



Proposed Natural Gas Pipelines Create New Concerns in Southeast Michigan

Following on experiences with the Enbridge oil pipelines, southeast Michigan is now encountering two proposed natural gas pipelines, both carrying hydraulically fractured gas from the Marcellus shale deposits in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio through Ohio and Michigan, and ultimately reaching Ontario:

- 1) The ET Rover Pipeline, proposed by Energy Transfer Partners, which in Michigan is proposed to run through Lenawee, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland (originally), Macomb, and St Clair Counties and cross the St Clair River into Ontario. Following objections raised by residents and local governments in Oakland County, the proposed route was shifted north through Genesee and Lapeer Counties near the I-69 corridor. In Washtenaw County the route runs just east of Manchester, north between Chelsea and Dexter, and exits the county through the Pinckney Recreation Area.
- 2) The Nexus Pipeline (Nexus is a partnership of DTE, Enbridge, and Spectra Energy) would run roughly parallel to the ET Rover, somewhat more north in Ohio and east in Michigan. The new portion of the pipeline would be in Ohio and in Lenawee, Monroe, and Washt-

enaw Counties up to Willow Run, where it would join existing DTE pipelines through Oakland, Macomb, and St Clair Counties and into Ontario.

These two competing pipelines present a variety of issues for local citizens. Among them are:

- **Property rights.** Planning and building the pipeline entails establishing rights of way across private and public property – a fifty-foot permanent easement, plus additional space during construction. While the property owners will receive compensation for the use of their property, they can't refuse it – once the project is approved, the company has the right of eminent domain to use the property. As we saw with the construction of the new Enbridge Line 6B pipeline, this is leading to disputes with landowners who object to this use of their property, especially when the line and construction zone run close to their homes.
- **Safety.** According to the Pipeline Safety Trust, although natural gas lines have fewer incidents, such as major spills, compared to oil pipelines, the results of the incidents can be more devastating and more widespread, due to the risk of explosion. The higher the



By Nancy Shiffler

Gas Pipeline Proposal continued from page1

operating pressure in the pipe, the wider the radius of impact if there is an explosion. For the operating pressure expected for these pipelines (around 1100 psi), the radius of impact for an explosion would be about 1000 feet. Yet the pipeline route could fall within a few hundred feet of some homes.

- **Environmental Concerns.** The proposed route travels through a number of wetlands

and natural areas, including the Pinckney Recreation Area, with potential degradation and fragmenting of those areas. In addition, the product being shipped through the pipelines is natural gas extracted using the very destructive process of hydraulic fracturing, which is devastating areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia – a process which is turning rural areas into industrial zones,

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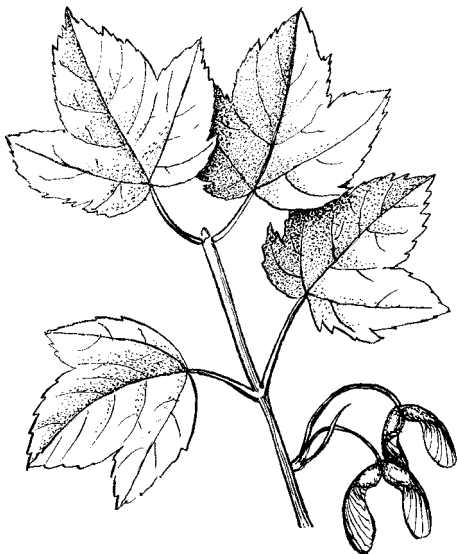
Gas Pipeline Proposal continued from page 2

contaminating drinking water, polluting the air, and producing waste products, including the radioactive flow back water being shipped to Michigan waste disposal sites.

- **Public Necessity.** As part of the approval process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the pipeline company must demonstrate that there is a public need for the project. Currently the Marcellus shale area is producing more gas than there are existing markets, so to some degree these projects are efforts to find new markets. It is not clear yet how much, if any, of the product would actually be used in Michigan.

Canada would seem to be the primary market. Natural gas that Ontario used to receive from western Canada is now being used to meet the high energy needs for extracting tar sands oil in western Canada, creating a new market in Ontario for natural gas. Does meeting Canadian economic needs justify running a pipeline through Michigan?

In 2012, ET sold its Trunkline pipeline, which shipped natural gas from Texas to Michigan, to Enbridge so they could re-



verse the flow in order to ship crude oil from the upper Midwest and Canada to Texas. In arguing for the sale, ET asserted that there was no need for that natural gas capacity in Michigan. Two years later, they are arguing that there is a need.

The two proposals appear to be competing for the same markets. It is unclear whether FERC would approve only one, both or neither.

Proposed route maps for ET Rover can be found at local public libraries in each county; the Ann Arbor District Library has Washtenaw County maps available on line (www.aadl.org/etrover). The county's website, www.ewashtenaw.org, has information from both of the companies and from public meetings relating to the ET Rover plans – click on the government and Board of Commissioners link. These documents also provide information about how to send comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which has the responsibility of approving or disapproving the application.

Comments about the proposed routes can be sent to FERC during this pre-filing period through December. In November and December FERC will also be holding a series of public scoping meetings to gather public input on issues the agency should consider as it develops its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the ET Rover project; the EIS is used to aid in determining the public convenience and necessity of the project.

Local area meetings include:

- Thursday, November 20, 6pm, in Chelsea – George Prinzing Auditorium, 500
- Monday, December 1, 6pm in Adrian – Adrian High School Auditorium, 785 Washington St. Riverside Ave.

Comments can be submitted in person at the hearings or in writing by December 18.

Sierra Club Concerned About Suburban Sprawl in Northfield Township

By James D'Amour
and Nancy Shiffler

November 3, 2014

Marilyn Engstrom, Supervisor, Township of Northfield
8350 Main St.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

Dear Ms. Engstrom,

The Sierra Club of Huron Valley represents 2300 members around the greater Washtenaw County area. We have been engaged in the past in Northfield Township citizen concerns about out-sized development in the township. It has come to our attention that you and the township government are considering a revision of your township Master Plan, adopted in 2012, in order to accommodate an 1800 unit residential development on your southern border east and west of Whitmore Lake Road next to US 23.

We understand completely how seductive development can be to any community under most circumstances, and especially true given the growth pressures the township is now facing.

That being said, with regret, We ask that you deny the project outright on these grounds.

- This developer-directed change to the Master Plan will result in sewer extensions down the entire length of Whitmore Lake Rd. to the township's southern border and that will open up nearly 2,000 acres to 1/4-acre zoning. And this also will lead to sewer extensions along all of N. Territorial Rd. Essentially you will be converting this rural township to just another suburb.
- While new development brings tax dollars and other resources, the resulting burden of services upon infrastructure and new infrastructure offsets long-term revenue benefits (eventually the township will now have to factor in increased infrastructure maintenance). Furthermore, it would result in a degradation of the natural environment as well as the overall quality of life.
- Your citizens promoted a recently adopted master plan in 2012. The proposed Biltmore development deviates from this master plan. Only two years ago the government and citizens of Northfield Township went through a serious and lengthy examination of its desires for the township's future, and as a result confirmed the frequently-stated preference of residents to retain the rural character of the community by preserving open space.

The issue of unchecked suburban sprawl, while established central cities throughout SE Michigan remain neglected cuts to the heart of one of our historical and central issues not only of conservation but environmental justice. The impact of the proposed Biltmore development will have a negative impact on the quality of life of our members and additional supporters, friends and neighbors of not just your township, but greater Ann Arbor and perhaps SE Michigan as well.

You can reject the project outright (You have a solid legal basis in which to do on a recently adopted master plan). Or, if you feel the overriding need to change a two-year old master plan, engage your citizens in a full planning process held over a significant period of time, to gain THEIR input and insights into the process, and you can be assured the public's interest will be addressed in this process.

Good public process calls for inclusiveness. Thanks for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Nancy Shiffler, Chair, Executive Committee

James D'Amour, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee

Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group, Michigan Chapter



You can help the earth at no cost to you — through your regular shopping!

- Over the past 15 years the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group's **Shopping for the Earth** has been a very successful program for supporting our efforts to protect parks, natural areas and local farmland, and to address local and regional environmental problems.
- For every \$20 of cards you buy, you get the full \$20 in store credit—and earn from \$0.80 to as much as \$4.60, depending on the merchant, for the Sierra Club.

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-Gwen Nystuen

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-Rita Mitchell

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michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip.htm

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Mail with your check payable to "Sierra Club - Huron Valley Group" to:
Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu)
621 5th St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

⇒ Alan's Ford-C-Max Clean Car Update ⇐



By
Alan Richardson

This scorecard is a direct comparison of my energy use before and after I began charging my car at my workplace as well as at home. I only have one month's data since the change, but the difference is striking. My normal commute is 13 miles each way and my typical electric range is 20 miles on a full charge. So, when charging at home only, I could get all the way to work electrically, but only halfway home before the battery ran out and the gasoline engine started. Now that I can charge at work, too, for the last month I have driven over 1000 miles and only used a half tank of gasoline (on weekend trips longer than 20 miles). One last goodie, the charge at work is free! Here is some basic data from the trip computers on my Ford C-Max Energi plug-in hybrid showing two data periods of one month each, before and after I began charging at work.

Before	After	
1449	1100	Total miles driven
752	858	Electric vehicle miles driven
697.2	42	Hybrid vehicle miles driven
52 %	78 %	miles driven electrically
22.85	7.85	Gallons gasoline used
185	288	kWh electricity used
29.6	30.9	MPG gasoline hybrid fuel economy
136	100	MPGe electric fuel economy *
\$70.19	\$22.76	Cost of gasoline
\$0.12	\$0.06	Cost of electricity (assume half at work for free)
\$0.101	\$0.094	Gas fuel cost/mile
\$0.030	\$0.020	Electricity cost/mile
\$0.071	\$0.074	Savings per mile for every mile driven by electricity rather than gasoline
\$53.39	\$63.49	Total fuel cost savings by driving electrically



Constant readers will notice the cost savings per mile has dropped from earlier scorecards. This is entirely due to the reduction in gasoline costs in the past few months. Nonetheless, I still save money every mile I drive electrically. The reduction in MPGe after I began charging

is surprising, but that's what the data shows. I suspect two causes, but can't be sure yet: 1) outside air temperature has been dropping steadily from mid-September to mid-November, and battery efficiency is also reduced; 2) a greater fraction of my electric miles driven is at highway speeds where MPGe is also reduced. As the weather gets colder, I expect MPGe to drop further as I use the cabin heater more often, so some of the battery's energy will be used to keep me warm rather than drive the wheels.

*Using 33.7 kWh electricity equivalent in energy to 1 gallon gasoline



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar



Participants in Sierra Club outings will be asked to sign a liability waiver. If you wish to read the waiver before coming to an outing please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. When carpooling is used to facilitate logistics for an outing, participants assume the risks associated with this travel, as well. Carpooling, ride sharing and the like are strictly a private arrangement among participants. Park fees may apply. **For up to date information, visit our website at <http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/>**

Tuesday November 18, 2014 -- 7:30 pm – “Holding on to Michigan's Beauty”. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Permanently protecting land that provides critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species and natural communities is a goal of the Michigan Nature Association. Garrett Johnson, Executive Director, will show and tell us about the preservation successes of the MNA and the benefits to all of Michigan's residents, including people, plants and creatures. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

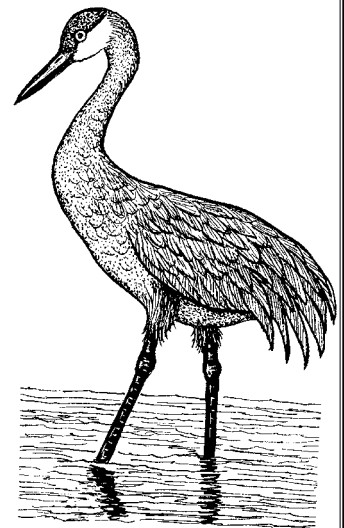
Tuesday December 9, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: “A 1,000-Mile Great Lakes Walk,” by Loren Niewenhuis -- the author's second 1,000-mile walk, this time covering shorelines from all of the Great Lakes. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday December 16, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- Tales and Travels from Around the Globe. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). The annual HVG member program. Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman (lighthawkpilot@gmail.com) and tell us about your adventures, near and far. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Tuesday January 13, 2015 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: “Oxygen: A four Billion Year History,” by Donald E. Canfield. The air we breathe is 21% oxygen, but it wasn't always this way. Canfield provides a history of how we got the air we take for granted. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday January 20, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Tuesday February 10, 2015 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: “The Incidental Steward: Reflections on Citizen Science,” by Akiko Busch. The world of volunteer citizen science research. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.



Sierra Club—Huron Valley Group Calendar continued

Tuesday February 17, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Tuesday March 10, 2015 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Climate Casino: Risk, Uncertainty, and Economics for a Warming World," by William D. Nordhouse. The science, economics and politics involved, and how to reduce the perils of climate change. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday March 17, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Tuesday April 14, 2015 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "A Window on Eternity: A Biologist's Walk Through Gorongosa National Park," by Edward O Wilson. A walk through one of the biologically richest places in the world with this prominent biologist. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday April 21, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

Tuesday May 12, 2015 -- 7:30 pm -- HVG: Sierra Club Book Club. Nicola's Books (Westgate Shopping Center, 2513 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI). Book: "The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water," by Charles Fishman. Contact: Nancy Shiffler (734) 971-1157. How to get involved? It's easy. Read the book and come to discuss it.

Tuesday May 19, 2015 -- 7:30 pm – HVG Monthly Meeting: Topic TBA. Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com

An Inner City Outings
hike in the woods



Metroparks Management and a Case for Collaborative Oversight

By
Nancy Shiffler
and
Toni Spears



Nancy Shiffler is the Chair of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group, Ann Arbor, MI.

Toni Spears is a Metroparks volunteer and member of environmental organizations including Wildones and the Sierra Club.

When the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, a 5-county regional park system in the metropolitan Detroit area, started inappropriate mowing in July 2014, with impacts on native plants and wildlife, a group of citizens and organizations collaborated and raised their objections to the Metroparks Board of Commissioners. At press time, the long-range outcome is still to be determined, but the effort demonstrates the need for citizen oversight and joining voices for the best management practices in our park systems.

Metroparks Background

The Metroparks encompass five counties in Michigan (Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne). The thirteen individual parks total about 25,000 acres and are located along the area's main waterways: the Huron and Clinton Rivers, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. The governing body is an appointed seven-member Board of Commissioners, one appointed by each county board and two appointed by the Governor. The Metroparks Board appoints the Director and Controller, and conducts monthly Board meetings that are open to the public.

The Metroparks are a valued community asset, used by many visitors for their nature centers and outdoor recreation, including water sports, golf, and extensive hike/bike and nature trails. In the 1990s, following public outcry, efforts by conservation groups such as the Michigan Botanical Club, the Sierra Club, and Audubon groups helped to encourage great progress in the Metroparks' stewardship of its natural areas, protecting crucial habitat for wildlife, especially birds. However, recent management decisions raised concerns regarding that progress.

The Metroparks have had five Directors in the 5-year period 2009-2014. The Board abruptly dismissed four of these. The most recent Director, John McCulloch, a former Board member, was appointed in December 2012 and was terminated at the October 2014 Board meeting.

The Assistant Director, George Phifer, was appointed by the Metroparks Board at their November, 2013 Board meeting. He has been the Police Chief of the Metroparks since 2008, and retains that position as well. The thirteen parks managers, three district managers (including golf courses), Natural Areas Manager (stewardship), and Interpretive Services Manager (education) all report to the Assistant Director. Legal, HR, Marketing and Development functions report to the Director.

There has been a significant loss of employee morale over the manner of Board operations and administration decisions particularly during the last year. The parks have lost senior staff and that loss is costly from the cost of buyouts, as well as having to search for, interview, train and build new expertise. In recent years, the Board has approved significant funds for litigation costs, much of it personnel related.

In spite of the above, the Metroparks have an excellent natural resources manager and a newly funded position for Stewardship Coordinator in 2014, but limited resources for managing 25,000 acres, with only two part-time field workers for invasives management, and some volunteer and individual stewardship effort.

The Mowing Issue

In 2009, the Metroparks Natural Areas staff reviewed the areas mowed and defined criteria for mowing. This resulted in a 7% reduction in acres mowed; considerable cost savings in personnel, fuel, and equipment; and reduced air pollution from mowers known to have high emissions; all while fully retaining the recreational areas in public use. Signs were posted in some areas: "Growing not Mowing".

In July 2014, Mr. Phifer directed the mowing of a number of the established no-mow areas consisting of native wildflower and grass meadows, grassland rd at and the newly-constructed bio-swales for storm water retention at Lake St. Clair

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Metro Park originally part of a \$3.5 million 2013 EPA/GRLI grant. The mowing caused not only a loss of wildlife habitat including milkweed for monarch butterflies, but killed a number of birds, fledglings, snakes and frogs. At Indian Springs Metro Park, a large area of native plants and grasses in front of the Environmental Discovery Center was mowed to the ground. This area was used by staff and visitors for education, enjoyment and discovery, as well as by the butterflies and pollinators of the area. An alert posted to the SE-MI birders listserv led to a number of citizen comments at the July Board meeting (see link below). The director, John McCulloch, responded that the mowing policy would be reviewed.

On September 26, 2014, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was posted on the Metroparks website that included maps showing extensive new additional mowing areas, with mowing starting in September (see link below). The mowing was to improve “professional appearances” and address invasive shrub and thistle control. Local volunteers reported that many of the additional mowing areas did not have invasive shrubs, and that mowing would result in damage by spreading seeds of thistle and other invasives to areas under stewardship. Many of the additional mowing areas have fall-blooming wildflowers that feed native pollinators, migrating birds and even monarch butterflies in transit. Metroparks lands are all adjacent to rivers and lakes, and many areas provide storm water runoff protection. There was no cost analysis of the additional mowing in the mowing report.

Between the mowing plan posting and the next Board meeting on October 9, 2014, a letter of concern was drafted, reviewed, and signed-off by 11 chapters of organizations in the Metroparks region, including Sierra Club, Wildones, Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC), Michigan Botanical Club, Audubon and Wildflower Association of Michigan (see below). The letter was sent to the Metroparks Director for distribution to Board members on October 8 before the meeting and then presented during the public comment period of the Board meeting on Oct. 9 by Nancy

Shiffler, Chair of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group. Additional comments of support were given on the importance of buffer zones to waterways (by Exec. Dir. of HRWC, Laura Rubin) and on the spread of invasive seeds by mowers and the need for focused invasives management (by volunteer Toni Spears).

The Board does not traditionally respond during public comments, and did not respond during this particular meeting. Instead, they went into closed session, and emerged only to terminate the Director (John McCulloch) “without cause”, and then adjourned the meeting.

Future

At press time (late-October), the future of our Metroparks, park leadership, and mowing is uncertain.

Clearly the Board’s record regarding appointing and firing directors demonstrates a problem with the quality of direction and management unequivocally required by a regional, taxpayer-funded park system. Some Board members have acknowledged the poor record. Oakland County Commissioner Jaye Quadrozzi stated that the action of the Board at the October 9 meeting was a disgrace, and also raised the issue of compliance with the Michigan open meetings act.

The Metroparks Board for a number of years has had very little public oversight, very little press coverage and only a few participants in the public comment period. However, public attention can have an impact, as it did in the 1990s and following the July Board meeting. The outcome of the October comments is yet to be determined, but many more community members are becoming aware of the management issues. Citizens in southeast Michigan will be continuing these efforts with the Metroparks Administration, with Board members and with those who appoint them. As citizens, we can participate, comment, and especially collaborate with others to provide oversight of the parks and public institutions we value. We encourage you to take a look around your own parks — speak up, and keep your local Wildones, Sierra Club, and other environmental organizations informed. If we don’t speak for our meadows and wildlife habitats, who will?

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What's Next for Michigan's Bottle Bill?

By
Robert Gordon



The people of Michigan voted in the “bottle bill” in 1976, which went into effect in 1978. It imposed a mandated ten cent per bottle or can refundable deposit applying to carbonated beverages. To this day Michigan remains the only ten cent deposit state, as others having deposits (nine other states plus Guam) limit the amount to five cents per container. Legislation in 1988 expanded the bottle bill to include carbonated wine and cocktail beverages.

The bottle bill has been both an anecdotal and literal success story. Those living in Michigan in the 1960's and early 1970's surely remember the empty soda pop and beer cans along the sides of roads. And by the numbers, while Michigan is a chronically poor overall recycling state, nearly 96% of soda pop and beer bottles and cans are returned, the highest percentage of a recycled material class of any in the United States.

One must wonder: why did we distinguish deposit from non-deposit by beverage type and not by bottle type? What has changed in the past 35 years is the universe of beverages sold by the

bottle and can. Energy drinks, water, flavored water, fruit juices and the like now account for the bulk of Michigan beverage purchases, and the recycling rate on those is no more than one fourth the rate of recycling of carbonated beverage containers. It has been estimated that the number of plastic water bottles recycled in Michigan is just 13%.

For each of the past many legislative terms, bills have been introduced that would expand the 1976 bill to include all beverages sold by the can, bottle or pouch, save for milk. In the 2013-14 legislative term, Rep. Sean McCann (D. 60) sponsored HB 4198. No hearings were held on the bill. Our own Senator Rebekah Warren sponsored Senate Bill 432, but again not a single hearing was held. An MLive.com poll found a better than two to one margin in support of bottle bill expansion.

I urge you to raise awareness of this issue among your friends and relatives. If there were one thing in Michigan that we can quite painlessly do to ramp up recycling statistics, expanding the bottle bill would be it.



Metro Parks continued from page 10

Attachments:

Metroparks Board minutes, July 2014

http://www.metroparks.com/Multimedia/www.metroparks.com/Files/Board%20of%20Commissioners/Meeting%20Minutes/2014/7-10-2014_Regular%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf

Metroparks Environmental Management Plan, September, 2014

<http://www.metroparks.com/Multimedia/www.metroparks.com/Files/Environmental%20Management%20Report.pdf>

Letter to Metroparks Board of Commissioners, October 9, 2014

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/Letter%20to%20Metroparks%20Board.pdf>



Huron Valley Group Directory

www.michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/

Chair	* = HVG Excom Member
Nancy Shiffler*	971-1157
Vice-chair	
James D'Amour*	
Treasurer	
Ginny Maturen*	730-2947
Secretary	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Chapter Representative	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Alternate Chapter Representative	
Joel Dalton*	945-8132
Conservation Chair	
Dorothy Nordness	668-6306
Inner City Outings Chair	
Joan Wolf	
Outings Chair	
Kathy Guerreso	677-0823
Inner City Outings Liaison	
Membership Chair	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Political Chair	
James D'Amour*	
Political Committee	
Robert Gordon*	
Publicity	
Joel Dalton*	945-8132
Program Co-Chairs	
Ron Sell	
Rita Mitchell	665-0248
Shopping for the Earth	
Ed Steinman**	665-0248
Fund Raising Co-Chairs	
Jay Schlegel*	477-5715
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Website	
Ed Steinman*	665-0248
Newsletter Team	
Jay Schlegel*, Editor	477-5715
Kim Waldo	971-1941
Gwen Nystuen	665-7632
Ed Steinman*	665-0248

How to Get HVG reminders via email!

At each HVG general meeting, there is an email sign up list. For those who missed it, or haven't joined us at a meeting, here's how you can get our general meeting reminders.

If you would like to receive email notices of each month's Huron Valley Group general meeting and occasional notices about other local Sierra Club activities send an email to Ed Steinman at lighthawk.pilot@gmail.com with your name and "HVG email list" in the body of the message.

Are You A New Member?

Welcome to the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club. When you join the Sierra Club you are automatically a member of a local group, as well as a state chapter and the national organization. Membership entitles you to this newsletter as well as all editions of the state and national member publications. Check this page for our Directory with contacts on conservation, outings, political action, and the Inner City Outings program. Check the calendar in the middle of this issue for announcements of Monthly Public Program topics and our calendar of activities. We will be glad to see you at our next meeting or answer any questions if you care to call. Please take advantage of your membership as an opportunity to enjoy, preserve and protect our natural environment!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help, we can clean up our water.

Over the last 30 years, we've made great progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush Administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "selected" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$18	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible if they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421341, Palm Coast, FL 32162-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org **FR40** W

Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee



James D'Amour

My name is James D'Amour, and I am seeking your support for reelection to the Executive Committee.

In my last term, I see several issues that confront our organization, and our community. Two of them involve runaways.

1). The runaway and basically unregulated procedures of hydro-fracturing (“hydrofracking”) and deep-oil drilling have come to Washtenaw and Lenawee Counties. We must build a stronger partnership and support for communities and citizens who are defending our land (and our water) from an industry that takes no responsibility for their actions.

2). With the return in health of the development community in this area, we are also seeing runaway development of our green spaces. Despite the Huron Valley Group’s historic support of the Greenbelt in 2003, we need to work harder to support citizens who want a greater say and control in protecting open spaces both in our cities and the townships.

And finally, not running away, but definitely not staying put...

3). We must build a lively organization with greater participation from our membership, for the aforementioned conservation efforts, but also for outings and other social activities and programming. I will be personally working to improve our online communication, including Facebook and other social media.

And whatever ideas and suggestions you have, including having yes more fun and smiling with all of this, I am game for that too.

With this, I ask for your support!

Several years ago I read a book that opened my eyes to climate change and environmental issues. Needless to say it scared me and inspired me to look into ways in which I could through personal choice become less of an impact. This has led me to reach out and explore through various personal projects, volunteer work and community participation ways to bring this about. And in this journey I have met a number of passionate, hardworking, intelligent individuals working with different organizations that share a similar concern as the one inspired in myself.

Which has led me to the Sierra Club, which I joined several years ago, and jumped head long into exploring all of the opportunities the local group offered. Starting with the Book Club, the monthly Secret Hikes, the monthly presentations, local service trips and more recently a greater level of participation in the Conservation Committee meetings, Political Committee WICO and Lobby Day trips to Lansing.

I am very committed to doing what I can about climate change and the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group offers a great number of opportunities to bring action on climate change about. Being elected to an ExCom member would let me further this opportunity and contribute both to the Sierra Club and the community in which I live.



William Kidd

Candidates and Ballot for the Election of the Huron Valley Group Executive Committee



Ed Steinman

My wife and I enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing and canoeing. We work to be environmental stewards by being careful to minimize our impact on the planet and to help protect the natural world.

The Great Lakes, 1/5 of the world's fresh water, are under immediate threat of pollution from oil and gas drilling and tar sands oil transport via pipelines, ships and trucks. Tar sands oil—very toxic and heavier than water—runs through a 60-year-old pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations—"factory farms" in common parlance) are an extreme danger to health and are very inhumane. There are nearly 250 CAFOs in Michigan. Nuclear power plants and nuclear waste dumps ring the Great Lakes, polluting water and killing fish and other aquatic life. More locally, parks in Ann Arbor are under threat from development and citizens are being excluded from decisions that have environmental consequences.

There are so many serious problems that even after many years in the Sierra Club there is no choice but to continue to work on solutions. It is great to work with dedicated and effective Sierra Club leaders and volunteers, which makes the work rewarding and even fun.

The public deserves an honest picture of what's happening with local and statewide environmental issues. The local news media doesn't provide this. A well-informed public will demand that our public servants keep protection of the environment as a #1 goal.



Robert Gordon

I first joined the Sierra Club while living in Miami in the 1980's. But more recently I have been serving on the political committees for the Michigan Chapter and the Huron Valley Group. In 2012 I was elected to the HVG Executive Committee, and I have come to be known as the Michigan Chapter's lead lobbyist. I am proud of what we have accomplished at the state level, but am mindful that Washtenaw County is my home. Issues of extractive drilling, public transit, and clean energy will continue to be important to the betterment of our community. I wish for another two years on the Executive Committee of the Group to bring my political and legal experience to bear on issues of importance to all within Washtenaw, Monroe and Lenawee counties.

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee 2014

The Huron Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) is selected by you. Ballot instructions and anonymity guarantee:

1. Please mark up to four votes on the ballot provided. Only those ballots with a membership number on the attached mailing label are eligible.
2. After marking your ballot, remove this entire back page from the newsletter.
3. Fold the bottom third up to conceal your votes, and fold the top third over to show your mailing label.
4. Return your ballot in a sealed envelope either by hand at the December 17st HVG meeting or by mail to: HVG Election, c/o Ginny Maturen, 9810 Kress Rd. Pinckney, MI 48169. Mailed ballots must be received by December 16, 2014 to be counted.



Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Executive Committee Ballot 2014

Four to be elected to 2-year terms beginning January 2015 - Vote for four.
Second column of boxes is for second voter in same household.

James D'Amour

Ed Steinman

William Kidd

Robert Gordon



WINTER 2014 Inside:

- Gas Pipelines in Michigan- page 1-3
- Calendar of Events - page 7-8
- Metro Parks Case- page 10-11
- Huron Valley Group Ballot - page 15

Happy Thanksgiving All and come on a trip around the world at our December meeting: Tales and Travels from Around the Globe. Tuesday December 16, 2014 -- 7:30 pm -- Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro Rd Ann Arbor, MI). Our annual HVG member program. Share and inspire us with your travels! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman at (lighthawkpilot@gmail.com) and tell us about your adventures, near and far. Free and open to the public. Non-members welcome. Refreshments provided. Contact: 734-665-0248 ritalmitchell@gmail.com



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