



SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE

June 7, 2014

MICHIGAN CITIZENS FOR WATER CONSERVATION (MCWC)...

...will be celebrating its debt free status as of March 2014!

The celebration will be held at the Martiny Township Hall Pavilion

Located at 15051 110th Avenue, Rodney, MI on June 7 from 1:00 -3:00

Please bring hors d'oeuvres!



First meeting, 2000.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) has a reason to celebrate. After 14 years, 9 of them battling Nestlé, MCWC has raised over a million dollars to reduce its debt to zero. This has been possible with the help of all of you in supporting MCWC with your membership, volunteering, and donations.

MCWC accomplished this with garage sales, pasties sales, bake sales, Texas Hold'em, car raffle, and grants just to name a few. The current board of directors would like to thank each and every one of you.

On June 7, 2014 we will be celebrating its debt free status from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Martiny Township Hall Pavilion – 15051 110th Avenue – Rodney, MI. Please bring hors d'oeuvres to pass.

The battle with Nestlé began in 2000 and continued until July 6, 2009. MCWC stopped Nestlé Waters North America, Inc.'s attempt to pump more water from a stressed stream and lake for its Ice Mountain bottled water in Mecosta, Michigan. MCWC and Nestlé reached a settlement on the first day of a weeklong hearing in 2009 as to whether Nestlé's pumping should be reduced or increased. Under the order, Nestlé has now reduced its pumping earlier in the spring and continues at low pumping rates during the summer months. Nestlé is allowed to pump an average of 218 gallons per minute, as opposed to the 400 gallons per minute originally permitted by the State. What a victory!

MCWC is now working on the Fracking issue. To keep up to date with what we are doing read our revised Call for a Ban on Fracking on p.2., and follow postings on our website (saveMIwater.org) and Facebook page. Again, thank you for your continued support of MCWC. See all you dedicated members at the party.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation Calls for Ban on Fracking

For the past fourteen years Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) has been actively dedicated to protecting Michigan water, especially against the mining and exporting of that water. Nestle/Ice Mountain still pumps and diverts millions of gallons of Michigan water for profit, but at least there are now limits in place (because of our court battle). Mining for bottled water remains a threat, and must still be stopped to protect our environment for the tourist and recreation industry, for agriculture, and ecosystem services.

Lately a new and even bigger threat to Michigan water has surfaced, called “fracking” or horizontal high volume hydraulic fracturing of deep underground shale rock to extract oil and natural gas. It is a massive industrial process, which will, for each well, contaminate millions of gallons of water with toxic chemicals and then remove the water forever from the hydrologic cycle. Carcinogens poison the water, air, and land for miles around each site. Fracking has negative impacts on human health, destroys community infrastructure, drastically decreases property values, uses vast energy resources to keep us tied to fossil fuels instead of moving to renewables, does not produce energy independence, and does not produce real local jobs. Natural gas is not a less potent greenhouse gas producer than coal as we were told. There are no proven benefits from fracking, unless you own oil stock.

Industry supporters of this practice claim absolutely no cases of water contamination, yet the process by its very nature contaminates water, air and land from the beginning. It is part of the process. Nestle/Ice Mountain made similar false claims when stating that pumping up to 90 million gallons of spring water per year from one site would have no impact on the surrounding surface water and environment. The oil and gas industry has lots of money to spend on false claims and misleading PR work, but we have a growing body of evidence and scientific data to prove they do not tell the truth.

There are now hundreds of documented instances of water contamination in the heavily fracked states because of toxic chemicals used in fracking and because methane gas is leaking into groundwater and air constantly. Millions of gallons of water are initially mixed with toxic chemicals before fracking (one well used 21 million gallons), with about 70% returning to the surface as flowback fluid. This fluid must be stored then transported to injection wells and pumped deep into the ground where it is expected to stay forever still. It doesn't. It migrates over time. All waters are connected eventually.

The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's available fresh water. The danger of horizontal fracking at all levels is so great that a mere moratorium and a mere regulatory regime cannot insure safety for our most precious natural resource. MCWC therefore joins with other grassroots groups to organize to **BAN FRACKING, no exceptions.**

Water used in agriculture is a consumptive use and it remains in the hydrologic cycle. Water used in fracking is contaminated, buried underground, and permanently lost to the hydrologic cycle.

Improper Use of Waste Water at Homestead Resort, Glen Lake, MI

Ten local, state, and national organizations have joined together in endorsing a statement calling on The Homestead Resort and the Michigan DEQ to work together to correct the problem of incompletely-treated sewage spray blowing into a portion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, rendering it unavailable for public use.

MCWC has joined these organizations in concern with the sewage spray blowing into a portion of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan Environmental Council, National Parks Conservation Association, Leelanau Independent Women for Democratic Action, Michigan Land Use Institute, National Audubon Society, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, Sierra Club, Northern Michigan Environmental Action Coalition, and Drifters United came together in issuing the plea.

The statement reads (in part), "Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is the signature National Park area in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. As such, it is a treasured public resource that must be protected for the use and benefit of all. During recent years, it has been documented that partially-treated wastewater from The Homestead Resort blows into National Lakeshore park areas, which now display warning signs, and are effectively lost to the public."

For complete information on this, see HomesteadSewage.org.

- Misty Sheehan

Jacki Schilke and her sixty cattle live in the top left corner of North Dakota ...in the heart of the Bakken Shale [a heavily fracked area].... Ambient air testing by a certified environmental consultant detected elevated levels of benzene, methane, chloroform, butane, propane, toluene and xylene—compounds associated with drilling and fracking, and also with cancers, birth defects and organ damage. Her well tested high for sulfates, chromium, chloride and strontium; her blood tested positive for acetone, plus the heavy metals arsenic (linked with skin lesions, cancers and cardiovascular disease) and germanium (linked with muscle weakness and skin rashes). Both she and her husband, who works in oilfield services, have recently lost crowns and fillings from their teeth; tooth loss is associated with radiation poisoning and high selenium levels, also found in the Schilkes' water.

- - from Elizabeth Royte, "Fracking Our Food Supply" The Nation, November 2012

The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, which is the ballot initiative committee endorsed by MCWC, is gearing up for a new round of petitioning in 2015 that will qualify for the 2016 election. It is mounting a much bigger campaign this time, using a larger force of volunteers as well as paid circulators in key population centers. Currently the committee is concentrating on fundraising so it has the \$500,000 needed to guarantee success this time around. It is also working on education, and visibility events, which are the main things MCWC board members have been assisting with so far. The Committee is recruiting more volunteers who will be trained for the petitioning drive, join working groups that are organizing various phases of the campaign, and perhaps take on the coordinator role for county networks.

Fundraising is the crucial step at this time. Please send donors to the website letsbanfracking.org to make a donation to the Committee to Ban Fracking.

If you want to volunteer, also go to the website and sign up. A coordinator will contact you. You may also let one of your board members know and we will help you get involved. You may reach us through Peggy Case at hildaheron@aol.com or call [231-275-2244](tel:231-275-2244).

New Gasland II film showings...

Wednesday, May 14, showtime 6:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church
145 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI 49017

Wednesday, June 11, showtime 7p.m.
Hit the Road Joe Café
7291 Elm St., Newago
(about a mile from Croton Dam)
call (231)652-6020 for directions

Free admission and open to the public,
donations appreciated

To schedule a showing in your town, call
[231-275-2244](tel:231-275-2244)

Pasties

Glenna Maneke and Rosanne Sapp never stop making and selling those wonderful pasties, and Monica Evans continues to sell them to the Traverse area customers. Pasties appear at garage sales, and orders are taken for them throughout the year. This has been a staple fundraising component for a long time. Thanks always to Glenna and Rosanne. You can order vegetarian or meat pasties by calling 231-972-0500 in Mecosta or 231-325-6812 in Honor.

Many mortgage-lending institutions are now refusing to grant mortgages on property that is leased for oil and gas drilling. Written consent is required from the bank. Without it property owners find themselves in "technical default," can lose their mortgage and face foreclosure. Home equity loans are also affected and will be denied. Wells Fargo, Bank of America, GMAC, Fidelity, and FHA, among others have adopted policies against such leases.

OIL Pipelines in Michigan Waters?

In July 2010, the 6B oil pipeline owned by Enbridge Inc., a Canadian pipeline transporter, broke near Talmadge Creek, a tributary of the Kalamazoo River, flooding the Kalamazoo with as much as 1 million gallons of tar sands crude oil. The heavy, viscous oil sank to the bottom of the Kalamazoo River where it remains now, almost four years later, despite efforts at cleaning it up.

This event was a wakeup call to Michigan residents who little knew of the oil pipelines crossing the state.

Crude oil has to be refined, so pipelines reach from oil sites in Canada to Superior, WI, among other sites, from which they go to refineries in the Great Lakes region.

Under the Mackinaw Bridge, a 60-year-old pipeline, Pipeline 5, also owned by Enbridge, Inc. carries light crude oil from Superior, WI, to Sarnia, ON where it is refined. The 30inch wide pipeline, which was build in 1953, splits into two 20-inch pipelines in the straits. After the Kalamazoo River spill, attention was drawn to Pipeline 5 and what could happen if it leaked or fractured. The Great Lakes water there is almost 300 feet deep, the Straits freeze in the winter, and treacherous currents would make cleanup more than difficult.

Enbridge is proposing to expand the two pipelines in order to increase the amount of tar sands oil pumped daily. Many activists protested the pipeline in St. Ignace last summer. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow sent a letter of concern to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in December. Currents in the straits could carry the effluent either towards Lake Michigan or towards Georgian Bay in Ontario, both wildlife refuges and popular tourist destinations.

The National Wildlife Federation sent divers to investigate the condition of Pipeline 5. It was discovered that some of the pipeline's steel supports had broken and others were covered by debris.

Pipeline 5 has not broken, but it is old, the supports have weakened in an area with strong currents of water, and the increase in density of oil proposed by Enbridge is the reason for concern.

Enbridge began installing a new pipeline last July to replace the pipeline that caused the spill on the Kalamazoo River, which includes more devices that allow them to detect a leak. But they need to turn their attention to Pipeline 5 through the Mackinac Straits, which is also old, where a break would pollute forever our Great Lakes waters.

We will be following this story as it unfolds, and intend to raise serious questions. Does it make sense to have any pipelines carrying oil under the Great Lakes? Will a bigger, better pipe from Enbridge really make us safe? With leaks already occurring at refineries and in pipes, wouldn't it be better for our Great Lakes waters if we used the sun, wind, and tidal waters to generate safe renewable energy for our region instead? What do you think? Let us know.

---- Misty Sheehan

Most mortgages require homeowners insurance. Beware when considering leasing land to oil and gas drilling. Your insurance will not cover damages from drilling, and you may find you are unable to renew your insurance, thus violating the terms of your mortgage.

TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT

Donations and memberships can be made online at: www.saveMIwater.org. Or mail your check along with the form to the right to:

**MCWC
P.O. Box 1
Mecosta, MI 49332**

We'd love to get you signed up as a sustaining member. We can't promise you fancy address labels, coffee cups or trinkets as a reward. We only promise to apply your money to the work of saving our waters into the seventh generation. You can have your pledge sent or transferred directly to the MCWC account. Contact Glenna Maneke at (231) 972-0500 or mankegl@hotmail.com to arrange this.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
P.O. Box 1
Mecosta, MI 49332

Name _____

Address _____

State/ZIP _____ / _____

Email _____


Individual ____ \$25

Family ____ \$40

Lifetime Individual ____ \$250

Lifetime Family ____ \$500

Other _____



Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
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Mecosta, MI 49332

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MCWC is a 501c3 grassroots group organized in December 2000. Our goal is to conserve, preserve and protect the public's natural resources. Our efforts have concentrated on research and education so that informed decisions are made regarding protection of the quality and quantity of Michigan's groundwater, wetlands, lakes, streams, ponds and wildlife.

Help preserve natural resources – recycle this newsletter by sharing it with a friend!