

Press Advisory

May 18, 2016

Contacts: Pam Taylor ptaylor001@msn.com Sandy Bihn 419-367-1691

Recent [articles in The Blade](#) have referred to the water quality sampling program run by Heidelberg University.

With growing awareness of Lake Erie's problems, it is critical to understand which efforts are needed and which ones are good, but simply not enough.

Below are two statements from long-time environmentalists intimately familiar with what's needed for Lake Erie. Both support a U.S. EPA "impaired" designation which goes well beyond the scope of Heidelberg's work.

TWO ENVIRONMENTALISTS COMMENT ON THE HEIDELBERG WATER SAMPLING PROGRAM

PAM TAYLOR

Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Central and Southern Michigan:

"Heidelberg's stream study work is invaluable. Unfortunately, funding does not allow them to go up into the tributaries and to identify sources of excess levels of the bacteria and nutrients they monitor, so their data doesn't provide enough information to determine specific sources. ECCSCM, on the other hand, starts at the headwaters in the Michigan tributaries and considers land use, topography and watershed characteristics, all possible inputs, subsurface drainage systems, and other criteria to select our test sites, which are usually right at the edge of a field or at the tile pipe outlet into the surface water. So, while Heidelberg measures the overall condition of the waterways, ECCSCM tracks the input from manure applications by measuring at their source.

SANDY BIHN

Lake Erie Waterkeepers

"Heidelberg has great data... it just needs to be pooled with all the other data and filling gaps to determine sources and amounts of the excess nutrients causing the harmful algae, followed by accountable, reportable milestone management which is framed in the Clean Water Act.