



Press Advisory

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LAKE ADVOCATES “BIRD DOG” HEIDELBERG’S LAURA JOHNSON

Members of Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie will attend a talk tonight at 7:00pm, at the [W.W. Knight Nature Preserve](#), on River Road, given by Dr. Laura Johnson, head of Heidelberg University’s water sampling program, to insure that the manure generated by concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) is included as a major contributor to the toxic algae problem in Lake Erie.

Heidelberg’s water sampling program is often cited in press and academic reports about the lake, but ACLE believes there is reason to question the importance of that information, given the small number of sampling sites the university uses. (See below for the locations of Heidelberg’s 2016 water sampling program in the western Lake Erie watershed.)

ACLE supports an impaired designation for western Lake Erie which would

- Mandate a comprehensive pollution inventory of the entire watershed – all the way back to the headwaters of creeks and streams that eventually flow into the lake
- Identify pollution sources, including more than 700 million gallons of animal manure spread on fields above Lake Erie every year – an amount equal to the sewage generated by Chicago and Los Angeles
- Require a legally-enforceable action plan with real deadlines to reduce the excess Phosphorus and other nutrients so polluters can be held accountable

ACLE coordinator, Susan Matz and research committee chair, Sam Wright, will represent the organization at tonight’s presentation.

