

Toledo's Water Crisis: OEC Recommendations & Recent Policy Responses



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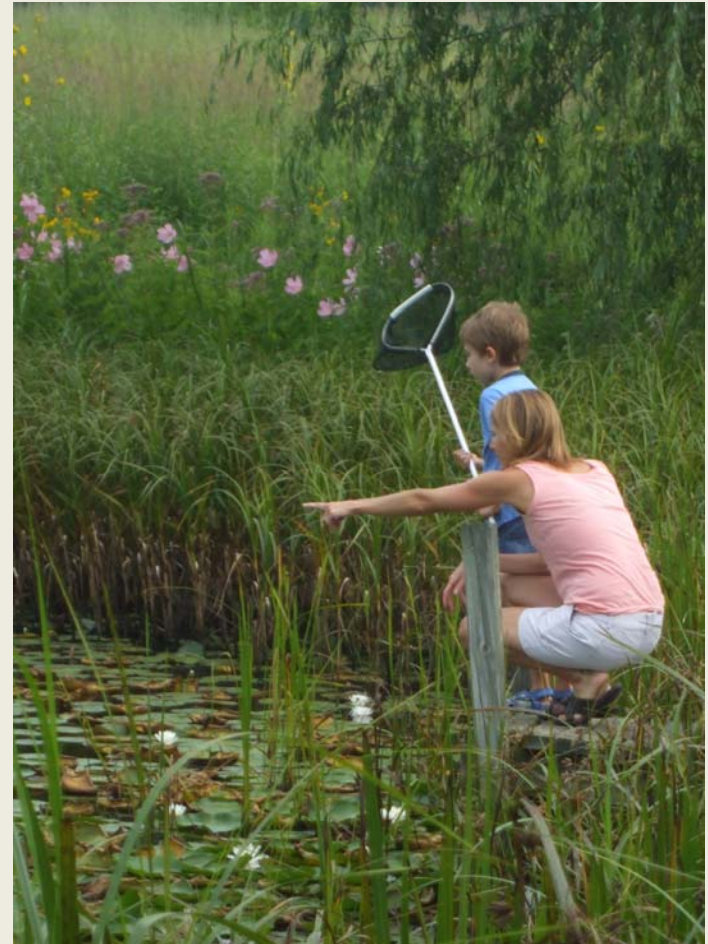
Ohio Environmental Council

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Our Mission:

To secure healthy air,
land, and water for all
who call Ohio home.



About the OEC



- Founded in 1969
- Statewide, non-profit, non-government
- Membership organization – 3,000+ individuals, 100+ group members
- Budget of \$1.5 million – funded primarily by grants & donations
- Volunteer Board of Directors; 16 staff members

Key Issues



Clean Water Program

- Reduce Nutrient Pollution
- Prevent Spread of Asian Carp
- Stop Open Lake Disposal

Environmental Health Program

- Protecting People from Toxic Chemicals

Clean Air Program

- Promoting Renewable Energy Sources

Natural Resources

- Protecting State Parks & Nature Preserves

Green Jobs / Green Economy

- Promoting Environmentally Sustainable Careers

Oil & Gas Drilling

- Fight Fracking

Recent Accomplishments



- Helped prevent open-lake disposal in Cleveland
- Supported passage of SB150 for chemical fertilizer certification
- Helped secure \$100 million for Clean Ohio Fund
- Supported \$236 million for state parks in Capital Budget (HB497)

Recent Actions to Reduce Nutrient Pollution

- Increases in state and federal funding for conservation practices
- Conservation groups issue Action Agenda
- Lawmakers introduce key legislation and call for a distressed watershed designation



Funding for Conservation Practices



- \$3 million dollars in new federal emergency funds for the NRCS EQIP program
- Gov. Kasich reallocated \$1.25 million dollars from the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- US EPA dedicated 7.4 million dollars of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding



Conservation Organizations' Action Agenda



- We call on all Lake Erie states and the Ontario Province to establish thresholds for the amount of phosphorus allowed into the Lake.
- Identify the specific amounts of phosphorus flowing into the lake by category of sources



Conservation Organizations' Action Agenda



- Ohio has no law prohibiting manure from being applied on frozen or snow covered ground.
- We call for a state law ending this practice.



Conservation Organizations' Action Agenda

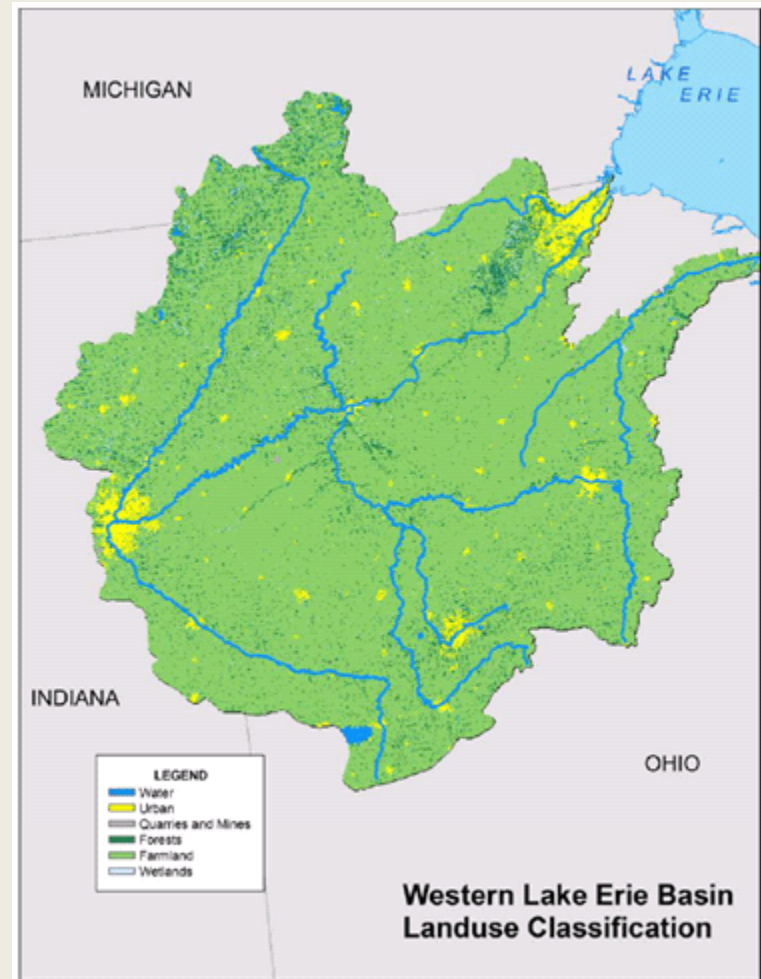


- Regulations allow manure to be sold or transferred to other agricultural operations without requiring an approved plan or adequate oversight.
- The loophole allows uncertified people to apply thousands of tons and millions of gallons of manure.
- We call for action to **CLOSE the MANURE LOOPHOLE**



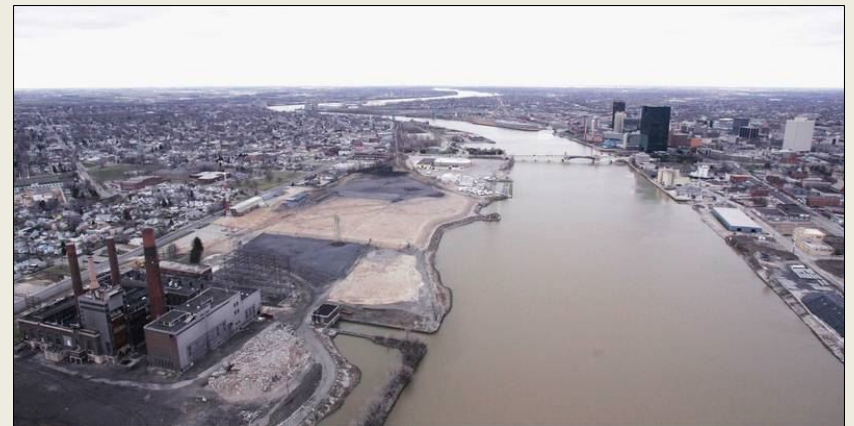
Conservation Organizations' Action Agenda

- We call for the Maumee River Watershed to be declared “in distress.”
- Administered by the Dept. of Natural Resources' Division of Soil & Water under the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program.



Distressed Watershed Definition

- Distressed Watershed is one
 - where aquatic life and health is impaired by nutrients or sediment from agricultural land uses, and
 - where there is a threat to public health, drinking water supplies, recreation, or public safety and welfare.



Distressed Watershed Designation



- Chief of Soil & Water may designate a watershed to be in distress, triggering requirements:
 - For manure and/or
 - For sediment and
 - For associated nutrient management plans.



Distressed Watershed Designation



- Regulations only require approved nutrient management plans.
- Does not mandate any specific best management practice other than prohibiting winter manure application
- Exempts confined animal feeding facilities operating under a permit.



Nutrient Management Plan Components

- Regulations direct nutrient management plans address:
 - the methods,
 - amount,
 - form,
 - placement,
 - cropping system; and
 - timing of **all** nutrient applications.

Nutrient Management Workbook

The purpose of this workbook is to develop an annual nutrient management plan.

Farm Name _____

Cropping Year _____

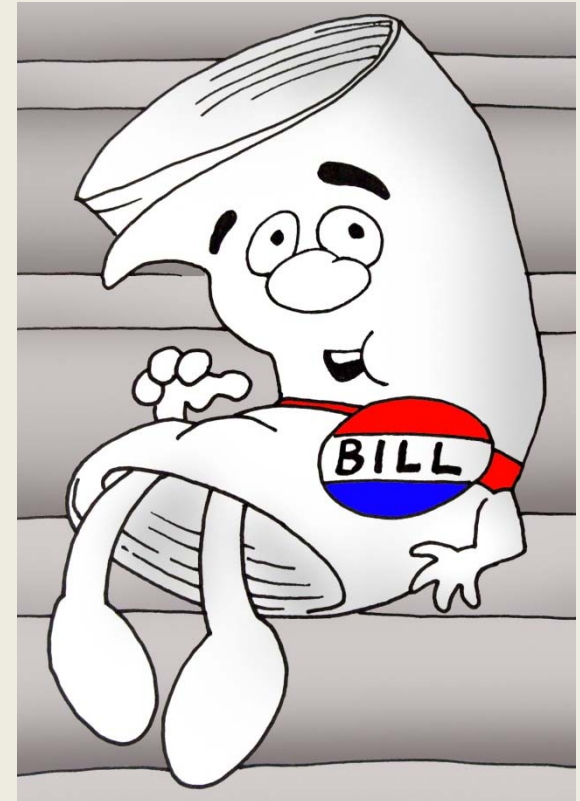
Prepared by _____

Date _____



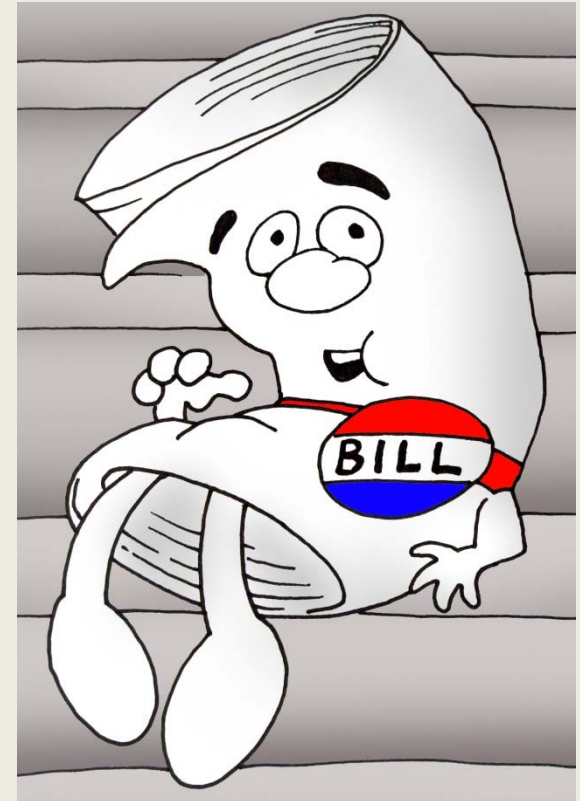
Introduced State Legislation

- Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) introduced Senate Bill 356
- Requires certification for manure application.
- Requires certification by the end of 2014.



Introduced State Legislation

- Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Toledo) introduced House Bill 611
- Bans spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered ground.



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