

ADVANCING PUBLIC TRUST
SOLUTIONS TO SAVE THE
GREAT LAKES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Dettmer, *Chair*
Eric Olson, *Vice Chair*

Gary Appel
Tom Baird
Ross Biederman
Lew Coulter
Ted Curran
Katie Horvath
Emma Lui
Bob Otwell
Bruce Pregler
Skip Pruss
Royce Ragland
Keith Schneider
Rich Vander Veen
Emily Wurth

PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Jim Olson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Liz Kirkwood

153 ½ EAST FRONT STREET
SUITE 203 C
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

231 944 1568

INFO@FLOWFORWATER.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director
231 944 1568 or liz@flowforwater.org

**May 13 Virtual Townhall Webinar Convenes Top Experts on Nutrient Pollution
Panelists Discuss Harmful Algal Blooms on Great Lakes**

TRAVERSE CITY, MI - Registration is limited for the May 13 12pm ET webinar on Nutrient Pollution, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Dead Zones in the Great Lakes.

A New Vision and Framework to Address Nutrient Pollution and Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie and Beyond

Join Dr. Don Scavia (University of Michigan), Dave Dempsey (International Joint Commission), Codi Yeager-Kozacek (Circle of Blue Correspondent), and Jim Olson (Founder, FLOW) for an interactive webinar discussion on nutrient pollution and resulting harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Great Lakes, and how the public and the states together can utilize the public trust doctrine framework as an added decision-making tool to address HABs in Lake Erie and beyond.

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 12 - 1:30 pm EST

Speakers:

- Dr. Don Scavia (University of Michigan) will set the stage and provide the scientific foundation and causation of phosphorus pollution and resulting HABs in Lake Erie.
- Dave Dempsey (International Joint Commission) will describe the IJC's most recent bi-national recommendations to tackle nutrient pollution in Lake Erie.
- Codi Yeager-Kozacek (Circle of Blue Correspondent) will share stories about agricultural practices and their impacts across the Lake Erie basin.
- Jim Olson (Founder, FLOW) will discuss the states' roles in applying the public trust framework to set enforceable phosphorus limits and address nutrient pollution.

Moderated by Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director, FLOW

Description: In 2011, Lake Erie experienced an unprecedented harmful algal bloom (HAB) that covered most of its western basin and created a "dead zone" the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. The slimy green algae excrete toxins that result in closed beaches, threatened drinking water, and harmed fish and wildlife. The

International Joint Commission (IJC) – the bilateral agency founded in 1909 to help manage the Great

Lakes and boundary waters of the United States and Canada – just released its 2014 Lake Erie Environmental Priority (LEEP) Report. In the final LEEP report, the IJC encourages states and provinces in the Great Lakes Basin to apply the public trust as a framework for future policy decisions in order to prevent and minimize HABs in Lake Erie:

“The governments of Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario should apply a public trust framework consisting of a set of important common law legal principles shared by both countries, as an added measure of protection for Lake Erie water quality; government should apply this framework as an added decision-making tool in policies, permitting and other proceedings...”

With the IJC’s invaluable recent support, the opportunity is ripe to utilize the public trust doctrine as a tool to address HABs in Lake Erie and beyond. This webinar will inform participants on the root causes of HABs and the threats they present to ecosystems and communities of Lake Erie. After outlining the nature and scope of the problem, the webinar speakers will then discuss specific strategies for citizens and leaders to tackle HABs through the framework of the public trust doctrine. Participants will leave the webinar informed on nutrient pollution, HABs, and one of the most promising new strategies to eliminate them.

Registration: Space is limited to the first 100 registrants. [Click here to register.](#)

This is the third webinar of Council of Canadians’ **Protect the Great Lakes Forever Virtual Townhalls.**

Be sure to invite your friends, colleagues and family to this event!

Learn more about Council of Canadians’ [Protect the Great Lakes Town Halls.](#)

###

FLOW is the Great Lakes Basin’s only public trust policy and education 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to advance public trust solutions to save the Great Lakes.