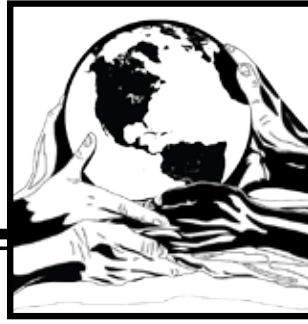


CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

<http://caccmi.org>

In The News

Hundreds crowd hearing to protect U.P.'s largest watershed!

On January 23, 2018, over 400 people attended a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) hearing on the Aquila Back Forty Wetland Permit. Approximately 100 signed up to speak. Most spoke out strongly against granting the permit, due to the serious risks of contamination this mine poses to the Menominee River, the largest watershed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the state boundary line for Wisconsin and Michigan.

Aquila Resources is seeking to build an open-pit metallic sulfide mine for gold and zinc on Michigan's side of the river. It could potentially leach sulfuric acid and other toxins into the watershed. Wetlands provide critical filters for our lakes, recharge groundwater aquifers, provide nurseries for aquatic and wild life, help with control of sediment and flooding and are a source of many foods. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 85% of Michigan's wetlands have been destroyed.

The Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin has filed a Clean Water Action Lawsuit against the mine to put it under federal control, which could give the Tribe a greater voice in protecting the river. Sulfide mining presents far greater risks of long-term environmental contamination than traditional mining. Learn more about the difference and how Great Lakes citizens can help protect this important watershed at Mining Action Group's website. - See: <http://savethewildup.org/> (Mining Action Group was formerly known as Save the Wild U.P.)

OPPORTUNITIES WITH CACC

We are seeking applicants for volunteers and a paid position:

- The position of Administrator is currently open. This part-time position is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization, including communications, outreach, maintaining resources, networking, writing and editing the quarterly newsletter, and supporting the Board and committees. Successful applicant will have strong organizational skills, ability to work with minimal supervision, knowledge of nonprofit rules and regulations, and excellent writing skills. The office is located in southwestern Clare County, Michigan. Submit resume and sample of writing skills along with at least three professional references to CACC, PO Box 23, Lake Station, MI 48632.
- Both the Education and Fund Raising Committees are seeking volunteer members. Most meetings are held by telephone, so location is not restricted. Persons applying for committee membership should indicate which one they are interested in, their relevant experience, level of commitment, and what they can contribute to the organization. Apply in writing to PO Box 23, Lake Station, MI 48632.

CLEAN ENERGY NEWS!

This past December, the Ann Arbor (Michigan) City Council unanimously passed a resolution for 100% clean and renewable energy for city facilities by 2035, with provision for an action plan with 5 year target objectives, by September 2018.

Learn more about climate change in Michigan at Michigan Climate Action: <http://www.miclimateaction.org/>

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.

New Toxic Threat to Michigan Groundwater Revealed

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are also known as PFCs, have been characterized by the US EPA as an emerging contaminant on the national level. These chemicals have been used in industry in a variety of applications, including firefighting foams, food packaging, cleaning products, waterproofing, and as a protective film. Like their polychlorinated cousins, there is a potential for thousands of sites of contamination across the country where these products were used and disposed of.

PFAS are not only persistent, but also highly soluble in water, so they can migrate easily from places where they were dumped to groundwater. At the current time, there are no drinking water standards for PFCs, though there is a combined health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), established in 2016. These chemicals have been detected in both human and animal blood around the globe. Laboratory animals have shown changes in liver, thyroid, and pancreatic function after exposure, as well as changes in hormonal levels. Some PFCs persist in the human body, adding to a toxic body burden. Some studies have shown impacts on developing fetus and child, including possible changes in learning and behavior; decreased fertility and interference in natural hormones; increased cholesterol; impacts to the immune system; and an increase in cancer risk. These health effects are preliminary, and require further studies to confirm the impacts. Not consuming fish from contaminated waters and eliminating the use of non-stick cooking utensils helps to reduce exposure.

In Michigan, PFAS have been found in 28 sites in 14 communities, including the groundwater in Rockford, north of Grand Rapids, where Wolverine Worldwide used them on their shoes and near Van Etten Lake in Iosco County where Wurtsmith Air Force Base (WAFB) used them in fire-fighting foams. In addition, PFAS have been detected in Lake Huron near Oscoda. Groundwater at WAFB has been found to contain two kinds of PFCs at 10,000 times the lifetime health advisory (LTHA) level established by the EPA. The plume of contamination is moving off base toward drinking water wells, which currently are testing at low levels. As of April, 2017, the State of Michigan has offered bottled water systems, reverse osmosis filters, and assistance with municipal water hookup to affected well owners.

In response to this newly disclosed information, the State of Michigan has created a PFAS Taskforce to develop and implement a strategy to address these issues and has earmarked \$23 million in emergency funding for initial assessment, including laboratory testing capability. The representatives of state agencies are charged with identifying locations, initiating environmental response and public health protocols, performing outreach to affected residents and communities, establishing communication protocols, developing standards on health impacts, and exploring avenues of funding for remediation efforts. Michigan Democrats are proposing legislation to establish a 5 ppt limit, the country's toughest. In light of the contamination of Flint's water supply and the footdragging by state regulators to address the issues, Michigan residents are understandably wary of this new source of contamination and the state's ability, and willingness, to aggressively address it.

For further information:

www.michigan.gov/wurtsmithwww.michigan.gov/ enter PFAS in the search option-

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

www.awwa.org

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/pfas-toxic-chemical-millions-peoples-drinking-water>

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/12/3m_wolverine_pfas_letter.html

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CACC!!

From the Editor's Desk.....

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of CACC. As one who has been involved in the organization since the beginning, I can't help but look back over those four decades with nostalgia and enthusiasm.

We started in 1978 as a loose coalition of friends and neighbors brought together by a Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) plan to aerially spray a large swath of central Michigan with a chemical pesticide to address a gypsy moth "infestation." As organic farmers and gardeners, parents, and consumers, we mobilized to learn as much as we could about the insecticide and the MDA's plans. When it became clear that they had no intention of modifying their plans to allow for exemptions, we turned to the courts, hiring an attorney and aggressively raising funds to pay legal bills. Many of us pledged our homes and farms in order to meet the costs. We cut wood for a raffle, sold livestock, baled hay (remember, we're farmers not grantwriters!) and hosted fund raising events. In the end, we prevailed against the state in court and paid off our legal bills. Our attorneys, Jim Olson and Bill Rastetter, were successful in using a section of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act to get our legal fees back from the state. CACC had no liabilities and a bank account!

Over the years since then, we joined the Michigan Environmental Council, thanks to prodding and funding from Nathan Driggers of the Harder Foundation, worked in alliance with other like minded organizations across the country, and reached out to communities with similar issues. We were given a small house outside Lake Station, Michigan, to establish an office and house the library and files we'd amassed over the years. CACC hired me as Executive Director and I worked for CACC from 1984 to 1998. Because of an interest in oil and gas issues, I worked with a national network on auditing national and state regulations as well as developing model standards for states to adopt. CACC participated in the writing of state regulations of both pesticides (led by then state Senator Debbie Stabenow) and oil and gas production (led by DNR employee Virginia Pierce).

From 1983 to 2000 we also hosted the Backyard Eco Conference which brought together environmental advocates and activists with experts, musicians, children and educators to spend a weekend of learning, networking and celebration. These spring-time gatherings were a highlight in CACC's calendar, but attendance started waning during the late 90's and we no longer had staff to support the event.

During the past 4 decades we also gathered along with a cadre of dedicated volunteers at a farm southwest of Remus, Michigan, for the annual Wheatland Music Festival. CACC started selling food there in 1978 as a source of funding, and we've been at it ever since. What started out in a borrowed tent with the kitchen stove out of our house and a handful of workers has now grown into a fully equipped kitchen building with professional equipment and a volunteer workforce numbering well over a hundred each year.

Throughout all these years, CACC activists have been supported by unsung heroes, our spouses and family members who welcome us back home with meals, with understanding and patience after long hours dedicated to protecting our shared environment. My children often spent time with grandparents while their dad and I attended meetings and trainings. It was as if CACC was the fourth child in the family! We note the passing of one of those unsung heroes, Dorothy Hodge. Though she seldom raised her voice in meetings, she was a steady presence with her husband Ward, hosted and fed countless people in her home, and traveled all over the state as part of the environmental community. Dorothy, along with many of our elders who were instrumental in CACC's history has walked on but is remembered with love and admiration.

Four decades is a long time, a significant chunk out of my life as I enter my 70th year and continue to volunteer for CACC as Treasurer and at Wheatland. But we continue to move forward. As long as there are permits to be considered, regulations being adopted or dismantled, communities discovering health threats, and industries putting profits before people, there is a need for dedicated groups of like-minded individuals to come together to raise their voices. Here's to the next decade!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 12, 2018 – Public Hearing on proposed solution mining in Evert and Hersey Townships and associated deep disposal brine wells. Evert Middle School, 321 N. Hemlock St., Evert, MI 49631 - Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/k9vzzfx> -This web address connects to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s calendar. Scroll to the date for details. Note there are other important events posted at this site.

Details of CACC’s General Membership Meeting will be posted when available at the CACC website: www.caccmi.org/



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