

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation

Dear Members and Friends,

You may not have heard from us for a while, but it does not mean we haven't been busy working to protect our waters from numerous threats. We have had some difficulties of a technical nature however. Our list serve, which sends you emails with periodic calls to action and relevant current information, has been unavailable to us for a number of months. We are trying to retrieve it from the mysteries of the computer world, but have not succeeded yet. We have also run into daunting health issues among several key people who could help with this. We will get it resolved and be able to contact you. In the meantime, we hope those of you on Facebook will visit our page for action updates.

We are also working on updating our website and developing our own skills at using it more effectively. Look for improvements and more current content in the near future, as your leadership attempts to learn more useful skills. We are grateful for the continued assistance of Ellen Schneider and Sean Case as we learn Word Press. If you have advice on how to make the website (saveMIwater.org) serve you better, please let us know. You can always call Peggy Case at 231-275-2244 with your suggestions.

The Board of Directors has moved to focus our educational and activist work in the coming period on three areas of concern:



First is the on-going support for the ballot initiative to achieve a ban on horizontal fracking and fracking waste. As you know, we endorsed the initiative put forth by the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, and worked on the last petition drive to get it on the ballot. Although the Committee got many signatures, they were not enough. There were over 600 volunteers, but we needed twice that, and needed more coverage in the big cities. We also realized that it really is necessary to hire a consultant and pay petitioners in some areas, as all the successful campaigns have done.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the educational brochure put out by the Committee to Ban Fracking. Your president helped work on it and we hope you find it useful. If you view it on line, you can link to the sources in the footnotes for further information. Go to letsbanfracking.org for more updates. The key now is fundraising so we can begin a new campaign to get on the ballot for the 2016 election. Although we would like to start a new petition drive in the spring, we cannot do so unless we raise the funds. We must have enough by the end of December to proceed.

We ask MCWC members to help find donors and hope you will generously donate yourself directly to the campaign. This is the only statewide effort in play right now that aims to ban fracking and fracking waste. With toxic radioactive waste now coming to Michigan from Pennsylvania, and injection wells threatening our state parks, we really must act at the state level to stop this.

If you would like to help distribute the brochure you have just received, we will arrange to get them to you. Education is crucial, and MCWC's mission is to further it. Call Peggy at 231-275-2244 if you want to help with the campaign, or visit the campaign website.

Second, we are very concerned about the pipelines carrying crude and tar sands oil through our state and under the Straits of Mackinac. Of particular concern is the Line 5 pipeline, which are really two sixty-year-old

pipes. We will be keeping you informed on this issue, and will be working with other groups to put a stop to this direct threat to the Great Lakes waters. The statement on page three of this newsletter expresses the position of the MCWC board on the pipeline issue.

Our **third** concern is the on-going water crisis in Detroit. For years the Detroit water system has been allowed to crumble as preparation for privatization of the system. MCWC has been concerned about this for some time. You may remember the movie Flow in which these issues were addressed. The People's Water Board is a coalition of groups formed in 2009 to address these concerns. It has been particularly active over the past year dealing with the massive water shut-offs that have left thousands of families without water. Working with Maude Barlow and the Council of Canadians, they have had to bring the United Nations into the picture to address the people's human right to water. The following is the mission statement of the People's Water Board:

"The People's Water Board Mission: We believe that water is life. We believe that water is a human right and that all people should have access to clean and affordable water. We believe that water is a commons that should be held in the public trust, free of privatization. The People's Water Board advocates for access, protection, and conservation of water, and promotes awareness of the interconnectedness of all people and resources."

MCWC has formally joined this coalition of groups and pledges to educate and advocate throughout the state in concert with the mission stated above.

Walk, Paddle & Roll

Once again MCWC participated in the Walk, Paddle & Roll fundraiser sponsored by Freshwater Future. We are sorry we could not contact our members by email in time to donate or join us in this event. But we know you will consider a direct donation to MCWC as you renew your memberships. We did receive donations from some of our downstate members who heard about it through the grapevine.

The event was rather low key this year, due to weather that hit us twice. At 33 degrees the day of the second event date, we decided not to ride our bikes. It was also very windy. All the rain we had this fall, plus the plunging temperature, made kayaking seem a bit risky also. The river was quite high. So we took a short walk on the shores of Crystal Lake instead. Four nutty board members turned out for the abbreviated event. It took that many just to hold the sign in the wind.

If you want to host an informational meeting on these issues, call 231-275-2244 for a speaker.

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.



Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation Position on Oil Pipelines

In July 2010 the people of Michigan got a lesson in the danger posed by oil pipelines traveling through our state and our waters to refineries and export markets. The Enbridge 6B pipeline dumped as much as 1 million gallons of tar sands crude oil into the Kalamazoo River. Most of it is still there after four years.

This called attention to Enbridge's proposal to expand the two old pipelines that have been carrying light crude through the Straits of Mackinac for over 60 years. Many did not know these pipes even existed. The expansion would allow Alberta tar sands oil, the dirtiest in the world, to be sent under higher pressure to refineries near Sarnia. These pipes not only pass under the turbulent waters of the straits, risking pollution to the Great Lakes, they also continue through land and under numerous rivers and wetlands. The potential for disaster is huge.

MCWC believes there should be no pipelines passing under the Great Lakes at all - not the current pipelines, not new and bigger pipes. We expect our leaders to perform their duties to citizens under the public trust mandate of our Constitution to protect our water for our own and future generations by shutting off the pipelines altogether. There is no such thing as a pipe that doesn't leak eventually. It is particularly urgent to stop the Line 5 pipeline before a leak occurs, before winter ice precludes repair. No regulations can be enforced that will guarantee the long term safety of human constructed fossil fuel transport pipes, trains, trucks, wells, or refineries. They all pollute eventually. A refinery leaks on the shore of Lake Michigan, a pipe breaks in the Kalamazoo River, a ship runs aground in Alaska, and a platform explodes in the Gulf.

We are stewards of 20% of the world's available fresh water. We must lead the way in ending extreme fossil fuel extraction and the pipes that move it to export refineries. Let us harness the non-polluting wind that is abundant at the Straits instead. For our children and their children, the pipes must go, the tar sands must be left in the ground.

November 15, 2014



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 manekegl@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 _____



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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!