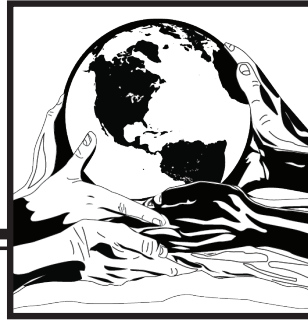


CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.cacmi.org

CACC ECO CALENDAR:

MDEQ's Calendar:

<https://www.michigan.gov/deq/>

June 1, CACC General Membership Meeting, 10:30am-1:30pm, Pere Marquette District Library, 185 E 4th St, Clare, MI 48617, (map) This meeting is open and the public is welcome! Bring a dish to pass and new or gently-used donations for CACC's Silent Auction. See you at the GMM!

Jun 17-19 Great Lakes Public Forum (Triennial Meeting), Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, WI (map)

The International Joint Commission for the U.S. and Canada will discuss the state of the lakes, progress made under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, priorities for the next 3 years, and provide opportunity for public input. Register here: <https://trainex.org/2019greatlakespublicforum/registration.cfm> Access agenda, travel & lodging at the dark bar beneath the photo at the top of the page.

September 6-8 Save the date! – Volunteer at the CACC Kitchen at the Wheatland Music Festival, Remus, Michigan

Continue on last page.

Water Watch

PFAS Update

Since the initial article in this newsletter last year which introduced readers to the scope and threat of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in Michigan, the problem has continued to grow in this state.

- For current information on Michigan's PFAS sites, response, health impacts, effects on wildlife, public meetings, and the work of the Michigan PFAS Response Team (MPART), go to www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse.
- According to Keith Matheny (Detroit Free Press, 02/22/2019), both Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda, and Camp Grayling, Roscommon County, have been excluded from a federal study of PFAS contamination that has migrated beyond base borders. The study, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), will assess PFAS levels in the general population. Other Michigan military sites known to have PFAS contamination include: Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, the former KI Sawyer AFB (Marquette County), and Selfridge Air National Guard Base (Macomb County).

<https://tinyurl.com/freep-study-PFAS>

- In a related study, the Air Force has claimed that sovereign immunity allows it to disregard the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) attempt to cap the amount of PFAS entering surface water at the former Wurtsmith AFB. DEQ limits the amount of PFAS allowed in groundwater at the point where it co-mingles with a lake or river. According to Stephen Termaath, the chief AF civil engineering center program that coordinates cleanup at contaminated former bases, "The Air Force is informing you [DEQ] that it will not be taking any remedial actions at this time." DEQ has claimed PFAS plumes on base are seriously harming an AuSable River wetland area known as Clark's Marsh. A 'Do Not Eat' deer advisory was issued in October, 2018, for deer in the area of the marsh.

Garret Ellison, MLive

<https://taskandpurpose.com/michigan-air-force-water-con>

- An MLive investigation found that Michigan manufacturing sources are sending one version of PFAS to state wastewater treatment plants at up to 20,000 times the allowed amount, leading to discharge into lakes, rivers and ultimately drinking water. Many of the businesses are plating companies that may no longer use the chemical, but it persists in their piping systems. Using the Freedom of Information Act, MLive found that at least 130 businesses have been considered potential sources, including Bronson Planting (240,000 ppt of PFOS to the Bronson wastewater treatment plant) and Ventra in Ionia (2,300 ppt PFOS to the Ionia treatment plant along with 200,000 ppt of additional PFAS chemicals). Wastewater treatment plants have become the front line for monitoring current PFAS discharges.



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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share
of Michigan, Michigan Environmental
Council, and Beyond Nuclear.

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES LAUNCH WATER FIRST INITIATIVE

A coalition of shoreline communities has recently come together to highlight the importance of fresh water resources in the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways. The initiative will focus on how water resources are important to our quality of life, environmental health and economic viability through the development of innovative water policies, watershed management and green infrastructure planning.

The coalition includes: Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, Leelanau Township Community Foundation, Manistee County Community Foundation and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

Water First, part of the Great Lakes One Partnership (supported by the Great Lakes Protection Fund) anticipates to leverage \$500,000 toward these goals in the participating communities. Water First is proposing to support the creation of local Water First Action Teams, comprised of local government entities, other water resource partners and grass-roots volunteers with the objective to identify watershed-wide priority action plans building on existing watershed management plans.

The goal is to develop integrated proposed action plans in each community to support the emphasis of water as a first priority in local decision making.

Water First is sharing their concept with the public and seeking input. If you live in or visit these counties please go to: surveymonkey.com/r/waterfirst1 to fill out an online questionnaire. They are seeking perspective from all that live or recreate in Northern Michigan with an interest in the quality, preservation and protection of our fresh water resources.

Connie & Chambre Beauvais



Great Lakes

RULING ON NUCLEAR DUMP INTERVENTION LIKELY

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will likely rule in early May on groups allowed legal standing in a license application for a proposed high-level nuclear waste dump in New Mexico. Among intervenors: Beyond Nuclear, Sierra Club and a coalition led by Don't Waste Michigan that includes CACC and who are represented by Ohio Atty. Terry Lodge. Some grave concerns raised by intervenors include: potential environmental justice, economic, environmental and safety impacts, resulting either from accompanying decades of transportation across the U.S. of these deadly, long-lasting radioactive wastes or potential impacts of the proposed dump on local communities. For updates, see: <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/centralized-storage/>

(continued from page 1)

Paula Gardner and Garret Ellison, MLive

<https://tinyurl.com/mlive-PFAS-wastewaterplants>

- The Ecology Center of Ann Arbor reminds us that PFAS are everywhere ... carpet, child car seats, waterproof jackets, nonstick pans, and takeout containers. A test of waterproof baby bibs, mats, and blankets, agitated with saliva to mimic how a young child might mouth them, found PFAS in the simulated spit as well as simulated sweat and laundry wash water.

Gillian Zaharias Miller, BRIDGE, 02/05/2019

<https://tinyurl.com/bridge-PFAS-everywhere>

- The extent of PFAS contamination in Michigan:
 - 34 confirmed PFAS sites in Michigan as of 7/23/2018
 - 70 ppt (parts per trillion) is the EPA's health advisory level for the two most studied types of PFAS
 - 1.5 million Michiganders have been unknowingly drinking water contaminated by PFAS
 - 11,300 potential sites in Michigan where PFAS may have been used
 - 95% of Americans now have measureable amounts of PFAS in their blood
 - 841 times the EPA health advisory level for 2 types of PFAS were found in Rockford-area well water – a US record
 - 18 ppt is the PFAS level that a draft CDC study suggests is actually safe

Michigan Environmental Report, volume 36 #2 (a publication of the Michigan Environmental Council)

- EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan (available from US EPA at www.epa.gov/pfas) lists eight key actions to address PFAS-related challenges:

- Expand toxicity information for PFAS
 - Develop new tools to characterize PFAS in the environment
 - Evaluate cleanup approaches
 - Develop guidance to facilitate cleanup of contaminated groundwater
 - Use enforcement tools to address PFAS exposure in the environment and assist states in enforcement activities
 - Use legal tools such as those in TSCA [Toxic Substances Control Act] to prevent future PFAS contamination
 - Address PFAS in drinking water using regulatory and other tools
 - Develop new tools and materials to communicate about PFAS
- Michigan Senator Gary Peters issued the following statement about the EPA's plan:

“This plan falls far short of the commitments promised by EPA leadership a year ago. We know PFAS contamination has devastating health impacts and Michigan families across the state that have been exposed for too long rightly deserve answers, but more importantly they deserve action.

“This report makes it even clearer to me that this Administration will continue to delay action for as long as possible ... Congress must take steps to direct the EPA and other agencies to take swift action to ensure our drinking water is safe, prevent exposure to contamination, reduce harm to human health, and expedite clean-up and assistance for affected communities...”

Press release, Senator Gary Peters:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxjdkb5d>

CACC lost a good friend this March. Phil Thiel has been a mainstay of the Sunday Breakfast Shift at the Wheatland Festival for more than a decade. His quick wit, political rants, sports commentary, and loyal friendship will be missed by many. Phil was a former director of the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC), an entrepreneur, food and wine aficionado, and, in the words of a former spouse, “an all-around goofball.” A memorial service is planned for June 1.



ADMINISTRATOR WANTED

CACC is searching for a part-time administrator (12-16 hours/week to start) to work out of the CACC office in Lake Station, Clare County. Successful applicant should have excellent communication skills (verbal and written), understanding of environmental issues, a commitment to social justice, and be able to work independently under the supervision of the Board of Directors. Some travel involved. Submit resume and writing sample to CACC, PO Box 23, Lake Station, MI 48632.

Pat Race, the developer of the Climate Stick, will be the Featured Speaker at CACC's **General Membership Meeting (GMM)** and Potluck, **Saturday June 1 from 10:30 to 1:30** at the Pere Marquette District Library, 185 East 4th Street, Clare, MI 48617. This meeting is open and the public is welcome! Agenda items, including the election of the CACC Board of Directors for 2019-2020 and any other issues to be voted on by members are posted on CACC's website: www.caccmi.org. Bring a dish to pass and new or gently-used donations for CACC's Silent Auction.

See you at the GMM!

Cont'd. from page 1

Check out CACC's ECO Calendar at:
<http://www.caccmi.org/eco-calendar/>

Happy
Spring



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