



CACC News

Visit www.cacemi.org

Dave Dempsey to Highlight CACC/ Lone Tree Co-Celebration

CACC and Lone Tree Council turn 30 this year! Both groups have spent these past three decades working mightily to protect our communities and watersheds, seeking fun and satisfaction in the work we do.

Both groups will join in a Co-Celebration/Reunion and Dinner, June 8, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Grand Banquet Center in Essexville.

Dave Dempsey, Communications Director for Conservation Minnesota, environmental policy consultant, and Great Lakes author is the featured speaker. Part of his speech will focus on the future direction of the environmental movement: where do we go from here? His most recent books are: *Great Lakes for Sale: From Whitecaps to Bottlecaps*, (University of Michigan Press, 2008) and *The Waters of Michigan*, (Michigan State University Press, 2008), which he co-authored with David Lubbers.

The Great Lakes Health Banner, with more than 80 panels depicting the struggle for the health of our communities will be on display.

Tim Joseph and Victor McManemy, treasured Great Lakes musicians/songwriters will fill our hearts with music.

Continued on page 4 - See "Co-Celebration"

CACC GMM to be held June 8th

CACC's General Membership Meeting will be held at noon at the Grand Banquet Center in Essexville, prior to CACC and Lone Tree's Co-Celebration. More details to be announced soon.

Family Corner Returns!

Protecting the Snapping Turtle Eggs



Artist: Lucia Sibley –Used with permission

Lucia Sibley, 6 years old, helped move these snapping turtle eggs from her family's driveway to a safer spot last spring. She later captured it on paper.

Lucia Sibley



Photo Credit –Gretchen Michaels

For more on Family Corner, see page 3.

Report from HEAL - Huron Environmental Activist League CACC Chapter - Alpena, MI

Every so often, we get a glimmer of hope. Although still faint, this is one of those times.

On checking my email on the morning of March 1st there was this email from James Pew, the Staff Attorney of Earthjustice. For those of you not familiar with Jim, he was the Earthjustice attorney that recently won the case against the EPA for violating enforcement of the Clean Air Act. He is also representing a number of environmental groups, of which one is the Huron Environmental Activist League, my group here in Alpena. We are suing the EPA for exempting older cement plants from mercury emission limits. The EPA is in violation of a federal court ruling that requires all cement plants to meet emission limits as required for power plants. The EPA rules would only apply to new cement plants.

Apparently the thought of getting their butts kicked once again by Jim and worse yet, going up against the same federal judge has made EPA rethink their decision. Here is what I received that morning:

“Hello all – EPA just filed a motion in the cement kilns case that states – for the first time – its intent to set actual mercury standards for existing kilns. The agency doesn’t say what the standards will be, but it’s still a big step in the right direction.”

In a conference call that afternoon, officers of many of the groups involved in the law suit discussed ways of trying to get some press on the EPA’s announcement. It was decided that a press release would come after next Tuesday’s primary elections, so its importance would not be lost.

A copy of the EPA motion was included with the email and there were some points that were of concern. There were no standards suggested, only that more time was needed to come up with the limits. We objected to the amount of time that was requested. EPA had requested a date in September to come up with the standards and possible enforcement a year later. Jim was going to file an objection because the EPA knows what cement plants have been emitting because emission data reporting from cement plants is required and the amount of time requested is excessive. Much quicker action could be

taken to cut down on mercury and other toxic emissions. It is important that the millions of pounds of other emissions such as: hydrogen chloride, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide - as well as mercury - from cement kilns be reduced.

Another thought was that the amount of time requested would place the decision into or near the elections where it could be lost or left up to a new administration and give the EPA a way out of making that decision. Now, the EPA would not think of doing that!

Bill Freese, Director,
H.E.A.L.

State Mercury Strategy Comment Period Extended to April 16

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) released the “Mercury Strategy Staff Report” January 30th, with their comprehensive mercury strategy, including 67 recommended actions toward a goal of eliminating mercury contamination in Michigan. A public comment period to assist the Mercury Strategy Working Group in identifying 1) partnerships for involvement in implementing the recommendations and 2) which actions should receive priority attention, is extended to April 16th.

MDEQ’s “desired end results are the removal of mercury-driven fish consumption advisories now in place and attainment of water quality standards for the protection of human health and wildlife.” - page 3, “Executive Summary, MDEQ Mercury Strategy Staff Report.”

Links to the full report and summary can be found on the MDEQ’s Mercury Homepage. Go to MDEQ’s homepage: www.michigan.gov/deq/ and click on the Mercury icon in the left navigation bar.

Comments can be submitted by mail, email, or fax to

Sheila Blais
MDEQ, Air Quality Division,
525 West Allegan Street, 3rd Floor North,
P.O. Box 30260,
Lansing, MI 48909;
blaiss@michigan.gov;
517-241-7499 (fax).

Family Corner Returns!

Carey Pauquette-Schalm, former CACC Administrator, originated Family Corner in December, 2006. She wrote:

“Many of us are involved in organizations such as Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination because we feel strongly about keeping our children free of unnecessary chemicals. In the back of our minds, it is in hopes of avoiding serious illness such as cancer, muscle disease, autism, and other chemically linked diseases.

I would like to challenge all of us to raise our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to become stewards of our environment.

Get them involved in our newsletter by submitting an electronic picture drawn by them. It can be a good digital photo of their art, a drawing done on the computer, or a scanned copy. We will pick an art project each newsletter to include for all to see.

This will assist us in giving our children pride in the Earth and everything she provides. To quote my favorite saying: ***We do not own the earth; we borrow it from our children.*** Let’s work together to provide a great inheritance and give them the respect and responsibility that comes with it.”

CACC is proud to reinstate Family Corner! You can email or mail artwork or photos of artwork with the child’s name, age, and hometown.

Before we can use artwork, CACC needs a note from a parent or guardian, dated and signed, with permission for CACC to use the child’s artwork. It can be handwritten or downloaded from the CACC website www.caccmi.org), and mailed to the address below.

Photos of the artist may be included. The CACC Education Committee will choose an entry for publication in each newsletter. If successful, we may open a webpage just for this project.

If you wish mailed photos/artwork to be returned, please include a separate self-addressed stamped envelope large enough to hold the artwork.

Email artwork to: kcumbow@caccmi.org Permission slips (and artwork) can be mailed to CACC NEWS, C/o 15184 Dudley Road, Brown City, MI 48416

Mark Your Calendars - 2008

April 9, 6pm - 5th Annual Environmental Leadership Celebration, (ACCESS) - Dearborn, MI. Contact Kathryn Savoie: <ksavoie@accesscommunity.org>

April 9 & 10 - Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region - MSU campus - Free admission, see: www.environment.msu.edu/climatechange

April 13 - CACC Board Meeting - Contact Kay: <kcumbow@caccmi.org>

April 22 - Earth Day - Many events this month and week related to Earth Day - check locally.

April 26, 10am - 4pm - CACC to table at Wild Lapeer Day, Lapeer, MI www.wildlapeer.com

May 2 - Great Lakes United Annual Membership Meeting, Huron, Ohio - See www.glu.org

June 8, 12 pm - CACC Annual Meeting, followed by CACC/Lone Tree 30-year Co-Celebration, 1-6 pm, Grand Banquet Center, Essexville. Speaker: Dave Dempsey - more details soon at: www.caccmi.org
CACC contact - Kay <kcumbow@caccmi.org>
Lone Tree contact – Pat <pat3race4@gmail.com>

Check CACC’s online ECO Calendar for additional current events at www.caccmi.org

Full Panel Review for Proposed Deep Nuclear Waste Dump on Lake Huron

Thanks to many concerned Great Lakes citizens, Ontario Power Generation's proposed deep underground dump for "low" and "intermediate" nuclear wastes at the Western Waste Management Facility, (WWMF), less than a mile from Lake Huron near Kincardine, Ontario, has been referred to a full environmental panel review under the auspices of the Canadian Ministry of Environment. These wastes originate at 20 Ontario nuclear plants, including 8 at the Bruce complex, adjacent to the WWMF.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will soon publish draft guidelines for public comment. To watch for their announcement, go to the URL: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index_e.htm and click on “Media Room.” More information, will be available soon at: www.caccmi.org

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On the web at: www.caccmi.org

CACC is a Proud member of Earth Share of Michigan!

Co-Celebration (continued from page 1)

Tickets will be available soon (probably mid-April.)

Please check back on our website: www.caccmi.org

Contacts: CACC - Kay - <kcumbow@greatlakes.net>

Tree Council - Pat - <pat3race4@gmail.com>

We look forward to your company, your memories and your continued commitment to the health of the Great Lakes.

Please keep the CACC NEWS coming to my mailbox!

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CACC

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Proposal is Faustian bargain: Bad health and degraded environment for more jobs

Sunday, March 16, 2008

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By Terry Miller

This is a long-overdue response to Consumers Energy's well-orchestrated campaign for its coal-fired plant in Hampton Township.

Michigan activists this past Christmas sent pro-coal legislators a lump of coal (including, unfortunately, my party's two representatives in Lansing, Jeff Mayes and Jim Barcia).

A lump of coal is what the Saginaw Valley is going to get if elected officials and voters don't spend more time debating the pros and cons of coal, rather than jumping on this corporate wagon.

Few of us these days need education on global warming: It's real. Yes, there are many sources, but as Ed Mazria, founder of Architecture 2030, has said, "The only fossil fuel that can fuel global warming is coal. If you stop coal, you stop global warming. End of story."

So let's look at Consumers Energy's coal-fired plant. On the resolution that came before my township board, it was called a "clean coal project" - that alone deserves a Corporate Bad Citizen Award. A look at the company's permit application suggests that with 5.7 million tons of carbon dioxide, 109 tons of sulfuric acid mist, 3,424 tons of carbon monoxide a year (with a 30- to 40-year lifetime), this is about as "clean" as a mud-wrestling match.

Once the trash capital, Michigan now is in danger of becoming the global warming and pollutant capital. Five proposed coal-burner applications are being reviewed in Lansing, and two additional ones are being considered.

Let's look at other contaminants Consumers has put on its permit application:

* Particulate matter. Breathing these fine particles can worsen emphysema, lung disease and chronic bronchitis. This "clean" plant will add a minimum of 683 tons a year to the air.

* Nitrogen oxide; it reacts with organic compounds and sunlight to form ground-level ozone, or smog. A UCLA School of Medicine study found that over time, repeated exposure to smog and other air pollutants can cause as much damage to the lungs as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. This "clean" plant will add a minimum of 1,366 tons a year to the air.

* Then there's mercury, a neurotoxin linked to nerve and brain damage, and lead. I don't think we have to dwell on these two toxic metals, except to note their role in our chronic fish advisories and impact on both recreational and commercial fishing. The proposed "clean" plant will release, at a minimum, an additional 436 pounds of lead and 49 pounds of mercury to the environment, a year. Some clean, ah?

Why, one might ask, would anyone embrace such an appalling addition to global warming and our already impaired Saginaw River system? Why would we knowingly expose the nearly 10,000 asthma sufferers in Bay County and our most vulnerable citizens, children and the elderly, to additional amounts of smog and ozone? The answer is a Faustian bargain - bad health, degraded environment, for good jobs.

Electrical need, jobs, economic improvement - that's what I have heard repeatedly in the community. But are a host of dirty plants the only means?

The argument goes: We need power to drive Michigan's growing economy.

But even according to Gov. Granholm's 21st Century Energy Plan, with its small commitment to efficiency and renewables, only one 1,000-megawatt plant is expected to be necessary, or at best two small plants. By contrast, other plans such as Environment Michigan's New Energy Future (www.environmentmichigan.org/reports/energy) sees no need for new coal plants. It would eliminate any growth in electricity demand through energy efficiency and electricity from renewable sources.

What about the jobs and the economy?

A report developed by the Renewable Energy Policy Project and distributed by the Blue Green Alliance, a union of the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers, suggests that 185,000 megawatts of power would generate 24,350 jobs in wind, 6,644 jobs in solar, 1,502 jobs in geothermal and 2,281 in biomass - 34,777 jobs.

The rub, of course, is they would be all over Michigan, and not just the 1,800 construction jobs and 80 permanent positions specifically at the Karn-Weadock facility in Hampton Township. But they would revitalize Michigan and they would be clean. Bay County would participate in that revitalization.

It's time to expand our narrow political borders for the greater good of all our citizens. Just imagine fishable, swimmable waters, healthy citizens and a healthy economy - it's time to turn away from the 19th century, and truly embrace the 21st century.

- Terry Miller of Monitor Township is chairman of the Lone Tree Council , and adjunct professor of history at Delta College

(End of Commentary in Bay City Times)

Petition Campaign urges Governor to declare CO2 as a global warming pollutant!

Lone Tree Council is participating in a state-wide campaign to petition Governor Granholm to declare CO2 emissions a global warming pollutant by Earth Day 2008! The petition campaign, a 501C3 project from the non-profit Clean Energy Now Campaign, boasts nearly 40 groups, and calls on the Governor to direct the Department of Environmental Quality to regulate CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants and other operations, as a global warming pollutant in all future air quality decisions. Folks can sign the petition online at: www.micleanenergynow.com

For more information: Leigh Fifelski (Progress Michigan) <leigh@progressmichigan.org> or Lee Sprague (Sierra Club) <lee.sprague@sierraclub.org>