

Toledo Rotary Club's Lake Erie Conference

Rotary is rightly proud of its historic battle to eradicate polio, "by taking the politics out," it adds. Now Rotary wants to eradicate Lake Erie's toxic algae, but while there was no lobby FOR polio, the Battle for Lake Erie is *all* politics.

That's why environmentalists are sad to see today's program stacked with representatives of the same powerful "Big Ag" interests that poisoned Lake Erie in the first place.

- **Karl Gebhardt**, 19-year lobbyist for the Ohio Farm Bureau and a registered lobbyist for Vreba-Hoff Dairies, the first Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in NW Ohio, is now Ohio EPA's head of Lake Erie policy. At last year's Rotary conference, he opposed a U.S. EPA "impaired" designation for Lake Erie because it would put a **bad mark on the lake** causing negative publicity.
- **Mary Taylor**, Ohio's Lt. Governor under John Kasich who opposes the impaired designation.
- **Adam Sharp**, V.P., Ohio Farm Bureau, former lobbyist for the American Farm Bureau in Washington.
- **Kevin Elder**, Ohio Dept. of Ag, who just approved adding 2.2 million chickens to the Maumee watershed.

Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Southern Central Michigan found that just the 146 concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) registered in Lake Erie's western basin produce **700 million gallons** of manure annually – **equal to the sewage from Chicago and Los Angeles combined** – and spread, untreated on fields above Lake Erie! How much more comes from CAFOs just under the size needed to register is ???



A recent analysis by Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie showed that since 2009 the Ohio Farm Bureau invested \$1,200,000 in politicians just in Columbus and Washington and their political parties. How much individual CAFO operators in Ohio added is???



Karl Gebhardt's "bad mark" on Lake Erie – as seen by NASA



A few of the 700,000,000 gallons of feces, urine and e.coli draining into Lake Erie every year from CAFOs - Photo ECCSCM



- ✓ The 1st Battle for Lake Erie was in 1812
- ✓ The 2nd got Phosphorus out of detergents and cleaned up sewage plants in the 1960s
- ✓ Join us in the 3rd one!

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