



SUMMER 2023

Volume 45, Issue

The future of the Earth is in our Hands.

CACC NEWS

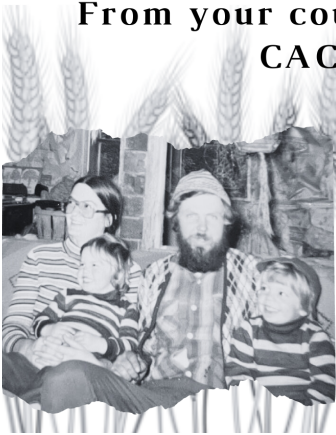
JOHN AND CARRIE WALES

Center for Environmental
and Social Justice

www.caccmi.org

In Appreciation

OF ANNIE AND PHILL HUNT'S
five decades of
LOVE, MUSIC & FEEDING THE MASSES
From your countless family and friends at
CACC and Wheatland ♥



A very sad Goodbye to Annie Hunt long time Wheatland attendee. Annie passed away peacefully at her home at the age of 74 on April 29, 2023 with her loving family close by. Her obituary states "Annie always had a seat at the table for those who needed one." She carried this tradition to Wheatland by bringing a pot of spaghetti to share with other festival goers at the second Wheatland Festival. Annie continued feeding festival

attendees every year since then. Later, meals were served from an Army tent, and the tradition now has a fully functional commercial kitchen staffed with over 100 volunteers yearly at the festival and has grown to become the largest food vender at Wheatland. All proceeds from food sales are considered donations to CACC. In the late 70's together with her husband Phill and a hand full of environmentalists CACC (Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination) was founded. Annie served as Executive director of the organization and later the treasurer.

People have described her as 'A beacon of hope', 'Crusader for the environment' and a 'Warrior for the things she believed in'. Others just remember she was a great cook.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT WHEATLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Do you enjoy music festivals? Come volunteer in the CACC kitchen at Wheatland Music Festival September 8th-10th 2023. This is Wheatland's 50th anniversary and our biggest fundraising event of the year. We cook and serve meals; breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We even have a snack bar. It is a six-hour shift commitment. It has a few perks like free food while working, half priced food for the rest of the weekend and partial ticket reimbursement (or you can donate reimbursement back for the cause).

Hurry and reserve your spot deadline for volunteering is August 4th.

If interested contact Laura Sanderson at sandershaw@gmail.com or (989) 529-1495.

CACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

John Witucki, Chairperson
989-529-1704 jwitucki58@gmail.com

Connie Beauvais, Treasurer
cacc.connie@gmail.com

Marcia Ellwanger, Secretary
mwe1257@gmail.com

Chambre Beauvais,
chambrebeauvaismi@gmail.com

Murry DeSanto,
planetpal322@gmail.com

Phill Hunt, annie48632@gmail.com

Victor McManemy, 231-709-1566

Steve Sanderson,
sjhvac@gmail.com

Laura Sanderson,
Wheatland Volunteer coordinator
sandershaw@gmail.com

Tom Strawn,
tomstrawn101@gmail.com

**The CACC NEWS is published by
Citizens for Alternatives to
Chemical Contamination (CACC)**

PO Box 175
Pinconning, MI 48650-0175
www.caccmi.org

Newsletter Edited by:

Marcia Ellwanger

Newsletter Layout/Design:
Angela De La Rosa

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

Amid wildfire smoke, Michigan leaders signal support for new clean energy standard

Published: Jun. 09, 2023, M-Live

Michiganders in the southern lower peninsula have been waking this week to some of the worst air quality in the world, as smoke from wildfires raging in Canada continues to choke the region.

While individual disasters can't be directly linked to climate change, there is a sea of scientific evidence connecting human impacts on the climate to more frequent and severe forest fires. Pair that with, increasingly, the abnormal atmospheric patterns, also influenced by climate change, that have caused smoke to linger over Michigan, and it makes a recipe for hazy days and health warnings. Democrats, who control state government for the first time in 40 years, have indicated addressing climate change remains a priority. The most notable effort has been a package of legislation from Senate Democrats that would, among other things, require Michigan utilities to source 100% of their electricity from carbon-free sources by 2035. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and legislative leaders told MLive they support the sentiment but avoided discussing any specifics around the proposed benchmarks.

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, said in a statement she's supportive of a 100% benchmark, but didn't reference a date.

"We only need to step outside our front doors to feel – and breathe – the effects of climate change," Brinks said. "It's no longer a choice; it's a mandate that we get on the fast path to a 100% clean energy future."

Whitmer said this week the need to transition to clean energy is an "undeniable reality," and seemed to imply she expected the bills to pass the legislature after revision.

"The spirit of it I am supportive of," Whitmer said, while conceding, "I'm not familiar with all of the intricacies of it and it will probably change before it gets to my desk."

It remains unclear whether the proposed standard might be watered down in negotiations.

(Continued on next page)

PBB and the 'Poisoning of Michigan' - 50 years later

Submitted by Marcia Ellwanger

Fifty years after what became known as the “poisoning of Michigan,” community members, scientists and policy makers gathered at Alma College to remember the history and explore the legacy of PBB and the large-scale contamination of Michigan farms.

“The PBB Disaster at 50: A Conference to Commemorate and Learn from the Poisoning of Michigan” took place May 18-20 at Alma College.

The contamination occurred throughout Michigan in 1973 due to a shipping error made by Velsicol Chemical. Multiple 50 pound bags of the fire retardant “Firemaster” were mistakenly shipped to a Farm Bureau Services, Inc. feed packing plant along with the intended shipment of magnesium oxide “Nutrimaster,” causing toxic chemicals to be mixed with animal feed.

The error was discovered nearly a year later, after PBB had entered the food supply products and exposed an estimated 8.5 million Michiganders to the chemical through contaminated milk and dairy products, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, and eggs.

According to Ed Lorenz, vice chair of the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force nonprofit organization and a member of the conference organizing committee, the impact that PBB poisoning had on Michigan was immense — economically, environmentally and on the health of countless people spanning multiple generations.

Excerpts from article by Kylie Sczepanski, Midland Daily News May 22, 2023

John Witucki and Marcia Ellwanger, conference attendees, went on a bus tour of the city of St. Louis, were shown a farm that was quarantined due to the PBB toxicity and saw the Velsicol site that is being cleaned up by the EPA. While at the site we heard from workers and engineers regarding the cleanup process.

After the tour we watched a documentary on the disaster and heard discussion from 3 key speakers. A Dr. Larry Robertson whose research interests include Toxicology, Persistent organic Pollutants (POPs) Pesticides, and Metabolism of Environmental Pollutants. We also heard from Dr. Michele Marcus, lead scientist for the Michigan PBB registry, regarding ongoing studies of the multigenerational effects of the disaster. As well as a long time Michigan Legislator Bus Spaniola who helped enact legislation that reduced PBB levels and provided funding for the long-term health study (now known as the Michigan PBB registry) and Bus wants us all to remember “it is up to us to hold our officials responsible.”

(Continued from previous page)

Whitmer’s own MI Healthy Climate plan is a bit less ambitious. It calls for the state’s power sources to be 60% renewable by 2050 and for the state to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Environmental advocacy groups had called for the loftier goal before it was introduced as legislation. Her proposed budget had called for billions in spending on environmental priorities. Democrats hold particularly narrow majorities in both chambers of the legislature, where one or two defections on a party-line vote in the 110-member House and 38-member Senate can sink legislation.

It means lawmakers have to walk a fine line on contentious issues to keep skeptical members of their caucuses on board.

In an interview last week, House Speaker Joe Tate, D-Detroit, said that while Michigan has to transition toward clean energy, “we just have to look at the details.” He indicated he’d like to see a shift in energy sources paired with policies to minimize the economic impact to avoid “energy poverty.”

“We’re gonna have to move in that direction, that’s going to be incredibly important,” Tate said. “I think what’s also important, especially for me, is making sure as we do make this transition that no one is left behind.”

Happy Summer



Please keep the CACC NEWS coming to my mailbox!

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Organization
- \$30 Family
- \$250 Lifetime
- \$20 Student – Fixed Income

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special interests _____

Support CACC! Be part of the solution! Support healthy, sustainable communities and watersheds!

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____

The CACC Newsletter is printed on 30% post consumer use recycled paper.

Please check your expiration date and renew promptly!

Return Service Requested

PRST STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 222
 Dearborn Hts, MI
 48127

CACC
PO BOX 175
PINCONNING, MI 48650-0175