

Spotlight on Lake Michigan

Dr. J. Val Klump

Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Annual Meeting 16 July 2016

Challenges for Science/Policy:

Data
Uncertainty
Risk
Collaboration
The Bottom line



\$4 billion sports fishery industry.

100 million Lake Trout in L. Superior

drinking water for 40 million people



Regional economy = 4th largest in the world







Inland Seas – *not* mere "lakes":





Yet, despite their size these systems are **surprisingly fragile**



- Evolutionarily "young" Simple food webs
 - ... highly susceptible to non-native spp.





2 ports of call away from 99% of the world

Global system





\Rightarrow cumulative environmental stresses



- 34 different threats

- ✤ Habitat alterations
- Climate change
- Coastal Development
- Fisheries management
- ✤ Invasive species
- NPS runoff
- Toxic substances

... and constantly changing

U. Michigan GLEAM project

anthropogenic Drivers



triggered passage of **CWA** in 1972

Lake Erie declared "dead"

\rightarrow phosphorus abatement ~ 60% reduction

D. Scavia et al. / Journal of Great Lakes Research 40 (2014) 226-246





You're glumping the pond where the Humming-Fish hummed! No more can they hum, for their gills are all gummed. So I'm sending them off. Oh, their future is dreary. They'll walk on their fins and get woefully weary in search of some water that isn't so smeary.



January 27, 1986

Dear Claudia Melear and Margie Pless:

You must think me terribly rude for not answering your very pleasant letter of December 6. The fault, however, is not mine. It just arrived this morning, having been somewhat circuitously forwarded from New York via pony express.

Although I will be unable to accept your kind invitation to come to Cleveland, I do agree with you that my 1971 statement in the Lorax about the condition of Lake Erie needs a bit of revision. I should no longer be saying bad things about a body of water that is now, due to great civic and scientific effort, the happy home of smiling fish.

I can assure you the process of purifying my text will commence immediately. Unfortunately, the purification of texts, like that of lakes, cannot be accomplished over night. The objectionable line will be removed from future editions. But it could possibly take more than a year before the existing stock of books has moved out of the book stores.

In the meantime, thank you for your letter and for all the great Loraxian work you have been doing.



Theodor S. Geisel

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Lake Erie: 9 October 2011





Expanding Dead Zones



processes resulting in hypoxia in Green Bay





The Green Bay Dead Zone

concurrence of several conditions:

✓ **Over "fertilization"** = Excessive loading of nutrients – usu. from the watershed



✓ **Highly productive** – nutrient loading stimulates excessive algal blooms



✓ SEQUESTRATION - seasonal stratification



dissolved oxygen availability is limited by thermal stratification

vpoxia duration below std

hypoxic

lc

The Green Bay Dead Zone

- = hypoxic, dead zone conditions

~ 25-100 km² ~ 20,000 acres



C. J. Sniffen, ¶ J. P. Harner III,** A. D. Wright, †† and S. I. Smith ‡‡



Scientists: 'Dead zone' showing up in Green Bay

Encouraging signs





An early summer storm flushes loads of sediment off farmlands southwest of Green Bay. Manure-covered farm fields and big rains have proven to be a bad combination for the bay, because the phosphorus-rich runoff is causing massive algae blooms.

WisconsinWatch.org

NUTRIENT POLLUTION

April 1, 2015

Donate

Q

Farmers vow to reduce phosphorus, bane of Green Bay

'T'm part of the problem ... But I'm also part of the solution,' dairy farmer says at summit led by U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble

By Kate Golden



By Dan Egan of the Journal Sentinel staft

other non-conventional pollution threats

spills – highly vulnerable

emerging contaminants





SOURCE: Enbridge

DAVID PIERCE and MARTHA THIERRY/DETROIT FREE PRESS



two pipelines, called Line 5, carry a total of 20 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas fluids each day from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario.



SUNKEN HAZARD

Aging oil pipelines beneath the Straits of Mackinac an ever-present threat to the Great Lakes



Eric Anderson & David Schwab J. Great Lakes Res (2013)



Simulated **Spill trajectories** – St. Mackinac – up to 20 days post spill

What's the risk?

Talmadge Creek, tributary to the Kalamazoo River, is overcome with toxic tar sands oil during the 2010 Enbridge oil spill on Line 6B. Photo credit: MIDEQ.

~\$1 B clean up ~ 6 years

2010 Kalamazoo River – 1,000,000 gal tar sands oil Enbridge Energy pipeline

The 2010 Kalamazoo River tar sands oil spill, by Enbridge Energy, was the largest and most costly inland oil spill in U.S. history due to 17 hours passing before Enbridge reported the spill and inadequate response plans. Photo credit: MIDEQ.



Risk? \rightarrow potential damage in the multiple billions + remediation ~ decades (if ever)

Eric Anderson & Dave Schwab, GLERL & MWC

Legacy & traditional contaminants: Pathogens, PCBs, DDT, Hg, etc
 – 43 Areas of Concern, Fish consumption advisories, beach closings

Emerging classes of contaminants: pharmaceuticals, caffeine, personal care products, pesticides, flame retardants, plasticizers, nanomaterials



VIEWPOINT





On the Need for a National (U.S.) Research Program to Elucidate the Potential Risks to Human Health and the Environment Posed by Contaminants of Emerging Concern

P. J. Novak,^{*,+} W. A. Arnold,⁺ V. S. Blazer,[‡] R. U. Halden,[§] R. D. Klaper,[⊥] D. W. Kolpin,[∥] D. Kriebel,[#] N. G. Love,[§] D. Martinović-Weigelt,[%] H. B. Patisaul,[@] S. A. Snyder,⁺⁺ F. S. vom Saal,^{‡+} A. V. Weisbrod,^{§§} and D. L. Swackhamer^{⊥⊥}



Major unknowns:

- what's there ? = detection (not routine)
- where do they go? = source, distribution & fate
- do they have an impact?





	Discharge (kg/year)
Metformin	6400
Caffeine	1700
Acetaminophen	450
Paraxanthine	450
Naproxen	200
Sulfamethoxazole	120
Sulfanilamide	120
Ofloxacin	100
Trimethoprim	90
Triclosan	90
Diltiazem	80
Ampicillin	70

(Blair, Klaper et al. 2013)

e.g. presence \Rightarrow input/persistence



- 7th most prescribed drug in US
- Highest input of any drug to environment



Plastic Microbeads in the Great Lakes

By Helen M. Domske



Photo: 5Gyres.org

Microplastics

For years people have worried about the environmental impacts from plastics left behind in the oceans and Great Lakes. Pictures of birds tangled in six-pack rings or turtles choking on plastic bags have documented the danger of discarded plastics that linger in the environment. Recently, attention has turned to the Great Lakes and small plastic particles and microbeads that have been found there. Some plastic particles result from the breakdown of larger plastic items, but others are small plastic spheres known as microbeads.

These minute plastic beads are typically used as scrubbing agents or exfoliants in personal care products. They are often brightly colored and can been seen suspended in the body washes, facial scrubs and toothpastes that contain them. As these products are used by consumers, microbeads are rinsed off and go directly down the drain with water that eventually makes its way to waste water treatment plants. Although some of the particles are captured through treatment, many are not and sewage treatment overflows can also dump these microbeads directly into the ecosystem.

New York Sea Grant Extension Program provides Equal Program and Equal Employment Opportunities in association with Cornell Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Commerce, and cooperating Extension Associations.

New York Sea Grant 229 Jarvis Hall SUNY at Buffalo Buffalo, NY 14260-4400 Phone: 716.645.3610 Fax: 716.645.3612 *E-mail:* hmd4@cornell.edu Web: www.nyseagrant.org

> Although harmless in appearance, microbeads have the potential to cause environmental damage. Some of the microbeads are about the size of certain fish eggs, so these small plastic particles can be ingested by Great Lakes fish and other aquatic organisms. Once eaten the plastic material could deprive these organisms of nutrients supplied by food or possibly get lodged in their stomachs or digestive systems. Additionally, plastics can absorb toxins, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), making these harmful substances more readily available within the food web. These toxins remain in fish where they can move up the food chain, as smaller fish are eaten by larger predators.

Plastic Debris Surface Abundance in the Great Lakes Lake Superior Lake Huron 0 0 Plastic Pieces per sg km Count_Dens • 575 Lake Er • 576 - 3000 3001 - 10000 10001 - 25000 25001 - 50000 50001 - 100000 0 50 100 200 Miles • 100001-650000 LILLI Copyright @2012 Exri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ

#2050

Highly perturbed ecologies



Sea lamprey

Dreissenid mussels

Round goby

alewife



> 180 spp

Dreissenid mussel invasion: zebra (1990's) \rightarrow quagga (2000's)



Quagga Mussel

Quaggas replaced zebras in ~ 2 generations – 4 years

Dreissenid mussel invasion: zebra (1990's) \rightarrow quagga (2000's)



Dreissenid mussel invasion: zebra (1990's) \rightarrow quagga (2000's)







Bottom trawl Lake Michigan offshore
a re-engineered ecosystem

Quagga mussels: 950 trillion tiny time bombs in our lakes?



Administration's Great Lakes Green is not always good: Smelly, slimy blooms like this on the tip of South Fox Island in Lake Michigan are directly related to the explosion of quagga mussels.

- "The water is gin clear, you can see 90 feet down
- parts are now clearer than Lake Superior"

500 million pounds of quagga mussels = 4 x weight of all prey fish species

Lake Superior is now the **3rd clearest** in the Great Lakes

 $1995-98 \rightarrow 2007-08$

possible.

field station in Muskegon.

87% decline in phytoplankton **biomass 70% decline** in phytoplankton **primary production**

Ancillary (unforeseen?) impacts of Increased water clarity



+ Quagga mussel colonization of deep water

Today's nearshore, formerly exposed cobble



Nearshore Lake Michigan: Round gobies feeding on mussels





Unprecedented nearshore HABs,

unprecedented offshore clarity

Climate change



A Supplement to the President's Budgets for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

lake effect snow



'98 El Nino





A warmer region

nearly 2 months over 90°

nearly 2 weeks over 100°

- ✓ + 4-9 F. hotter by 2090
- ✓ Reduced ice cover
- ✓ Prolonged stratified period ~ 6 weeks

also wetter

- ✓ 10-20% increase in ppt
- ✓ 50-100% increased freq intense events

& changing climatology ?

Surface water temperatures



1992

2012

Summertime water temperatures have increased over 8°F since 1980

Bayfield Harbor, L Superior: Last boat in fall, 1st boat in spring



Green Bay – ice cover



Decreasing ice cover \rightarrow rising water temps 2x > air



Evaporation has increased about 25% since 1980

Fig. 19 (a) Outflow-removed lake level (red), precipitation-driven lake level (black), (b) difference between the curves.

Hanrahan & Roebber 2011

Falling levels – not rising

- ¹/₂ of increase is during summer
- Air temperatures have remained near constant



Lake Michigan-Huron levels last 20 years







50-100% increase in **intense** rain **events**





Leaky pipes: Researchers find sewage in most Milwaukee stormwater discharges

AUG 16 2011 SHAHEEN KANTHAWALA 4 COMMENTS

🗘 +1 🗸 0

Like 48 Tweet 18 A recent study found almost 90 percent of storm water outfalls tested in Milwaukee contained human sewage. Almost a third were rated as contaminated at serious levels. Researchers found bacteria specific only to people in storm

to people in storm water sampled over four years. The tests do not

react with fecal

matter from other

9

Stormwater outfall in Milwaukee. Image: McLellan Lab, Great Lakes Water Institute



Aging infrastructure



#1 runoff \rightarrow highly event driven

~ 70-80% of loading in 10 days

-- Timing can be critical



the major challenge of the 21st century:

 to reconcile the inherent conflict between human activity and environmental sustainability and to preserve this asset for future generations

our challenge & a major opportunity for us to demonstrate how it is done

Science \rightarrow Policy \rightarrow Law



Cannot manage something if you do not know how it works



"the 20 year question"





Monitoring is essential

the **bottom line**

Needed investment ~\$100-300M/yr just for the data challenge

< 0.003% annual value GL



combines uncertainty + magnitude of harm



"Water: the next oil" - but no substitute at any price

- not a free good costs include treatment & distribution but also include 'ecological costs' – almost completely ignored
 - >\$1 trillion invested in US infrastructure
 - EPA est. \$350B over next 20 years in US to rehabiliate
 - more public works \$\$ than any other single item
- The most essential, yet cheapest commodity we use
 - pay more for cable than water ~ \$1/day
 - < 1% of the water that enters your home is ingested</p>

≡ little incentive to conserve, or use water at its true value, e.g. the 2 fastest growing states in the U.S., Arizona and Nevada – are also the driest

"water bill" – is a misnomer – b/c the water itself is treated as free

Oh – and one other big problem

Water – for Free !! ... not!

Opinion

Home » News » Opinion

A cost at both ends of the pipe

By J. Val Klump

Posted: Sept. 19, 2009

The issue of our "water bill" has been headline news. What gets lost in this discussion is the fact that while we pay for pumping, filtering, treating and disposing of the water we use, the water itself costs us nothing. This is wrong, because a readily available, abundant supply of fresh water is not free.

One suggestion:

2¢ per 100 gal. "to pay back the lakes"

~1 ¢ per person per day < 10 cents a week

< 12/yr ave. household --- Milwaukee \rightarrow \$4-5M per year

- basin wide \rightarrow \$200M/yr



When it comes to fresh water, economist and entrepreneur Paul Hawken was right on the money when he

Good news!

The Vital Center



Research Funders

The Brico Fund

The Joyce Foundation Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Research conducted by Public Policy Forum

Water Policy Advisory Panel Franc Anderson, S. C. Johann Dr. Lynn Brauddas, Friedad y Mahasahe's haver William Carty, Carty Land Corporation Preston Cicke, Cayl Mahasabe Borton mental Services Margaret Farrow, consultant Dr. Nany, Frank, UW-Mohashe Art Hermigen, Colleyo & Ath Dard Lee, We Energier Fat Metholes, colleyor Manha Fat Metholes, Colleyor Manha Fat Metholes, Conteroft Sorte Commun-Isabi Acong. Statem & State Commun-Isabi Acong.

Health Center Ald, Michael Murphy, City of Milwauk Mayor Christine Nuemberg, Moquen Jim Ryan, president, Hales Corners Andrew Schiesl, Quad/Graphics Dan Stoffel, dairy farmer

Full report available at www.publicpolicyforum.org

Public Policy Forum

633 West Wisconsin Avenue Suite 406 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203 www.publicpolicyforum.org Phone (414) 276-8240 Asset Management for Regional Prosperity Clean and abundant water is a strategic start - central to the Mibrubulee area's binory and is liture, and to the region's quality of life and global competitiveness. Unlike counties and vallages, however, water known no bundarise, making mansement of this sast extremely complex. Early in 2005, the Public Policy Forum assembled a panel of leaders with various backgrounds from across southeastern Watescomin in an first or to reach a commons on this diffution problem. This is the

Clean Water, Healthy Future

water advisory panel's consensus:
 We face urgent problems, like dropping water tables and declining quality.
 Jurisdictional overlaps, policy gaps, and lack of data hamper solutions.

Leaders must think strategically and regionally about water resources.

Recommendations

The advisory panel calls on state legislators to adopt a goal of achieving integrated water resource management and to request the Joint Legislative Council convene a study committee to address the panel's policy options:

1. Vision and goals - We need an integrated water strategy recognizing the rdationship between surface waters and groundwater. It must address quality and quantity, link to other types of planning and be grounded in scientific data, ultimately leading to a 'no-net loss' concept of replanshing the water we use. 2.Science-based solutions - There is no one-stre-fits-all answer to complex water issues. Many options are available to help communities manage the regions' water resources in an integrated fashion.

Arguna water management mouses - integrated management options.
Regional Water Resource Commission - Cooperative council of water manageres appointed by municipalities/counties to create and implement plans.
<u>Compact among Local Governments</u> - Contract that specifies goals, actions

to be performed, and funding mechanism. • <u>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</u> - State provides guidelines for local governments, which adopt plans and options to meet objectives. • <u>Regional Water Resource Authority</u> - Appointed body with professional staff

to plan, set priorities, and implement and enforce policies. 4. Policy and law - To achieve the regional vision and goals and implement polices, programs, and governance models, it will be necessary to clarify certain laws, change others and create new state water laws as needed. A Federal-State Compact to Renew

THE GREAT LAKES REGION

The Great Lakes states and the federal government should capitalize on the Great Lakes and the natural assets of its watersheds as an economic driver for the region.



"The Great Lakes

offer a tremen-

dous opportunity

for reinvigorating

the economy of

the region, and

boosting the

METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Healthy Waters, Strong Economy: The Benefits of Restoring the Great Lakes Ecosystem

and its waterways By John C. Austin, Soren Anderson, Paul N. Courant, Robert E. Litan

The Great Lakes are one of America's most important—and often-overlooked—natural features. Together, they account for 90 percent of the United States' and 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water. The Great Lakes also directly impact the lives of the roughly 35 million people who live in the cities, states, and Canadian provinces surrounding them, providing drinking water and recreation, commercial transportation, and both tangible and inangible quality of life henefits.

However, the Great Lakes and surrounding areas face numerow threats to their health and utility. This report summarizes the major findings of a more in-depth study—Developing America's North Coast: A Benefit Cost Analysis of a Great Lakes Infrastructure Program—of the benefits and costs of the folderal-state Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Strategy by the same authors. It begins by outlining the major elements of the restoration strategy, and the costs of cleaning and preserving the Great Lakes Regional the describes the results of a rigrown analysis of the CLRC Strategy. It highlighting the economic benefits of its implementation. The report concludes by discussing the polcy implications of this analysis, arguing that, because the restoration plan outlined in the GLRC Strategy is likely to produce economic benefits well in excess of its costs, federal and state policy makers should act on its recommendations.

Introduction

of the nation as a whole."

competitiveness

The Midvestern states that surround the Grast Lakes are in a time of economic transi tion—from an agricultural and industrial production, to a global knowledge economy in which the lakes are both an increasingly valuable resource, and an important amenity. Outside the region, the United States and other nations around the world are increasingly looking for ways to move beyond economic growth patterns that diminish natural resources to those that support long-term sustainable development.

The Great Lakes and their abundant fresh water offer a doorway to this new economy. In 2005, the Brookings Institution joined with academic, public policy, business, education, environmental, and civic organizations to launch the Great Lakes Economic Initiative—a multiyear research and policy development effort focused on supporting economic growth and change in the Great Lakes region-3 A piller of the initiative's agenda is to leverage the region's

SEPTEMBER 2007 • THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION • GREAT LAKES ECONOMIC INITIATIVE

\$50-80B return

our future depends upon *freshwater*

at ers appoint m.org <u>Compact a</u> to be perfc

final thought

Fundamental Fact:

Great Lakes are CLOSED Systems

✓ if you dump it in today – you will **drink it tomorrow**

Water is:







60% of your body

and : if you live around here

YOU ARE Lake Michigan !







the ultimate bottom line:

the future is our responsibility










August 2, 2014

URGENT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF TOLEDO & LUCAS COUNTY WHO RECEIVE WATER FROM THE CITY OF TOLEDO

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER DO NOT BOIL THE WATER

Chemists testing water at Toledo's Collins Park Water Treatment Plant had two sample readings for microcystin in excess of the recommended "DO NOT DRINK" 1 micro-gram per liter standard. This notice applies to ALL customers of Toledo water.

Most important ... See More







Have fun on the water, but know that blue-green algae are in many Ohio lakes. Their toxins may be, too.

Be Alert! Avoid water that: · looks like spilled paint · has surface scums, mats or films · is discolored or has colored streaks • has green globs floating below the surface



Avoid swallowing lake water.

For more information visit ohioalgaeinfo.com or call 1-800-OHBEACH.

WARNING high levels of algal toxins have been detected.

g and wading are no ended for the very o y young or th

a "CUYAHOGA moment"