

MCWC Call To Action: Nestle Hearing

MCWC cordially invites you to participate in the
DEQ PUBLIC HEARING
on the Nestlé permit to withdraw 400 gallons a minute from the
White Pine Springs Well 101 in Evart, Michigan

When: April 12, 2017

**Where: UNIVERSITY CENTER
Ferris State University
805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids, Michigan
Main Parking lot located off of Ives Ave.**

**DEQ INFORMATION BEGINS AT 4PM
PUBLIC HEARING BEGINS AT 7PM**



East off business 131, South of Oak St., west of Ives Ave,
Purple area labeled on map is open parking.

We'd love to see hundreds upon hundreds of
citizens seeking to provide their input to the DEQ
on the Nestle Water Grab.

DEQ Information will be from 4pm to 6pm.
Public Hearing will be from 7pm to 9pm.
Sign up to speak on your arrival.

Signs and banners will not be permitted inside the
building, but are permitted **outside** of the
University Center.

Parking may be limited, so come early and car pool
if you can.

***We are all Water Protectors and Water
Warriors!***

See you there!

*Refillable Water Bottles are allowed. They have
water refill stations at the water fountains inside
the building.*

To Our Members,

We didn't intend to wait 5 months before putting together a new newsletter for you, but we got really busy this last year doing the work MCWC wants to do, protecting and speaking for our water resources.

We have a brand new website you will finally be proud to use to stay informed and find actions you can take to support the work ahead. It is still in the building stage and we still have more to put on it, but please visit the site and let us know what you think. There are professionals working on it now and some of your non-tech leadership is so grateful. We now have tech skill on the board as well.

MCWC has also been building a very cohesive and talented leadership team over the last few years, which can carry on the mission of the great original leadership that formed this organization and led it for so many challenging years. Though we have allowed some of them to "retire" and take a break, they are still with us as mentors and allies, still engaged, still stepping in when needed Terry Swier, Mary Ann Borden, Rhonda Huff, Linda Travis, and numerous others.

All about the Water,
Peggy Case
President



Nestle Again

Many people had hoped that Nestle would quietly go away after the first long court battle. Of course they didn't. They kept pumping in Morton Township though forced to reduce it by half. They kept pumping at the wells at the Stanwood plant. They kept pumping in Evert from wells belonging to the city and their own well.

For a long time most of the people of Evert accepted that and welcomed the small income the city received. Last fall when Nestle asked for a permit to drastically increase pumping at one of their private wells, Evert had a different response. People hadn't realized the benefits promised before, the city was still in economic decline, and the PR perks Nestle provided were not enough to counter the growing impact on the Muskegon River watershed. Citizen resistance had grown.

MCWC had been working on a number of other threats to our water in recent years. We had heard Nestle was expanding operations at the Stanwood plant because there was "an increased demand for bottled water and we

knew there was a connection to Flint, given the huge need for bottled water there following the misdeeds of our state government. Then we found out where they expected to get the water to supply this expansion: their private well near Evert which drew from Twin and Chippewa creeks and allowed them to stamp their bottles as spring water, even though most of it is actually ground water drawn from city wells. We also found out, thanks to Garret Ellison of MLive, that there were only four days left in a little publicized comment period.

That was on Halloween and we got busy fast. With the help of several other groups (FLOW, Sierra Club) our members generated 1700 comments in four days and the comment period was extended, twice. It was moved to March 3, but we appealed for a further extension. We also demanded public hearings in 6 locations around the state. Over 25,000 individual emails or letters were delivered to MDEQ. With the help of *SumOfUs.org*, an international corporate watchdog group, we delivered a box containing petition signatures of 366,000 people, 66,000 of which were (continued)



Nestle Again Continued...

Michiganders. The comment period was extended until April 21 and a hearing was scheduled for April 12 in Big Rapids. We still wanted six hearings.

We asked for Evart, naturally, as well as Flint, Detroit, Muskegon, Traverse City, and Sault St. Marie. Our argument was that this is a statewide issue which points out the flaws in state law and policy. For a cost of

\$200 a year Nestle was asking for 210 million gallons of public water, at the same time as Detroit and Flint residents were being shut off for minor bills or charged high rates for poisoned water. Since the DEQ has refused to schedule hearings around the state, we are bringing buses from Flint and Detroit so the people with no voice can be heard.

Since October 31 we have been mounting the campaign to deny this latest permit request. The request was to go from 150 gallons per minute to 400 at one well. In other words, we were right back where we started in the year 2000 when Nestle was drawing down a stream and several lakes in Mecosta County.

We have spent the winter examining the permit and finding its flaws, documenting the damage already done to two cold-water trout streams and the Muskegon River, meeting with residents and the press, and generating a large number of comments. We are also building alliances with other organizations concerned about the privatization of water and the lack of public input in the permitting process. MCWC has been providing the grassroots, on the ground leadership in this campaign to stop the taking of any more water for private profit and stop the damage to the ecosystem involved.

The legal precedent established during the original battle with Nestle still stands. A withdrawal of 400 gallons per minute is damaging to the ecosystem and cannot be sustained. Nestle may have gone 20 miles down the road from Mecosta to increase their production, but the same rules apply, and the same strong grassroots group is opposing them once more.

None of this resistance would be possible without the active support of our members. Your letters, membership renewals, on the ground presence, donations, have made the work of the organization possible. We have been able to launch the new and up to date website (saveMIwater.org), develop a Rapid Response email list, put out brochures and informational displays, increase our speaking opportunities, engage legal support, fund the work of our committees, hold public events, contribute our share to coalition efforts, and extend our work to save water far beyond the Nestle battle. We are still working to stop injection wells, fracking, a potash mine, an expansion of a waste treatment plant in Detroit, and Enbridge Pipeline 5.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you will encourage your friends and neighbors to join us as members and supporters. See you on April 12 in Big Rapids.

Check out website frequently for current info

www.saveMIwater.org

Speakers Bureau

We would love to speak to any groups in the state about the work of saving our water and the positive solutions for the threats we see on the horizon.

We have literature to share, slide shows, research data, and five available speakers for your group or program. We offer workshops, panel participation, forums, rally speakers, small or large group community conversations.

The work of our group encompasses these particular topics: privatization of water, the human right to water, Nestle water grabs, fracking and frack waste, injection wells, mineral mining threats like potash, toxic waste treatment expansions, pipelines such as Line 5, Flint water crisis, Detroit shut-offs, flaws in state and regional law, public trust doctrine, industrial agriculture and water pollution. We can give an overview of all these issues or focus on particular aspects of interest.

We do not charge for speaking engagements but always encourage participants to join our organization and perhaps make a voluntary donation. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization with no paid staff or office to support. We are all volunteers and accept no corporate or government money.



If you want a speaker or program, please contact us by email at michiganwaterc@gmail.com.



Video Day at Potash site

From left: Jamie, John, Ken, Doug
Please check our website for
completed video soon.

Potash

POTASH MINE in Hersey

The proposed Potash Mine would devastate sensitive wetlands. We urge you to please read the pdf file that is on MCWC Website (saveMIwater.org).

PLEASE take action by writing a letter to all State departments (listed on website).

The Potash Mine is near Hersey in Osceola County. It is six miles southwest of Nestlé's Evert water grab. Michigan Potash Company plans to drill 11 injection-wells for a proposed large-scale potash solution-mining venture with an initial freshwater withdrawal rate of over 1200 gallons per minute, 24 hours per day and rising to unknown levels over time. Their usage would compete with the nearby Nestlé operation which is already drawing down aquifers and drying up streams. This pumping rate threatens to: 1) Draw down the water table and dry up local wells, 2) Cause salt-water to intrude into the aquifer 3) Dry up local streams, lakes, and wetlands.

US Ecology

We have hazardous waste plants in the City of Detroit. A company that takes nasty waste and "cleans it up" is called US Ecology. US Ecology's Georgia Street plant is in a neighborhood at the border of Detroit and Hamtramck. It plans a **ten-fold increase** in the toxins it hauls in and treats. Currently, this one plant dumps up to 300,000 gallons of this treated waste into the public sewers daily. If the expansion is approved they will want a massive increase in the liquids the plant is allowed to dump into the sewers which ends up in the Detroit River. We are opposed to the expansion of this waste plant, any radioactive waste treated there and any additional toxins polluting the Detroit River and the Great Lakes.

A positive development is that US Ecology and the City of Detroit are in the process of a Host Community Agreement that will ban frack waste from being accepted or processed at the facility. This only happened because of the pressure that a coordinated group of folks who live in this neighborhood achieved by putting pressure on their city councilmen, the press, and others. A few committed people CAN create positive change!

*Many Thanks
Garret Ellison (M-Live) &
Michael Jackman
(Detroit Metro-Times)
Your Investigative journalism
is critical and so appreciated.*



Will Michigan be a dump site for Nuclear waste?



Flint

Fewer than 800 lead contaminated pipes were replaced in the year 2016.

There are 20,000 more that need replacement. The State has ended subsidies to homeowners to pay the high bills for water they still can't drink. The city has begun shut-offs for those not paying bills for poisoned water. Due to the hard work of grassroots groups, ACLU & NRDC, a law suit was recently won which now requires the state and feds to pay for replacement of 20,000 pipes by 2020. Unfortunately the people have to still use filters, which often do not work and can cause bacterial infections. This is still criminal treatment over too many years. Why aren't the criminals in jail yet? The filters given by the state do not fix the problem.

We will continue to support ALL Adults & ALL Children with lead poisoning.

MCWC: How do we work?

We are connecting the dots of water pollution and privatization to the Flint Water Crisis, water shut-offs in Detroit and the disconnect in water policies statewide. We have found that we work best when we are supporting the work of local grassroots groups and coalitions, or can create committees to focus on particular aspects of Water Protector work. We work where our members are involved. When people contact us about a WATER threat or concern, our first question is, have you organized a local group to work on this? How can we support that work? We offer speakers, educational forums, literature, tabling events, communications outlets, money for specifics like printing, expert advice and connections, and help to organize public advocacy events. We help with research and share what we know. Some of our education and advocacy work is state-wide or international. We strongly support the Human Right to Water and the Public Trust Doctrine. We oppose all forms of water privatization and theft. We join in coalition with other like-minded groups. We honor indigenous rights and seek alliances with First Nations people and tribes.

When you become a **member there are different levels of involvement** you can choose. Minimally we would like an address to send you a newsletter. Any donation you choose to make is always welcome, either through the mail or on our website through Pay Pal. Such donations make you a supporting member and we really appreciate your contribution to the cause. Join our **Rapid Response Team**, nearing 600 folks. Rapid Response means we will call you to take an action as needs arise and inform you of events of importance. It is your informed and active self we hope to engage. We welcome it when you share our postings in other Facebook groups.

We also encourage those who can take a more active role in any of the work of water conservation to join or form a Water Protectors committee in your local area. We will support your work and commit resources and people as needs arise.

If there is something new that concerns you, let us know and we can help you find support near you. We can only do what our member/supporter base allows in terms of volunteer commitment and some funding. We plan to engage the issue of industrial agriculture threats to water and will be looking for people on the ground who care about this and have some time to devote. Contact us.

Upcoming Events

DEQ Public Hearing: Nestle Permit for Increase Water Taking

Wed. April, 12th

Public Information 4PM – 6PM

Hearing 7PM – 9PM

Location: University Center at Ferris State University

Deadline for Comments: DEQ on Nestle increased water takings in Evert.

Friday April 21st

Comments to be sent by 5PM

Permit Production Well PW-101, White Pine Springs Site, Osceola County. Comments must be emailed to deq-eh@michigan.gov

Gaia Sisters Benefit for Flint Children

Sunday April, 23rd

Benefit begins at 4:00 PM

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church

4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Sacred Water Symposium

Saturday April, 29th

This symposium is organized by the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe at the Ziiibwing Center.

More details to come please see our website.

6650 E, Broadway, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

More events listed – www.saveMIwater.org

We are Water Protectors and invite you to join us

Your Donation and Membership is how we fund our organization.

MCWC is nonprofit and grassroots. All staff are volunteer.
Your donation is tax-deductible. Please send your check to
P.O. Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332

Or pay via our Website:

www.saveMIwater.org

We promise to apply your donation to the work of saving our waters into the 7th Generation.



Become a Member

Name _____

Address _____

State/Zip _____

Email _____

Student (\$10) _____ Individual (\$25) _____

Family (\$50) _____ Wetland Donor (\$100) _____

River Watershed (\$250) _____ Great Lakes Donor (\$500) _____



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

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MCWC is a 501c3 grassroots group organized in December 2000. Our mission of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation is to protect our surface and ground waters from pollution, plunder, and privatization through education, advocacy, and actions. We work to protect and promote human and ecosystem rights to water and defend the public trust doctrine.

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