

I had a private meeting with Dr. Earl Campbell, board member of the Lake Erie Waterkeepers, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to introduce myself and to let them know that not only am I interested in the Lake Erie waters but let them know that I was there to also represent the Associated Yacht Clubs. I wanted to get a background on the Waterkeepers and where they are currently with legislation and to find out what other groups or associations were involved and what the latest was on the state of Lake Erie and its tributaries.

I attended a regularly scheduled Waterkeepers Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. I have attached a meeting agenda from that meeting with your packet. The highlights of the discussions were the USEPA and the State of Ohio EPA have a strained relationship and there is no consensus on the state of Lake Erie. The State of Ohio EPA was asked to declare Lake Erie "impaired" and the state said that it would not and this will be challenged. There was also interesting discussion and a report given by the Farm Bureau. Please see the agenda from March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for all 19 items that were on the agenda.

I attended the Lake Erie Waterkeepers 2016 Conference at the WW Knight Preserve on Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. There were presentations given by Dr. Jeff Reutter from Ohio State University and the Ohio Sea Grant on the history of the algae blooms, all of the many causes and predictions for this coming year on algae blooms. There are 5.4 million square miles of land that drain into Lake Erie through the Maumee River. Most of the problems from the Maumee River are farm nutrients and 11 million tons of phosphorus that drain into Lake Erie. The 3 biggest problems with the nutrients are: algae, dead zones in the lake and nuisance grasses.

There was a presentation from the ODNR on the state of fish in Lake Erie. The ODNR and the Toledo Zoo are working on a project to reintroduce Sturgeon into Lake Erie. There is also a study ongoing as to the effect on the fish in Lake Erie by the nutrients and the algae blooms. It was also noted that the USEPA was not upholding the "Clean Water Act".

There was much discussion on the Flint Michigan water crisis and there were presentations given by the Toledo Water Commissioner and also the Water Commissioner of Lima Ohio. Toledo changed from pot ash carbon to granule active carbon to keep up with the amount of toxins that pass through the Toledo water plant. Lima Ohio flushes and treats their water system and its pipes to stop corrosion.

Presentation by Dr. Earl Campbell discussed the relationship between microsystem and liver failure. Also, the relationship with Cyanobacteria (BMAA) that causes ALS and Alzheimer's.

Presentation by the Lucas County Farm Bureau stated that the farm guide lines are from the 1970's and that certain changes are being implemented such as animal farm permits, not spreading animal waste on frozen ground, planting cover crops and soil testing. They can actually test their soil with an app on their cell phones.

A presentation was given on Lake Erie dredging. Federal Law no longer allows dredged material to be dumped into Lake Erie. The dredged material is being pumped back onto farm lands to build up that farm land to prevent run off and to create wet land and marsh areas to collect farm run off.

Farmers have over fertilized with phosphorus. The current standard for farm land is 44 parts per million (PPM) and many farms yield 150 to 500 PPM.

Crop Farmers are doing a pretty good job of controlling phosphorus, nitrogen and erosion both in Ohio and Michigan. The biggest problem is pollution from animal farms in Michigan by not controlling their animal waste and dead animals.

I have also included the agenda from the 2016 Waterkeepers Conference, a writing by Dr. Earl Campbell titled, The Maumee River is An Impaired Waterbody Fact Document, a letter written to Governor John Kasich from Dr. Campbell and a report from Pam Taylor, "Less = More Coalition" regarding farm manure runoff.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lake Erie Waterkeepers Member  
Delegate appointed by Commodore Dennis Proctor