

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands<http://caccmi.org>

Annual General Membership Meeting to Feature David Dempsey

CACC's 40th birthday will be celebrated June 9th at the Pere Marquette District Library, Clare, Michigan, during the annual General Membership meeting. Open to the public, this event takes place from 10:30AM - 2PM and will not only include the business meeting, but will also address issues involving CACC and many other organizations active in the Great Lakes watershed. It offers members the opportunity to steer the course of the group by offering resolutions from the floor, electing members of the Board of Directors, and expressing their opinions.

The 2018 GMM will feature David Dempsey as the keynoter. Dave has a long career in Michigan environmental policy and nonprofit organizations starting in 1982. His policy work includes Michigan's first Great Lakes water diversion ban, toxic cleanup, promotion of recycling programs, groundwater protection, sand dune conservation, and protection of Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund. He has served as environmental advisor to the Blanchard administration, executive director of the Michigan Environmental Council, Presidential appointee to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Communications Director for Conservation Minnesota, policy director for the International Joint Commission, and been active in numerous other environmental and conservation organizations in the region.

Dave is also a published author including *Ruin and Recovery: Michigan's Rise as a Conservation Leader*; *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century*; *William G Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate*; *Great Lakes for Sale: From Whitecaps to Bottlecaps*; *Last Summer on Lake Huron*; *The Waters of Michigan*, co-authored with David Lubbers; *Ink Trails: Michigan's Famous and Forgotten Authors*, and *Ink Trails II*,



co-authored with Jack Dempsey; and *The Great Lake Sturgeon*, co-edited with Nancy Auer. In 2009, the Michigan Center for the Book, the Michigan Library Association, and Sleeping Bear Press gave Dave the Michigan Author Award.

Dave is currently a senior advisor to FLOW (For Love of Water), a Traverse City-based water law and policy center dedicated to upholding the public's rights to use and benefit from the Great Lakes.

Dave will address current issues facing environmental and conservation activists in the Great Lakes region, including industrial water withdrawals such as Nestle, Line 5 and other pipelines that criss-cross our peninsulas.

Bring a dish to pass, new or lightly used items for CACC's Silent Auction, and your love for life in these beautiful Great Lakes!

Please check CACC's online calendar at: <http://caccmi.org>

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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health, and Beyond Nuclear.

Vessel activity that caused leak in cables at the Straits may have damaged Line 5

As we went to press, "vessel activity" damaged underwater cables at the Straits of Mackinac and reportedly leaked 550 gallons of benzene-containing coolant into Great Lakes waters. Significantly, the same activity may also have made three dents in Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline that carries oil and natural gas liquids through the waters of the Straits. Concerned citizens and environmental organizations (including CACC) throughout the Great Lakes have called for the permanent shutdown of Line 5, due to poor maintenance of the aging pipeline, the strong, opposing currents in the Straits area and the all-too-real possibility of an oil spill that could cause long term environmental devastation to these critical fresh waters and their ecosystems.

Crossing Michigan's Upper Peninsula from Superior, Wisconsin, Line 5 can carry up to 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids a day. It becomes two pipelines under the Straits. Once in the Lower Peninsula, it becomes one pipeline again, tracing its way across Michigan to cross the St. Clair River to Sarnia, Ontario.

Enbridge has denied any significant damage to Line 5, however they did close the line during a storm this past weekend, when high waves were forecast and power was lost to their terminal in Superior, Wisconsin.

We agree: It is long past time to shut line 5 and protect these irreplaceable fresh waters! Water is Life!

Comment by May 15 to keep nuclear wastes out of your municipal landfill!

By Kay Cumbow, CACC Director

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking to re-classify some so-called "low" level" radioactive wastes as "very low level wastes" so as to allow "disposal" of large amounts of these wastes that will come from large-scale decommissioning of nuclear reactors. This designation would permit hundreds of radioactive materials into hazardous waste landfills (much is already allowed) – and for the first time in most states, allow them into municipal landfills. Neither type of landfill can contain or isolate these wastes from our food chain or watersheds. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency admits all landfills leak. These dangerous wastes must not be abandoned, but must be contained and retrievable for repackaging when they leak. They must also be monitored for as long as they are hazardous to human or other life - some for centuries, or far longer.

Over a dozen times since the Atomic Age began, U.S. nuclear regulators have tried to deregulate radioactive wastes, so as to spare the nuclear industry, the NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) from the enormous expense, responsibility and liability that comes with protecting public health and safety, the environment and all future generations from these dangerous radioactive wastes. The U.S. public has soundly defeated all known attempts to deregulate radioactive wastes!

Help protect your community and future generations! Email comments by May 15th to <VLLW_ScopingStudy@nrc.gov> (Note the underscore (_) between "VLLW" and "Scoping Study" in the email.) See the Federal Register Notice: "Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study"- <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-14/pdf/2018-03083.pdf> - Learn more at CACC's website: www.caccmi.org

Michigan's Water - Why are we buying it?

By Monica Yonitch King, CACC Director

It is said that we can't run out of water because the amount of water on the Earth always remains the same. The only thing that changes is the state that it's in. That being said, think about water and its states that you learned about in science class - solid, liquid, and gas. Now stop and think about the amount of water on the Earth.... 70% of the Earth is covered in water, but only 2.5% of that water is fresh. Most of that is solid and frozen into the ice caps (although we know they're melting at an alarming rate). The liquid form is in our lakes and streams, and in our aquifers underground. As a gas we've been experiencing "super storms". The clouds have been dumping the solids and the liquids on us all in the forms of rain, snow, sleet, and ice.

What happens when that water is polluted? What happens when it's used in industries where it can't be made "drinkable" again? What happens when an aquifer is polluted and the water that comes out is toxic?

These are questions that we must ask ourselves because our precious water that we must have to survive is being taken from us and used by others for profit. Now they're selling it back to us at a high price. Safe drinking water should be a natural human right. Why are we settling for less? Why are we buying water instead of drinking water that comes out of our taps? Help stop the madness that has become the bottled water industry and is convincing you to spend money on your own water!

The nonprofit organization FLOW (For the Love of Water) believes that water should be a public trust and not sold to the highest bidder. They are spreading the word and educating the public about bottled water through their "Get off the bottle!" campaign. According to their research, bottled water costs up to 2000 times more than tap water and 64% of bottled water is municipal tap water that has been filtered or purified. Of those plastic bottles, 70% aren't reused or recycled.

Nestlé is a water company that drilled a well in Ewart, Michigan and has been pumping 250 gallons of water per minute from the local aquifer. The people from the surrounding areas have serious issue with so much water being pumped out of the ground where their wells are. This aquifer also supplies water to the watershed and the people are noticing the lower water levels.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) doesn't care. Now Nestlé has been granted the right to increase its water pumping to 400 gallons per minute. And they are paying the state \$200 per year for the right to do it. Between the years of 2005-2015 Nestlé has pumped 3.4 billion gallons of water out of its Michigan wells.

Nestlé water isn't just called Nestlé. They also bottle under the names Poland Springs, Ice Mountain, and Pure Life. These bottled water companies are all at fault for taking our earth's most life-sustaining resource, bottling it, and selling it back to us. Coke and Pepsi are buying Detroit water, filtering it and selling it back to us as Dasani and Aquafina. We need to wake up and be aware. Stop being taken advantage of and be proactive. 64% of bottled waters come from municipal water systems. Join FLOW's "Get off the bottle!" campaign. Most of us have water in our homes that is just as good or could be if it was filtered. Invest in a water pitcher with a filter, use glass, stainless steel, or reusable water bottles. Find a spring near you.

Wisconsin was targeted by Nestlé but the residents would have no part of it. They wouldn't allow Nestlé to tap into their springs from the beginning. What happened in Michigan? Let's go one step further and take back our water rights!

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/12/nestle_water_michigan_backstor.html

<http://flowforwater.org/get-off-the-bottle/>

Note: Monica Yonitch King has a home near Nestlé's well in Ewart.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 19, 10AM-1PM - CAFO 101 Workshop, (includes light lunch) at Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing. Sponsored by Sierra Club Michigan and other groups. Free - donations accepted by nonprofit sponsors. RSVP required by May 11. Learn more: contact gail.philbin@Sierraclub.org Note: CAFOs are outsized concentrated animal feeding operations that can pollute our communities and environment.

June 9, 10:30AM - 2PM - CACC's General Membership Meeting, Potluck & Silent Auction, Pere Marquette District Library, 185 E. 4th Street Clare, MI 48617- Dave Dempsey, Senior Advisor to FLOW to keynote. Bring a dish to pass. See article on CACC's GMM.

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