**September 16, 2013**

**Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority**

**International Joint Commission**

**September 16, 2013 meeting at Wayne County Community College, Detroit, Michigan:**

In representation of the Associated Yacht Clubs (AYC), an organization of 30 boating clubs predominately located in the western basin of Lake Erie, and the Inter-Lake Yachting Association (I-LYA) an organization of 146 boating clubs predominately located throughout Lake Erie, and with both organization also having constituents in Canada as well as the United States, we would like to share a concern about the health of Lake Erie.

We no longer are able to comfortably stop our boats and take a swim in the lake, or allow our pets to swim, because of the algae blooms, in fear of the health hazards associated with the algae.

We are concerned about effects on our health from eating the fish taken from the lake, due to the algae manifestation.

We are engaged with the Lake Erie Waterkeepers, in hopes of restoring the ecological health of the lake, and thereby allowing us to return to the overall enjoyment of the lake.

Observations of your report:

1) Strongly endorse nutrient TMDL's(Total Maximum Daily Loads) for the Maumee, Detroit and western basin of Lake Erie.

2) Strongly endorse a ban on manure and other biosolids with the addition of fertilizer(not included in the recommendation).

3) The recommended phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus percentage reductions are confusing, please make them targeted numbers or something simpler.

4) The phosphorus concentration map is not referenced for sources and needs to be subject to review as there is conflicting information.

5) The Detroit River is the major source of water to Lake Erie and needs to be monitored and assessed for the 'three streams' and the added phosphorus when compared to the Lake Huron outfall into the St. Clair River.

It is remarkable to us that there are so many articles in newspapers announcing the sewage "dumps" from the Detroit Water System, and no one appears to be doing anything about it!

While we recognize financial implications of these items, we are also aware that, if left unaddressed, the health of the lake will continue to deteriorate, and costs to rectify the damage will only rise.

Thank you for engaging in discussion, and for accepting, hopefully, constructive observations toward remedying the ecological negativity in Lake Erie.

Sincerely,

**Ed Payne**

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