State Park System was set up for the enjoyment of the public and the preservation of the natural environment which includes the flora and fauna that reside in their diverse ecosystems.

This is a well used and loved State Park and should not be parceled off so that a wealthy and privileged private individual can make a profit. Selling this land will not benefit the average citizen of Wisconsin and is in direct opposition to the WDNR's responsibility to work in the best interest of the public as a whole.

If Mr. Kohler wishes to wipe out thousands of years of Native American historical artifacts on his own property and there's no laws against it that's one thing but enabling him to facilitate this ethnic cleansing of a peoples ancient history in the name of Wisconsin is unacceptable.

I am sure by now you are well aware what the many negative impacts of constructing a golf course on this environmentally sensitive site are so I won't repeat them in this letter. But the hydrology dictates where the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used to preserve the green of the non native turf used will end up: in the ground water and in Lake Michigan.

It would be refreshing to see the WDNR take a stand for the people of Wisconsin and deny any divestment of Kohler Andre State Park.

Sincerely



James Maurer
3707 west Kilbourn Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208-3112
414-933-455
coolstuf45@sbcglobal.net

Marsha Kerpe

5021 Evergreen Drive

Sheboygan WI 53081

Jay Schiefelbein

Department of Natural Resources

2984 Shawano Ave

Green Bay, WI 54313

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein:

I read every word of your draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kohler Golf course and was astonished that the DNR would put out a report of such substandard mediocre quality. The draft was not only poorly written, but incomplete. It is inexcusable to conclude vital points with "possibly" "maybe" or "potentially." It is also unpardonable, unconscionable and unprincipled to write your report based on Kohler data. I remember when the DNR was tough, they did their job, they were honest, they protected the environment, and they weren't for sale to the highest bidder.

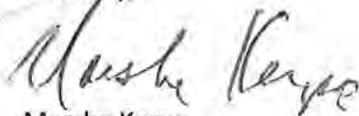
Your Environmental Impact Statement should have been named Economic Impact Statement. Facts that you should be aware of are that the people who are opposed to the golf course are opposed to it for pure reasons of what it is going to do to the environment, the land and the wildlife. The people who are for the golf course are for it because of what it could potentially do for them financially. Two weeks before the DNR hearing Kohler send out a letter to the heads of various businesses in town asking them to come support them. Dr. Ashok Rai gave a lovely speech because he is the CEO of Prevea and has a health care contract with Kohler. Dr. Rai lives in Green Bay and I doubt that he has even been to Kohler Andrae State Park. Andrew Bagnall also gave his rah rah speech because he is the administrator of St. Nicholas Hospital, which is also involved with a medical contract with Kohler. He lives in Howards Grove, not even close to the state park. Another gentleman got up and stated that it is "Mr. Kohler's right to build whatever he wants on his property." I asked him why he was in favor of the golf course and he said that if it goes through and they have tournaments, people will pay to park their cars in his front yard.

Kohler boasts of the jobs this will bring in to the community. At Whistling Straits, Kohler used Hispanic immigrants for the initial work on the golf course. Minimum wage, no benefits. Right now at the American Club, Kohler is desperately in need of housekeeping workers, so they brought in 40 Jamaicans, called them "interns", pay them minimum wage and also give them no benefits. They can barely afford to eat, so they go to local food pantries to obtain food. I am the head of the St. Luke Food Pantry and they tell me they do not make enough money to buy food. These are the jobs that Kohler is going to bring into our community.

I could state all the facts for denying the Kohler golf course, but instead I would like you to read and then reread what the former superintendent of Kohler Andrae State Park, Mr. James Buchholz has written. He has written it with extreme knowledge and experience, covers all the points and he has NOTHING to gain by sticking his neck out in this battle. He is doing it because of his love for the park and for doing what is right.

Please do your job and stand for what you are supposed to be protecting. Have the guts to do what is right and not be swayed by pure greed.

Sincerely,



Marsha Kerpe

July 23, 2016

I am strongly opposed to the development of the proposed 18-hole golf course in the Town of Wilson by the Kohler Company. I also feel the DNR's proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is flawed and incomplete for the following reasons:

- The Dept. of Natural Resources has no right and nor any responsibility to "give away" 4-plus acres of publicly-owned state park land to anyone, especially to a "for-profit" business or person for the purpose of increasing the revenue of such business or to increase the income of any person or corporation. Kohler-Andrae State Park's land acquisition was supported by Federal LAWCON funding. As such the conversion of these public lands to a private person or corporation is NOT justified to accommodate their financial interests and is not permitted except in very rare circumstances.
- The EIS document map shows a total of over 19 acres that are being considered for Kohler's development with no detail as to the actual footprint of the development. The EIS mentions the size of maintenance building to be constructed on state park lands but does not state the size of the paved parking lot that would need to service the proposed maintenance building. The area listed for conversion is listed as "lightly used" ... as if it doesn't matter if the land is given away or not. This is far from the truth. The area may not be used as heavily as the park's beach and picnic areas but this was by design by park management. Hiking trails, boardwalks, restrooms, etc. were left out of this area to keep it in its natural sand dune state to protect this rare ecosystem as mandated by the Kohler-Andrae State Park Master Plan.
- The DNR's EIS states that permitting the transfer of public land for Kohler's own private use and the development of roads,

shop buildings and parking areas on these fragile and rare sand dune lands would “not set a precedent” My question and that of anyone else reading this EIS is how could it not?

If this is approved for Kohler, “ I “ would like to request and expect approval for my own 4 acres so I could set up my own business, perhaps a hotdog stand. Of course, like Kohler, I would have to ban park visitors from ever setting foot on my part of their public land again (unless they purchase one of my hotdogs of course).

This land transfer for private use should not be allowed regardless of the political involvement, DNR appointments and pressure from the Governor’s office. The DNR is supposed to represent the preservation and protections of all public lands. Park visitors should not have to be denied access to their public lands just to appease a large corporate donor to a particular party or person. If so, all confidence is lost for this agency now and into the future. The EIS hints at what is already known in that the DNR intends to “alter” the existing property master plan in order to give away this part of the park to a corporation. The Kohler-Andrae Master Plan was developed over several years of local and statewide public input and was approved by the Wis. Natural Resource Board. It cannot be altered without permission and approval of the natural resource board “and” without new local and statewide public debate/hearings.

- The EIS does not include the acreage necessary and loss of sand dune habitat needed to construct the proposed “roundabout” at the park’s office area. The design shown in the document would be way too small to accommodate all the heavy traffic and especially the larger delivery semi and panel trucks that would be entering and exiting the state park and the golf course on a regular basis. It would not even accommodate most of the

larger RV's and longer camping trailers that would need to maneuver through this small roundabout. A much larger roundabout would be needed which would require at least an acre of land (sand dune habitat) and create even more lost public land and habitat.

- The traffic system LOS (Level of Service) calculations were incomplete and as stated in the DNR EIS report, did not occur during the heaviest use times for traffic on weekends. With more than 400,000 visitors a year the Kohler-Andrae entrance is already burdened by way too many vehicles, RV's and trailers. Backups all the way out to the Co. Hwy V have regularly occurred during busy times and even during the evening hours if special event are held in the park. The addition of even more heavy traffic due to Kohler's golf course and their proposed clubhouse/restaurant by cars, delivery trucks and most likely buses from their own hotels, would certainly cause traffic jams and confusion for all, especially since their highest use period would "also" be on weekends. Visitors to both the state park and the golf course will be frustrated by this unnecessary traffic congestion. It would also hamper all police, fire and rescue emergency calls. According to Kohler's plan for the course it would host some high profile events as well. If so, "where" would all these people park and how would they all access the golf course at the same time of year that the state park has so much incoming and outgoing traffic?
- If" Kohler receives a positive DNR EIS report it should only be approved without the loss of publicly-owned state park land for their entrance road, roundabout, shop building and parking lots. There is no convincing need to use state park lands to accomplish their project other than it is the "cheapest" way to go for the Kohler company. This should not be a consideration for the DNR to give away state park lands. The alternative D-3 of the EIS is the correct route to go and should be selected by

the DNR's EIS as the only course to take. The D-3 version allows Kohler to make use of their own existing entrance off of Co. Hwy V (12th Street) north of the state park with a direct eastern access to their property. Yes, this would mean the construction of an expensive bridge over the Black River and additional road building on their property but again, this is the Kohler Company's concern and not the DNR's. There is no logical reason why the golf course shop building and parking lots could not be built on their own property adjacent to the existing state park shop building as was originally planned. There is no reason to take away public state park land and destroy rare sand dune formations and habitat for Kohler's shop building and parking area development when they have 247 acres of their own property to work with.

- The EIS does mention a few negative effects of Kohler's plan to deforest 50 or more acres of mature timber but there are many more. This unique forest, dune and wetland area is an extension of the rare sand dune ecosystem that is currently protected and managed by the DNR on the Kohler-Andrae State Park property. Clear cutting, pulling stumps, and bulldozing these areas for the purpose of installing golf course greens will forever destroy a fragile landscape and ecosystem that has evolved in its present state since the last ice age over 14,000 years ago. Unfortunately the Kohler company does not see any problem with destroying this very unique and rare Great Lakes sand dune area for the purpose of building a golf course for their wealthy clients. The EIS does mention that there are "several rare species" that will be destroyed by Kohler's development. A few are listed but not all. Some are [REDACTED] species such as the [REDACTED] plus [REDACTED] species including most of the [REDACTED] such as [REDACTED] and many others. Many of these are only found growing on Great Lakes sand dunes and nowhere else in the world.

- Bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian and insect life (some rare/threatened) that have adapted to both the wooded and open dune habitat would also be displaced or destroyed by the Kohler development. The combination of the state park and Kohler forested area has long been known as an “Important Bird Area” (IBA) for migratory birds along Lake Michigan. Throughout the entire history of the DNR and the Conservation Commission before that, staff managers, biologists and scientists have supported and strived to protect these areas at all costs. The EIS should make a strong statement against the destruction and fragmentation of this important IBA and Great Lakes dunes habitat. It should be noted also that an active bald eagle nesting site is located only a short distance to the north of the Kohler property which most likely will be negatively affected by the massive tree removal, development and increase in public use of this area.
- The EIS also mentions several “globally rare” wetlands that will be lost in the construction of the golf course. The DNR’s own Bureau of Endangered Species has termed these rare wetlands [REDACTED] as the rarest, most irreplaceable habitat/ecosystems in the state of Wisconsin. If the DNR doesn’t protest the irreversible/permanent destruction of this important and threatened ecosystem who will? Wetland replacement mitigation was mentioned as a possible replacement of these lost wetlands but it must be very clear to all reading the EIS or least the DNR staff themselves that these rare [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wetlands cannot be reproduced artificially elsewhere. The EIS should make this clear to all readers in addition to explaining why these wetlands and surrounding dune formations should be protected from development.
- The effects of groundwater well water drawdown due to the proposed high capacity wells usage is listed in the EIS as

“uncertain”. This uncertain designation is not appropriate and should be studied in more detail by someone other than the Kohler Company. Their estimate of using 15-25 million gallons a year (just to water their golf course) plus about 2 million more of potable water usage seems low. These estimates were all based on water usage at Kohler’s other golf courses. This reasoning fails to take into account that none of the other courses were built on 247 acres of nearly pure dry sand with little or no water holding capacity.

- There was mention that the high capacity wells located within Kohler-Andrae State Park have not caused any problems to the surrounding landowners but obviously the park doesn’t use 15-25 million gallons of water for irrigation/watering lawns. In fact, the park doesn’t water any of its lawns and never has. The park only uses well water for flush toilets, water fountains, two small fill towers at the dump station for campers and to provide water at few shower stalls and sinks for campers. Kohler’s only advise for local neighbors who will run out of water when their wells run dry is to contact them for help and “they” will determine if they believe their water drawn down are at fault or not. This information (clearly written directly by Kohler staff) does NOT belong in a DNR EIS document in my opinion and is of no help to local citizens who will be effected by the massive water use for the golf course. In addition, the state park itself may have water issues with its own wells due to the high draw of ground water aquifers which will affect all state park visitors and campers.
- Overall, I feel the DNR’s EIS is incomplete, lacks scientific analysis and study, and depends way too heavily on the Kohler Company’s own very slanted studies and papers. Much of the EIS document seems to be a rehash of Kohler’s EIR report from March of 2015. At that time citizens were asked to submit questions and concerns about that document as did the DNR itself. To date very few answers or responses have been given

by the Kohler company to those concerns and are clearly NOT covered in the proposed EIS. It would seem impossible to complete a DNR EIS without that data and lots of other very important "missing" information about the golf course and related facility/roads development plans. Unfortunately as a result of this missing documentation and lack of detailed construction and road/parking lot placement plans it is really not possible for citizens to comment fully on Kohler's proposal or the DNR's current EIS.

James Buchholz
(retired superintendent of Kohler-Andrae State Park)
Sheboygan County Resident
Plymouth, WI

Proposed Kohler Golf Course, Town of Wilson, Sheboygan Co.

Do you wish to make an oral statement? Yes No

Name*: Michael Leannah

Representing: _____

Address: 522 Grant Av.

Sheboygan, WI 53081

Phone: 920-457-4862

E-mail: funamanmike@gmail.com

Check box to subscribe to email updates about the proposed Kohler golf course. (Be sure to include an email address above.)

* Personally identifiable information collected on this form is used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requesters under the public records laws, ss. 19.31 to 19.39, Wis. Stats.

Please provide your comments on the Draft EIS (please use the back of the sheet if necessary):

My concern is with the way this process is being done. The DNR seems to be doing things out of order. Specifically, the DNR wrote the EIS without receiving an application from the Kohler Company.

Too much of the entire process smells bad. Is the DNR in the back pocket of Gov. Walker, who is beholden to Mr. Kohler?

At the session of July 20 in Sheboygan Falls, many good points were made by those opposed to the golf course. Please listen and do well to serve the majority of the people who live in the area of the proposed golf course. They have so many legitimate concerns.

We should not be accommodating those who want to acquire land - 4 acres? 20? more? - from the state. If the DNR

PLEASE TURN IN COMMENT SHEET UPON COMPLETION.

truly cares about our "natural resources," this is a no-brainer. A virgin forest vs. a developed golf course with all the traffic and consumption involved in such. How, with good conscience, can the DNR ignore all signals and pass this to Kohler?

One speaker at Sheboygan Falls High School, a resident of the Town of Wilson, no less, very stupidly stated that the forest ought to be developed. As it is, "it's just sitting there."

That's what forests are supposed to do. Just sit there, being a forest, full of life.

Thank you.

July 25, 2016

Mr. Jay Schiefelbein
DNR
2984 Shawano Ave.
Green Bay, WI. 54313-6727

Sir,

The reason for me writing you is because of my concern for the proposed Kohler golf course in the Town of Wilson, Sheboygan County.

This proposed development is indeed a dichotomy of interests. Its between a proposed golf course ("green desert") and an area enhanced for golfers contrasted with a living dynamic system. I have two groups of speculative questions to put forth regarding this proposal.

The first group of questions involves the legal description and intent of the Kohler-Andrae State Park as a natural and protected area. If the legal intent of the state park as a public and natural area is compromised due to development of the golf course, the operation of the golf course, and two hundred thousand people at a tournament affecting the region. Can the park function as it was intended, and if not, would that than constitute damage to public property? If Kohler-Andre State Park was unable to function in its original state, due to all of the mentioned activity in the region. Would the affect be correctable in the future?

The second group of questions involves the Town of Wilson's ground water, the Niagara Aquifer, and the underlying sand stone aquifer.

At last years hearing a geologist explained how the Kohler Company was planning to drill to the sand stone aquifer, under the Niagara Aquifer, and use the sand stone aquifers water for sprinkling rather than use water from the Niagara Aquifer. In doing so, water from the Niagara Aquifer wouldn't be drawn down to deplete neighboring wells. He went on to say that the problem with this idea was that the sand stone aquifer was polluted and in addition to the pollutants there are two radioactive isotopes that would be pumped out of the ground at the same time. He thought that eventually pollutants from surface soils, leaching down, and leaks from around the well or wells would pollute the Niagara Aquifer. My questions are: If the Niagara Aquifer would become contaminated, sometime in the future, would the town of Wilson people have to connect to Sheboygan's water supply? Is Sheboygan's supply and delivery system large enough to accommodate additional customers and will the Kohler Company be held responsible for a supply line to the Town of Wilson and laterals to homes.

We are in the midst of one of the greatest mass extinctions in the history of our planet. Its our fault, we continue to carry on with our life style resulting in even more habitat loss for plants and animals we share this planet with. How far in the future will this extinction proceed before its affects catch up to us?

I would like to thank the DNR for allowing us to comment on this important project.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Perrodin". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the start of the first name.

Dan Perrodin
1326 N. 9th St.
Sheboygan, WI. 53081

July 20, 2016

Jay Schiefelbein

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2984 Shawano Avenue

Green Bay, WI 54313-6727

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein,

I am a former resident of Wisconsin and now reside in Sarasota, FL. Each year I visit Kohler-Terre Andre State Park and have friends in Black River. I have always been proud of Wisconsin's vision for state parks and environmental policies to preserve the natural beauty of Wisconsin for the present and future generations. However, this is no longer the case.

In regards to the Kohler Golf Course, I make the following points:

1. The Kohler Environmental Impact Study must be based on current scientific knowledge as well as accurate.
2. The DNR must act as an objective branch of the state with no favoritism towards the Kohler proposal.
3. The DNR must enact the Clean Water Act.
4. The DNR cannot give 4 acres of Kohler-Terre Andre State Park land to the Kohler Golf Course Project because the land will be used for profit which is against the law.
5. The environmental impact of clear cutting (50% of the land), the leveling of rare dunes, the land fill of rare wetlands will destroy the environmental uniqueness of this pristine land. This must not be allowed for it will change the entire hydrology of the area by destroying natural filters for agricultural and pesticide runoff into Lake Michigan.
6. Another reason this proposal must not go forward, is the diminished loss of habitat for birds and wildlife. This area is a tier 4 Important Migratory Bird Route.
7. The Army Corp of Engineers for the National Registry of Historic Places has recommended this area be preserved for its artifacts and remains of inhabitants from 1200 B.C.
8. Residents' wells will be drawn down because of the excessive amount of water required to water a golf course. It will only be remedied if one can prove to the Kohler Company that its pumping is responsible. In turn, lack of individual home well water equates into lower property values.

In conclusion, the DNR must protect Wisconsin's natural resources which was the purpose of its founding. There is no place for favoritism towards business.

Sincerely,

Lois A. Schaper
Lois A. Schaper, Ph.D.

5816 Fairway Lakes Drive

Sarasota, FL 34243

Jay Schiefelbein – DNR
2984 Shawano Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54313 – 6727

July 15, 2016

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein,

Although we are unable to attend the Golf Course EIS meeting on July 20th at the Sheboygan Falls H. S. Auditorium, my husband and I definitely wish to have our voices heard on such an Important Issue.

Both Ed and I enjoy watching golf so that is not the matter of concern. Neither of us have any objections at all to the game itself, only the location of this proposed one. There is already a golf course within a mile of the proposed one so this makes no sense at all. Even if we could play we couldn't afford the membership. The question is just who is this course really for? Certainly not the people who call this place home and we have lived at this address for 50 years.

The reason many people move to this location is to live a more STRESS FREE life, enjoying the quiet, watching wild life, listening to the sounds of nature and in general, doing our share to keep a healthy environment. We have created a small wild life patch on the east side of our home and use no herbicides, pesticides or fertilizer on our lawns and it looks no different than those who do. The wetlands that would be impacted by a golf course are too important to destroy! The traffic congestion, extra cost and noise would definitely impede the serenity of this area by a major golf tournament. This is way too high a price to pay!

Lake Michigan, as are all our water sources, are already stressed with pollutants. We fear in the future this water may look like a life saver to those in dire need of a fresh water supply. Do we really want to add more contaminants to this? We believe we have to start now to keep this necessity for life for future generations to enjoy the same life privileges as we have. We would like a good legacy to leave for this generations name.

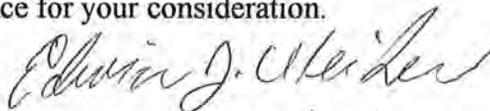
History and heritage are important! Native American artifacts will be destroyed. Think about it----- You can't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been.

With the amount of water used to make a golf course green, on a personal level, we worry about our own wells. Yes, we know Kohler has promptly fixed problem wells because of Whistling Straits but we still live by the adage of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

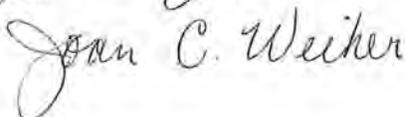
We truly need you not to turn your backs on us. We need your support to look at the bigger picture and not to add to this beautiful planets stress. The price is much too high to pay!

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edwin J. Weiher
Joan C. Weiher
1041 Panther Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081



7.18.16

Golf Courses in Sheboygan County

	Black Wolf Run - Kohler	18 holes
	The Ball - Sheb. Falls	18 holes
Kohler)	Whistling Straits - Hol Haven	18 holes
Kohler)	Irish Course - Haven	18 holes
	Quit Qui Oc Elkhart Lake	27 holes
	Town & Country - Sheboygan	27 holes
	Riverdale - Sheboygan	18 holes
	Sir Lancelot - Crystal Lake	18 holes
	Sunset Hills - Sheb. Falls	18 holes ^(par 3)
	Evergreen - Plymouth	18 holes
	Pine Hills - Sheboygan (Private)	18 holes
	Miller's Glen - Howard's Grove	9 holes

Can we see a pattern here?

How many more golf courses are needed?

How much is enough?

Kohler Co.'s proposed golf course would be a terrible waste of beautiful nature, valuable water, dangerous pesticides & fertilizer, not to mention a huge & detrimental increase in traffic & noise.

Kohler's courses are by definition public, yes, the intent is obviously geared to the wealthy. Greed is running rampant.

OVER →

Our disgraceful governor Walker & his cronies
in Madison & the equally disgraceful
D. N. R. secretary Cathy Stepp have no shame.
Their underhanded Shenanigans are an
outrage!

I am born & raised in Wisconsin & I love
our great state. What has been happening in
the last recent years have made me sad, mad,
& truly discouraged.

I have played golf for over 50 years,
& truly enjoy the game. We have more than
enough golf courses in Sheboygan County.

Kohler Co. simply must not be allowed to
rain this pristine area for another un-
wanted, unneeded, misguided idea for
another golf course.

Again, How Much is enough???

Herb Kohler can take his billions with him,
but it will do him no good. He cannot spend it
in the hereafter. How Much is enough??

For Herb Kohler & his company the obvious
answer is... it's never enough. Too, Too Bad.

Sighed, A very concerned citizen &
loyal Badger.

Mr. Schiefelbein:

7-10-16

My name is John Openath, I've lived in the Shelbyton area all my life.

I don't feel it's right for Kohler to put his new proposed golf course in the proposed area. To me that land seems low - "a wetland", a water shed, a place where nature can filter rain water the natural way.

I don't believe his planners can be trusted.

Back in the early 1980s, when Falls Diecast was being blamed for polluting the Shelbyton River.

How about the Kohler company?

See, I was born and ~~raised~~ raised on part of the Black Wolf golf course. My father and his brothers had a farm on the land, that was called "Horseshol Bend", across the river from the old Kohler waste water treatment plant.

To the north of that treatment plant, there use to be a big waste water culvert pipe that ran under the old highway 28.

It appeared to be, that it came from the Kohler foundary. Reason being, one of my brothers and myself use to sit on the hillside and watch all the different colored water come out of that pipe. Then all of a sudden when Falls Die Cast was being

~~blamed~~ blamed for polluting the river, that culvert pipe was taken out. If ~~the~~ Die Cast polluted the river, then there is a good

possibility that golfer ~~is~~ might be walking on contaminated soil. you see, that part and any other low lying land along the river would flood in the spring of the year, after after year.

Haven Wisconsin.

Whistling Straits golf course which use to be an army camp.

all the years that camp was there, there was no form of pollution to the soil? Lead, oil, grease and most of all "asbestos".

The shore land along the edge of the water was completely redone, re-built and yet the people in "Mount Pleasant", Racine county can't get any help to save their homes. Maybe they should contact Herb Kohler

It's to bad power and money, always seems to get its way.

Mr. John Oppenorth
N4415 Hidden Valley Dr.
Sheboygan Wis., WI 53085

Thanks for your time

John Oppenorth

P.S.

~~Reply~~
a reply comment would be nice.

OR a phone NO.

Waiting

A golf course is one of biggest waste of the most "Vital" natural resource we have. "WATER", without it, life stops.