



Michigan Resource Stewards

Resource Professionals Continuing a Tradition of Service

Arminda Koch, President James Maturen, Vice President Gregory Eagle, Secretary Jim DeClerk, Treasurer

March 15, 2021

Tom Zimnicki
Michigan Environment Council
602 W. Ionia Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Tom,

The Michigan Resource Stewards (“Stewards”) write this letter in support of the Michigan Environmental Council’s (MEC) position on implementation of the Michigan Water Use Advisory Council’s (MWUAC) 2020 recommendations. As environmental, natural resources, and public health professionals and interested members, we seek to affect the implementation of sound environmental and natural resources public policy based on science and freedom from political special interest. We encourage the legislative review of the MWUAC’s report and adequate funding of the water use assessment program and improvements recommended in the report.

Additionally, the Stewards recommend that the report’s proposed 3D glacial aquifer mapping, groundwater/surface water modeling, geologic data collection/mapping, and monitoring well network be expanded to encompass Osceola and Newaygo counties where intensive water withdrawal is taking place for bottled water. To the maximum extent, the surface water and hydrogeology conditions in this area must be understood to the largest extent current science allows.

Understanding underground and surface water dynamics, as it relates to sustaining quality water resources, will further the intent and mandate of the Michigan Constitution of 1963’s provisions. The state constitution designates public health as a “primary” concern and mandates the legislature to pass laws for protection and promotion of public health. Our natural resources are declared to be of “paramount” concern and mandates the legislature to protect them from degradation and damage. So little is known about the subsurface conditions of Michigan, especially its aquifer systems and the interrelationship between surface water quality, quality drinking water, and hydrogeology cycle recharge mechanisms.

Please list us in your proposed letter as a co-signer organization. We would welcome the opportunity to assist in implementing the MWUAC’s 2020 report recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Eagle, Secretary
Michigan Resource Stewards
1025 East Price Road
Midland, MI 48642