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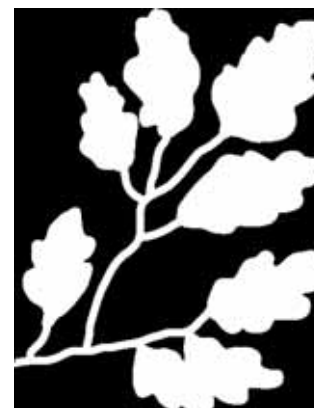
EMEAC

East Michigan
Environmental Action Council

21220 West Fourteen Mile Road • Bloomfield Hills • Michigan 48301-4000
Telephone: 248-258-5188 Website: www.emeac.org



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2005 Annual Report of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council

EMEAC's mission is to protect and restore land, air, water and diversity of life through informed personal and public action.

EMEAC

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In the following pages, you will find a summary of our accomplishments for the past year. If you wish more detailed information, we invite you to visit EMEAC's website at www.emeac.org.

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Curbing Urban Sprawl

EMEAC's first urban sprawl battle occurred in the late 1970's when a northern extension was proposed for I-275 north from Twelve Mile. EMEAC teamed up with other citizen groups to prevent the extension because it would attract sprawl and destroy lakes, wetlands and woodlands in western Oakland County. The groups prevailed and only a four-mile "Haggerty Connector" (M-5) was built in the right-of-way terminating at Pontiac Trail.

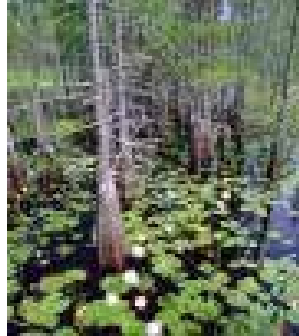
Now two new proposals threaten the lakes and wetlands in the area. One is the proposed widening of Haggerty, Union Lake and Williams Lake Roads from two lanes to five; the other is to build a new, five-lane road from the northern end of M-5 through two golf courses. The new road is part of a plan that includes a large outdoor mall on the golf course property.

EMEAC joined the 4 Towns Citizen Action Team (4-Towns CAT), a coalition of residents from Commerce, Waterford, West Bloomfield and White Lake in fighting the two proposals. EMEAC assisted 4-Towns CAT in winning approval from three of the four township boards (Commerce Township is the exception) for a three-lane alternative for the Haggerty/Union Lake/Williams Lake corridor to alleviate traffic but with less damage to the eight lakes, associated wetlands and quality of life in the area. Currently the groups are building public support for their three-lane expansion alternative and are working to protect the 40 acres of wetlands that would be disrupted by the proposed new road.

Local Wetlands Protection

Under Michigan law, a permit is required to drain, dredge or fill a wetland over 5 acres or adjacent to a waterway. Smaller, isolated wetlands that often provide valuable wildlife and water quality benefits, are not protected. Furthermore, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) does not have adequate funding to monitor activities in wetlands throughout the state.

Local communities can protect these smaller, isolated wetlands and can



be the local eyes and ears to stop prohibited activities before irreversible harm is done. State law authorizes local governments to enact and implement wetlands protection ordinances.

tection ordinances.

MDEQ enlisted EMEAC's help in encouraging local governments to adopt their own wetlands protection programs. With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EMEAC presented four introductory and two advanced workshops during summer and fall, 2005, to local government staff, consultants and wetland activists. EMEAC is also assisting MDEQ in identifying obstacles to effective coordination between state agency and local government staff and in establishing a state-wide wetlands protection network and internet listserv.

2004-2005 Financial Report

Statement of Activities for Year Ending March 31, 2005 with Comparative Totals for 2004

Revenue	2005	2004
Dues and Donations		
EMEAC	\$15,149	\$12,681
SMSBF ¹	0	\$38,050
Endowment Income	\$6,379	\$5,925
Grants	\$90,100	\$53,212
Annual Conference	\$2,896	\$20,715
Other unrestricted income	\$5,200	\$1,396
Net realized gain (loss) on in endowment investments	\$29,311	-\$3,616
Unrealized gain (loss) on endowment investment	-\$16,121	\$93,149
Total Revenue	\$132,914	\$221,512
Expenses		
Program Services		
EMEAC	\$90,134	\$86,962
SMSBF	0	\$45,097
Management	\$10,713	\$9,004
Development	\$5,877	\$2,998
Total	\$106,723	\$144,061

Statement of Financial Position for Year Ending March 31, 2005 with Comparative Totals for 2004

Assets	2005	2004
Cash		
EMEAC	\$14,771	\$13,890
SMSBF	0	\$18,894
Endowment Investments	\$463,770	\$479,353
Accounts receivable	0	\$10,250
Prepaid Insurance	\$508	\$615
Accounts receivable-grants	\$44,887	0
Fixed assets	\$2,260	\$2,204
Total assets	\$526,197	\$525,206
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$4,701	\$5,449
Accrued Payroll	\$1,411	0
Payroll expenses	\$1,514	\$3,228
Total liabilities	\$7,626	\$8,677
Net Assets	\$518,571	\$516,529

1. EMEAC hosted the Southeast Michigan Sustainable Business Forum through March 31, 2004.

A complete set of financial statements is available upon request.

Donors, Continued

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Jan Wilson



EMEAC maintains careful records of donations. However, there may be errors in this listing. If your name has been misspelled, incorrectly listed or omitted, please accept our apology and inform us so that we may correct our records.

Endowment Fund

In the 1980's, Nathan (Barry) Driggers encouraged EMEAC to establish an endowment fund. Barry was the president of the Harder Foundation of Detroit.

To help EMEAC build its endowment fund, the Harder Foundation offered to match, dollar for dollar, all money EMEAC deposited in the fund between 1985 and 1989. EMEAC undertook a fundraising campaign to which its members responded generously. With matching foundation dollars, the endowment fund reached \$221,523 by June of 1989.

A committee of the EMEAC Board, chaired by Saida Malarney, manages the endowment fund with professional investment services provided by UBS. As of March 31, 2005, the market value of EMEAC's endowment fund was \$463,770, a 3.8% gain from the beginning of the calendar year.



Building Support for Great Lakes Protection

In the 1980's, Michiganders were surprised to learn of serious proposals to divert Great Lakes water to southern states for agricultural irrigation. Recently, we became aware of threats to Michigan's water resources from large scale bottling of water by private interests such as the Nestle Corporation. Whether its



water is diverted by huge engineering projects or bottled and sold out of the state, the fear is that Michigan's water will become a commodity like oil that is sold to the highest bidder. Michigan is at risk because it has no legislation regulating water use and withdrawal. A state that fails to regulate in-state withdrawals from its water resources jeopardizes its ability to prevent out of state withdrawals.

EMEAC has joined other organizations in voicing strong support for new legislation that would better protect the Great Lakes against diversions and abusive water practices. EMEAC is part of the *Great Lakes, Great Michigan Campaign*, a coalition of groups including Clean Water Action, Detroit Audubon Society, Michigan Environmental Council, Sierra Club, PIRGIM and others. The *Great Lakes, Great Michigan Campaign* urges a bi-partisan package of legislation to protect water resources, strictly regulate large water users, require public input into decision making, and insure that water remain a public resource for future generations.

Maintaining Sewage Treatment Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced consideration last fall of a new policy to allow sewage plant operators to mix raw sewage with treated sewage and release the blend into receiving waterbodies. A national coalition of which EMEAC was a member opposed the proposed new policy. EMEAC supported the coalition by organizing a petition drive in Oakland County. USEPA abandoned the blended sewage proposal when a majority of Congressional delegates requested that the policy be withdrawn.

Detroit River Corridor Water Quality

EMEAC attended the State of the Strait Conference in December 2004 to learn how it could help build support for increased water quality monitoring on the St. Clair – Detroit River Corridor. A primary theme at the conference was the need for volunteer



monitors to increase the amount of water quality information available to decision makers at all levels

of government. USEPA and Environment Canada (EC) share monitoring responsibilities in the corridor. Following the conference, EMEAC circulated information about training opportunities offered by the Detroit Audubon Society for volunteer bio-monitoring and water quality monitoring.

Healthy Food and Water

During the fall of 2004, EMEAC teamed up with the Michigan Organic Food & Farm Alliance (MOFFA) to enhance public awareness of health, water and food issues and the ways in which these issues are linked. With support from the Beldon Fund of New York, MOFFA Project Coordinator Carol Osborne organized two events:

"GREEN" Blood Drive Today

EMEAC and MOFFA organized a Red Cross blood drive to recruit en-

vironmentalists and food system advocates to respond to an urgent need in southeast Michigan for blood. While participating in the blood drive, donors learned how to be activists for healthy food and water. The Detroit Audubon Society, Clean Water Action, PIRGIM and the Sierra Club assisted EMEAC and MOFFA by alerting their members to the 'green' blood drive. MOFFA provided organic food for participants

Film Showing: *The Future of Food*

EMEAC and MOFFA organized two "Food & Water" house parties in Oakland County. The first was part of the national Organic Consumers Association (OCA) food campaign to engage citizens in demanding government action and policies that promote more organic farming. By participating in this national event, EMEAC and MOFFA gained access to OCA's local contacts in Oakland County and its tools for activism. The house party featured the food activism documentary called *The Future of Food*, and information about

improving water quality.



SUSTAINERS, Continued

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Cathryn H. Kurtagh
Bernice Lasker

EMEAC Shows Film *The End of Suburbia* To Promote Public Discussion About Petroleum Use

In May, 2005, EMEAC presented the film *The End of Suburbia* to over 200 attendees, many of them high school students, at Birmingham's Seaholm High School. EMEAC hosted the film to promote discussion about the current and future impacts of our free-wheeling use of petroleum.

Oil experts interviewed for the film stated that we are now at or past the world's peak production of oil and gas. They claim that the suburban lifestyle, premised as it is upon extensive automobile travel, must end because renewable fuels will not be available in time to take the place of petroleum..

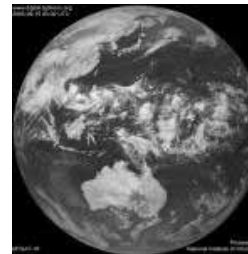
Jack Lessenberry, Metro Times columnist and Wayne State University professor hosted the discussion of the film. In his Metro Times column following the film-showing, Mr. Lessenberry made the following observations:

“Gasoline, by world standards, is still very cheap, and big roomy vehicles are comfortable and convenient and you have a power trip sitting up there looking down at the world. What we in this country have done is create all sorts of incentives to produce urban sprawl and consume too much fuel.
...

Environmentalists in the past have lost credibility by announcing Doomsday would arrive in 1985, etc. Nobody really knows when the big crisis will come. What we know for sure is that fossil fuels won't last forever, and we can't go on fouling our nests

and abandoning them. So, we have three choices: A) Pretend, with George W. Bush and Co., that the facts are all hooey, party on and hope the oil lasts till we die. B) Run around hollering doom, and be openly contemptuous of anyone not willing to give up their car or air conditioning right now. Or C) Fight for policies designed to create a better standard we can live with.

The hardest choice is the right one, of course. Not to decide is, of course, to vote for waiting till the big crash comes. That may well happen, but if we want any kind of future, we need to start working for something better.”



Cutting Mercury Emissions

In March 2005, the Bush Administration eased mercury emission standards from coal-fired power plants despite evidence that children born to women who eat mercury-contaminated fish during pregnancy are at risk of brain damage. Once mercury falls out of coal smoke into water, it works its way up the food chain to become concentrated in some fish species. *In utero* mercury exposure can cause permanent brain damage to the developing fetus.

Mercury pollution is so pervasive in Michigan that the state has posted mercury-related fish consumption advisories for every inland lake and all 2,199 miles of Great Lakes coastline. To address Michigan's mercury problem and to follow up on a campaign promise to phase out mercury pollution



from power plants, Governor Granholm established a work group to recommend mercury reduction strategies for Michigan. This summer the workgroup issued its report that Michigan should exceed the weak federal rule. The report documents the availability of technology to achieve 90% mercury reduction.

EMEAC organized a petition drive to demonstrate public demand for national mercury reduction and works with state organizations to urge Governor Granholm to require a 90% reduction of mercury emissions from Michigan's power plants.

Earth Share of Michigan

In 1987, EMEAC and other Michigan-based environmental and conservation organizations joined together to raise money through workplace giving. During 2001, the Michigan program joined the national workplace giving organization called Earth Share and adopted the name, Earth Share of Michigan (ESMI).



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

ESMI has 24 Michigan-based member organizations. Michigan employees can now give to state and national environmental and conservation organizations through a single workplace giving campaign.

EMEAC received \$5,428.86 from ESMI during calendar year 2004, and participated actively in the workplace campaigns in southeast Michigan.

For more information about ESMI or starting a workplace giving program for the environment, please contact Vanessa Martin at 517-641-7200 or vanessa@earthsharemichigan.org

Thanks To Contributors

\$5,000+

Lifetime gifts of \$5,000 or more

Susan Cooper
Chuck and Pat Cubbage
Dan and Kit Frohardt-Lane
H. James Gram
Karen D. Kendrick-Hands
Bill McGagh and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Sarvis
Alice M. Schirmer
George and Claudia Snyder
St. Michael's Catholic Community
Paul and Alice Tomboulian
Barbara Van Dusen

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Lifetime gifts of \$1,000-\$4,999

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