ABSOLUT®VODKA is proud to support the Lake Erie Foundation with a donation of $10,000 in 2019!

For the second year the Lake Erie Foundation is the beneficiary of a contribution from ABSOLUT®VODKA “Skip the Straw” campaign. The Put-in-Bay participants shown below have teamed up with Absolut Ohio to make the 2019 Skip the Straw campaign a success.

Straws, along with plastic cigar tips, are among the most prolific and pervasive pieces of plastic in the Great Lakes. Together, the United States and Canada discard 22 million pounds of plastic into Great Lakes waters, according to a Rochester Institute of Technology study. Much of it comes flushed from streets, through storm drains and into the lake. Then it washes up on shore, making up about 80 percent of the litter on beaches.

Learn more about Lake Erie Foundation’s “Skip the Straw” partnership and the efforts with ABSOLUT®VODKA by visiting our website at: www.lakeeriefoundation.org

Thanks to Put-in-Bay “Skip the Straw” Participants!

You can do your part and “Skip the Straw” when you visit your favorite local restaurant and bar!
Large Algal Bloom Grows in Lake Erie

A midsummer algal bloom again is turning western Lake Erie’s waters green. While it’s predicted to become fairly severe, researchers say it could be worse. The severity of this year’s bloom is forecast to be a 7.5 on a scale of zero to 10. Laura Johnson, director of the National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg University, said that’s larger than last year, but smaller than in 2015 when a bloom exceeded the scale at 10.5. She said this year’s bloom started to form a couple weeks ago.

“It was fairly mild, not much there,” she said, “but it seems like it’s really shown up with this heat wave that came through. It’s moving around, it’s growing in some spots and not in others, or it’s starting to get mixed into the water column in different ways. Any of these things are possible.”

Johnson said the current algal bloom stretches from Maumee Bay north along the Michigan coast, and about 30 miles east along the Ohio coast to the Portage River. The bloom is expected to stay confined to the western basin and peak in September.

Algal blooms are connected to phosphorus runoff from agriculture. Given the amount of rainfall this spring, Johnson said, a much larger bloom would be expected. However, unusually wet weather last fall and into the spring reduced the amount of phosphorus fertilizer farmers were able to apply.

“If we can win one thing from how difficult this year has been for our agricultural community,” she said, “that is that we have a better understanding of how important the application of phosphorus is from one given year on what is actually happening months later, down the road.”

Johnson said the current dynamics indicate that applying nutrients below the surface is a promising practice for farmers. However, unusually wet weather last fall and into the spring reduced the amount of phosphorus fertilizer farmers were able to apply.

After doing extensive research on the Icebreaker Wind project, we have serious concerns about the Icebreaker project and siting wind turbines in Lake Erie.

The developer’s plan is to build 1,400 to 1,600 wind turbines in Lake Erie by the year 2030. Icebreaker is not an environmentally sound project. Industrial lubricants could leak into our fresh water supply and construction would stir up toxic sediment from Cuyahoga River dredging. The millions of birds that migrate across Lake Erie would be put at risk and fish would be affected by the electromagnetic fields that surround the high voltage underwater power cables.

Follow the money. Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. is owned by Fred Olsen Renewables of Norway. They will receive the following for building Icebreaker in Lake Erie:

- $50 million in U.S. taxpayer subsidies
- U.S. Production & Investment Tax Credits
- A real estate tax break by Cuyahoga County.
- Icebreaker will then sell their power to us for 550% more than wholesale power rates from the grid.

We urge the State of Ohio to stipulate the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a condition of approving this project. The scrutiny of an EIS will demonstrate that Governor DeWine has taken the prudent and appropriate steps to protect Lake Erie for Ohio’s citizens.

- John Lipaj
LEF Board Member

Lake Erie's Proposed Offshore Wind Facility

A new proposed offshore wind project in Lake Erie could have serious consequences.

Lake Erie, with the pledges to improve Lake Erie’s water quality and the H2Ohio initiative, is very encouraging! The Lake Erie Foundation continues to believe there can be both clean water and profitable farming. The Lake Erie Foundation is continuing to inform individuals on the dangers of “Project Icebreaker,” the proposed wind turbine farm to be constructed in Lake Erie off the shores of Cleveland, Ohio. We are certainly in favor of clean renewables, including wind energy. However, we are not in favor of this project as it may harm our region’s environment, economy and is economically questionable. We believe it is our duty to ensure an Environmental Impact Statement is completed prior to the approval of this project.

Our sincerest thanks to ABSOLUTE® VODKA for making a significant contribution to LEF for the second year in a row. We support their thoughtful efforts to eliminate unnecessary and excessive plastic contamination in the lake. Their “skip the straw” campaign is truly a positive step forward! You can read more about their program in this newsletter.

The Lake Erie Foundation website is a good resource for issues facing Lake Erie and is updated frequently. If you have questions regarding current issues facing the lake don’t hesitate to contact the Lake Erie Foundation. —Jim Stouffer, Jr.

From the President

There’s a proverb that states “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This quote applies to many things in life and it certainly applies to what we do at Lake Erie Foundation. United by a common cause, we strive to create action on issues facing Lake Erie, encourage open dialogue and with many partners and continue to champion the solutions that protect and preserve the waters of Lake Erie.

In response to the recent official Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) forecast issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in July, the Lake Erie Foundation is committed to working with leaders from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Farm Bureau, key academic scientists and other stakeholders to formulate and implement practices to reduce the amount of phosphorus runoff in Lake Erie; 40% by 2025. Phosphorus is a key cause of algal blooms which can make water harmful for human consumption, and adversely affects tourism and other industry segments.

Sadly, we were not surprised by the HAB forecast for the remainder of the summer. We continue to be concerned with the potential impact this HAB forecast could have on the businesses and individuals around Lake Erie. The commitment from both the agriculture community and key stakeholders is to make significant changes through continued focus and progressive thinking. Lake Erie Foundation is dedicated to advocating for implementation of best management practices to improve the water quality. The leadership that Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine has demonstrated in prioritizing meaningful improvements of Ohio waterways, including Lake Erie, with the H2Ohio initiative is very encouraging! The Lake Erie Foundation continues to believe there can be both clean water and profitable farming.

LEF is continuing to inform individuals on the dangers of “Project Icebreaker,” the proposed wind turbine farm to be constructed in Lake Erie off the shores of Cleveland, Ohio. We are certainly in favor of clean renewables, including wind energy. However, we are not in favor of this project as it may harm our region’s environment, economy and is economically questionable. We believe it is our duty to ensure an Environmental Impact Statement is completed prior to the approval of this project.

Our sincerest thanks to ABSOLUTE® VODKA for making a significant contribution to LEF for the second year in a row. We support their thoughtful efforts to eliminate unnecessary and excessive plastic contamination in the lake. Their “skip the straw” campaign is truly a positive step forward! You can read more about their program in this newsletter.

The Lake Erie Foundation website is a good resource for issues facing Lake Erie and is updated frequently. If you have questions regarding current issues facing the lake don’t hesitate to contact the Lake Erie Foundation.

- Jim Stouffer, Jr.
President, Lake Erie Foundation

New Members & Donors

**Greg Borning**
**Placeho Borman**
**Clint’s Marblehead**
**Daly’s LTD**
**Liliana Donato**
**James Fry**
**Judith Haeley**
**Tracy Harbold**
**Hutley Fox Too, LLC**
**Charles & Cindy Hemden**
**Walt Hess**
**Milan 1640 LTD**
**Paddle & Climb**
**Quinlan’s Barber & Dream Salon**
**Red Fun Winery**
**Bridget Sanders**
**Sandusky Bay Concepts**
**Sandusky State Theatre, Inc.**
**Schrock’s Marina**
**Skeri Sorg**
**Patrick Sullivan**
**Wellspring Holistic Health, Inc.**

**Larry Hess**
**Jan Bar, LLC**
**J Hirsho**
**Jim & Roberta Kreutzfeld**
**Tony & Kim Laspord**
**John Lipaj**
**Nicole Lloyd**
**Dana Laudenslager-Long**
**Marblehead Music Fest**
**Kelsie McDevitt-Hanway**
**Sharon & Darla McMahin**
**The Fabulous Female**
**Anthony & Carol Tristimo**
**Upper Arlington Community Foundation**
**Greg & Cornelia Wagener**
**Matter’s Marina**
**Cameron & Susanne Williams**

**Joe Peralka**
**Farmers Home Mortgage**

LEF Sponsors

Thank you to our friends and sponsors who have joined our mission to preserve and protect Lake Erie.

**H2Ohio initiative**

**View full article online:** https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2019-07-31/water/large-algal-bloom-grows-in-lake-erie/a67324-1