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*For Immediate Release*

**Joint Press Release by WELA and Grande Cheese Company**

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Madison, WI – Grande Cheese Company (Grande) and the Wisconsin Environmental Law Advocates (WELA) announced today that they have entered into an agreement that will benefit the Lower Sugar River Watershed. Under the agreement, Grande will provide \$20,000 to the Green County Land Conservation Department to fund non-point source pollution abatement efforts in the Lower Sugar River Watershed.

In June 2007, Grande began operation of its new wastewater treatment system, designed to meet the terms of its Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit and to reduce the phosphorus, total suspended solids, and biological oxygen demand content of the wastewater discharged from its Juda, Wisconsin facility.

“Grande is proud of our reputation as an environmental steward. Our new wastewater treatment plant is a state-of-the-art system, and reflects our commitment to the highest quality effluent discharge from our ‘point source’ facility,” said Grande Vice President Mike Nelson. “By providing funds to the Green County Land Conservation Department to address nutrient contributions to the Lower Sugar River Watershed, Grande is also helping reduce ‘non-point source’ discharges to the area waterways. It is consistent with who we are as a company and with our focus on continual improvement in all that we do.”

“WELA is committed to improving the quality of our lakes, streams and rivers, and to reducing the amount of pollution in the point source and non-point source wastewater discharges to these waterbodies. Of particular concern to us is the impact that nutrients such as phosphorus have on water quality,” said WELA spokesperson Janet Boerboom. “Grande’s funding support will help the Green County Land Conservation Department in its efforts to reduce nutrient loading to the Lower Sugar River Watershed. While much more needs to be done, this work will benefit those who live and recreate in that area and all Wisconsin citizens who are committed to protect and improve our valuable clean water resources.”

The agreement resolves WELA’s legal challenges to Grande’s WPDES Permit, issued in July 2006 by the Department of Natural Resources.

WELA is an unincorporated association whose mission is to protect Wisconsin’s environmental resources, including air, water and land. WELA was represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. a non-profit environmental law center headquartered in Madison. Grande Cheese is a privately-owned cheese and whey company, founded in 1941 and headquartered in Lomira.