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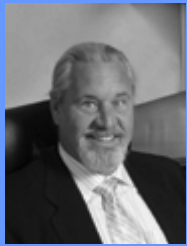


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Inside the Issue:



Green Business Highlight Page 3



Campaign Updates Page 4



Save the Date! Page 5

Scoring our Lawmakers

Michigan LCV released our *Environmental Scorecard 2008: A Reflection on Michigan's Leadership* on July 23, giving a tepid "thumbs up" to the 49 lawmakers who made protecting Michigan's land, air and water a priority during the 2007-2008 legislative session. The remaining 99 lawmakers' scores ranged from 93% to 0%.

The 2007-08 legislative session in Lansing got off to a prolonged poor start for conservation. Facing a mammoth state budget deficit and the loss of an additional \$1.2 billion in revenue as of October 1, 2007, legislators gave short shrift to issues like parks, pollution and water protection. Instead, they quarreled over budget solutions, among themselves and with the Governor, and reached stalemate for most of 2007. As a result, few bills associated with conservation needs got anywhere near the floor of the House or Senate last year, nor was conservation of our natural resources a priority in the larger debate.

In April 2008, the Legislature finally sprang into action and began moving pieces of water protection and clean energy legislation. Unfortunately, it was too little and too late, with the only real victory being the final passage of the Great Lakes Compact. Despite votes in the House, there was no consensus reached on renewable energy or energy efficiency, leaving Michigan woefully behind in investments in our clean energy future.

Given the important role of the Governor and the Supreme Court in protecting our natural resources, the *Scorecard* includes an overview of these elected offices' work in 2007-08 as well.

As highlighted in the *Scorecard*, the best of 2007—2008 includes:

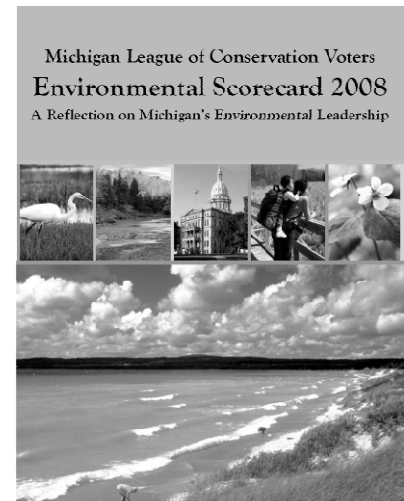
- The Governor's creation of a new position and subsequent appointment of a renewable energy advisor to help her advance renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.
- The creation of a new Climate Action Council, also appointed by the Governor.
- The state's initiation of a strong environmental justice policy with the Governor's Executive Directive in November of 2007.
- Michigan's passage, as the eighth and final state, of the Great Lakes Compact.

The worst of 2007-2008 includes:

- The State Supreme Court's gutting of one of Michigan's landmark environmental laws: the 1970 Michigan Environmental Protection Act.
- The Gubernatorial and Legislative approval of a raid of \$70 million from the leaky underground storage tank clean-up fund to balance the budget.
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permits to allow for sulfide mining in one of our most precious natural areas.
- Overall inaction, stalemate and retreat by the Governor and the Legislature who failed to (1) pass clean energy legislation, (2) ensure that the waters of Michigan be held in the public's trust, and (3) put into action the Governor's 2002 pledge to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

Scores of key lawmakers:

- **Senator Majority Leader Michael Bishop (R) - 11%**
- **Senator Patty Birkholz (R)** (chair of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs) – **11%**
- **Senator Bruce Patterson (R)** (chair of Energy Policy and Public Utilities) – **22%**
- **Senate Minority Leader Mark Schauer (D) - 100%**
- **Speaker of the House Andy Dillon (D) – 100%**
- **Representative Rebekah Warren (D)** (chair of Great Lakes and Environment) – **100%**
- **Representative Frank Accavitti** (chair of Energy and Technology) (D) – **93%**
- **Minority Leader Craig DeRoche (R) - 21%**



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What is at Risk?

Thoughts from Executive Director Lisa Wozniak



As the 2008 legislative session winds down, and the campaign season heats up, the great state of Michigan has a few victories to celebrate, and a heap of challenges to overcome. Between the passage of the Great Lakes Compact (pending federal ratification) and the passage of positive energy legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives (which has come to a stalemate in the Senate), important steps have been initiated to secure the future of Michigan's natural resources. While some progress has been made, and citizens and advocacy groups all over the state continue to fight the good fight on behalf of Michigan's beautiful wild places, the natural heritage that we hold dear in Michigan is still very much at risk.

It would be my pleasure to report that many of the issues addressed in our last newsletter have been resolved, but unfortunately, that is not the case. The Saginaw River is still plagued by appalling levels of dioxin courtesy of Dow Chemical; Kennecott Minerals Company continues to pursue a metallic-sulfide nickel mine in the Upper Peninsula with permission from the DEQ; and proposals for eight new coal plants in Michigan are still on the table.

The lack of leadership and environmental stewardship in Lansing remains an enormous problem, which means the door is wide open for leadership and action on the local level. This year, Michigan LCV honored outstanding efforts at the local level by recognizing three Mayors from across the state for their incredible work on behalf of Michigan's natural resources. Michigan LCV is proud to have highlighted the achievements of Mayor George Heartwell (Grand Rapids), Mayor John Hieftje (Ann Arbor), and former Mayor Rob Sisson (Sturgis) by awarding each of them with the 2008 Michigan LCV Environmental Leadership Award. While this was a departure from our usual protocol (we usually honor state legislators), it was a delight to honor these three local officials who have made a real difference in their communities.

This is not to say that we have given up on Lansing; rather, quite the opposite is true. With critical races all across the state this year for the House of Representatives (45 total!), votes in favor of environmental protection are more critical than ever. Michigan must send a clear message to all our elected officials—from county commissioner to State Representative; from State Supreme Court to U.S. Senate and the President: protect and restore the precious natural resources of our beautiful state and region!! The time is now, and the duty is all of ours. From the truckloads of trash that washed ashore in Manistee to the closing of beaches in St. Clair Shores, from Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor to the threat of off-shore drilling in the Great Lakes, our wild places are at risk.

Please make your voice heard in November, and stand up for Michigan's environment by electing leaders who value our precious natural resources as much as you do.

Happy Voting,

Historic Elections in Michigan

November 4, 2008 will be an incredibly important day for the State of Michigan. **Nearly half of the state House of Representatives will be replaced:** 44 of 110 seats are being vacated due to term limits and one seat is being vacated by an incumbent who is seeking a county prosecutor position, bringing the total number of open House seats to 45.

There are also countless county and local elections on the ballot, starting at our southern most borders and extending to the waters of Lake Superior. From drain commissioner to the election of our Chief Justice on the Michigan State Supreme Court, our state's political landscape has the potential to change dramatically.

Voters going to the polls this fall will likely have three key issues in mind: the economy, health care and education. Many will approach November 4 as a clear opportunity, in particular, to reinvent our State economically. It is essential, however, that Michigan citizens keep in mind that this election is also a critical opportunity to make a statement, both state and nationwide, about our commitment to the protection of our natural resources and heritage.

Historically, the connection between Michigan's politics and Michigan's environment has been taken for granted. Not since the days of Governor William Milliken has an elected official made the protection of our State's precious natural resources a true priority. This year, for example, Michigan was the last state in the region to officially sign into law the historic Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River Basin Compact. Although we are blessed with more Great Lakes coastline than any of our neighbors, eight other states and two Canadian provinces managed to navigate the politics surrounding the Compact

and agreed to it before Michigan did.

If we value the protection and restoration of the natural resources, we must elect leaders who share the same values and, more importantly, who are willing to stand up for those values, break from politics as usual, and make sure that they become legislative priorities.

Indeed, the need for great environmental leaders reaches well beyond the State level. Now, more than ever, we are witnessing the power of cities, counties, and townships as they are taking the lead in the face of state and federal partisan bickering. Ann Arbor, for example, has a goal of a 30% renewable energy supply by 2010 (the House legislation passed earlier this year called for 10% by 2015).

Grand Rapids does more "green building" per capita than any other city in North America. Traverse City is on the verge of implementing one of the most comprehensive and inclusive urban planning projects that the nation has ever seen (the Grand Vision Project).

These examples underscore the importance of our elected leaders at all levels of government when examined with an environmental lens. At Michigan LCV, we hope you will join us this year as we continue to focus on electing candidates up and down the ballot who make environmental issues true priorities. As you enter the ballot box on Tuesday, November 4, know where the candidates you choose stand on the issues that matter most to our future.



New Emphasis on West Michigan!!

Recognizing the importance of the Lake Michigan shoreline and the second largest city in the state, Michigan LCV is pleased to announce that we have opened an office in downtown Grand Rapids and hired a dynamic new staff person. Our Grand Rapids office is located at 40 Monroe Center NW in the heart of the city where an enormous emphasis has been put recently in revitalizing the urban core.

Our West Michigan field director is Bill Kirk. Bill was born and raised in Grand Rapids, and attended Michigan State University where he received a bachelors degree in Advertising. During his studies at MSU, Bill interned in Washington, D.C. with Edelman, an international public relations firm, where he worked primarily in the area of public affairs.

Please come visit our new office and give a warm welcome to Bill who can be reached at 616.459.6459 or by email at Bill@MichiganLCV.org

Information for Voting in Michigan:

October 6, 2008 is the last day to register for the November 4, 2008 General Election.

Absentee voting in Michigan is available for all elections. You can obtain an absentee ballot if you are:

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to go to the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence

Please contact your county clerk for a ballot or visit www.michigan.gov/sos.

If you wish to receive an absentee ballot for the November 4 election, your written application must be received by your city or township clerk by 2pm, November 1, 2008.

To see who and what is on your ballot, please visit <http://www.publius.org>.

More Voting Information: You do not need to register for each election. Registration is permanent as long as you live in the city or township where you are registered. If you move, you must register again.

The polls are open from 7am to 8pm on the day of the election.

You must either show picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you do not have one before voting in Michigan.

The Honored Mayors:

Mayor George Heartwell has helped Grand Rapids go green by focusing on energy conservation, renewable energy use, and improving water quality in the Grand River. He also helped Grand Rapids gain the designation as a “Center of Expertise” in sustainability by the United Nations.

Mayor John Hieftje has been instrumental in implementing various measures to make Ann Arbor more eco-friendly, including purchasing hybrid bio-diesel city buses, LED bulbs for streetlights, and setting a goal of 30% renewable energy use by 2010.

Former **Mayor Rob Sisson** was responsible for creating Sturgis’s first curbside residential recycling program and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, both at the city level and throughout St. Joseph County.

Honoring Michigan’s Mayors

Grand Rapids Awards Ceremony

Michigan LCV honored three Michigan mayors – Mayor John Hieftje of Ann Arbor, Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids, and former Mayor Rob Sisson of Sturgis – with the 2008 Environmental Leadership Award on June 12, 2008.

Every other year, Michigan LCV awards lawmakers who make protecting and enhancing Michigan’s environment a top priority. Typically, our award recipients have been elected officials at the state level—state senators and state representatives. This year, though, all three of the award recipients were mayors.

“Instead of honoring state legislators for good work behind the scenes in Lansing, we decided to go to a level of government where a lot of REAL work was being done,” said Lisa Wozniak, executive director of Michigan LCV. “It is embarrassing that the Michigan Legislature has been woefully slow in moving legislation that would ensure protections of our land, air and water. These mayors have decided to not just think globally but, more importantly, to act locally in offering real solutions that help Michigan’s environment and economy.”

The three honorees have all made enormous headway in investing in and protecting Michigan’s greatest natural resources.

All three mayors were proud signers of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Agreement on Climate Change, confirming their commitment to reducing global warming pollution and ensuring long-term protection of Michigan’s families, Michigan’s Great Lakes and Michigan’s beautiful open spaces.



Above: The three honorees—Mayor Hieftje, Mayor Sisson and Mayor Heartwell

Right: Honorees and guests enjoyed a reception before the awards ceremony

Rockford Construction Company, Inc.

Green Business Spotlight



John Wheeler, CEO of
Rockford Companies

Rockford Construction Company, Inc. (Rockford) was founded 21 years ago in Rockford, Michigan and has been working on behalf on West Michigan communities ever since. While part of Rockford's mission as a company has always been to invest in the well-being and sustainability of local communities, in the last few years the idea of *sustainability* has taken on a whole new meaning.

Currently, Rockford is a recognized authority in the area of green building and participates in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™, a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. One of their most famous LEED buildings is the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the one and only Gold LEED certified art museum in the world. Rockford takes it's leadership beyond LEED certification, though, and has truly set the standard for sustainable development and, perhaps more importantly to the city of Grand Rapids, *re-*development for the region.

Rockford is creating a new level of sustainability by redeveloping historic sites throughout Grand Rapids in accordance with LEED standards. While most construction companies focus on developing open space, Rockford Construction makes a deliberate effort to revitalize existing space. From the Inner City Christian Federation building to much of Monroe Center in downtown Grand Rapids, Rockford continues to be deeply invested in the rebirth of the state's second largest city.

Thanks to the dedicated work of Rockford and others in the area, Grand Rapids is currently the North American leader in "green buildings."

Some of Rockford's notable achievements include:

- 44th largest LEED contractor in the nation
- # 1 LEED contractor in Michigan, *Engineering News Record magazine*
- Built first residential GREEN building in Michigan
- Built the first LEED certified church in Michigan
- Built the first LEED certified art museum in the country
- Follows strict recycling guidelines on its 300+ projects per year
- Practices sustainable measures on every front at their corporate offices
- Lead sponsor of the Grand Rapids Water Festival
- Collaborates regularly with GREEN architects and building owners
- Awarded National 1st Place as 'Safety Platinum Contractor of the Year'

Michigan LCV recognizes the amazing work of this company—their commitment to the community, their employees and Michigan's magnificent environment makes them perfect candidates for our Green Business spotlight.

For more information on this outstanding business, visit www.rockfordconstruction.com.



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Lawrence & Elaine Kirk
Cynthia Koenig
Manny Lentine
Jeff Lobdell
Lisa Locke
David A. Lopez
Betsy Loyless
Dan Luria
Christine Manninen
Bob Martel
Barry Matthews
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Great Lakes Compact Moves Through Congress!

After a long, hard-fought battle, Michigan became the 8th and final state to sign the Great Lake Compact and send it off to Congress to be ratified. The Council of Great Lakes Governors spent four years negotiating the deal amid rising concern that the worldwide shortage of fresh water would lead thirsty regions to tap into the Lakes. This multi-state agreement will, for the first time, place real protections on the Great Lakes water ensuring that it stays in the Great Lakes and cannot be sold off to thirsty states or countries.

"This is a defining moment in Michigan history," Governor Granholm said. "We must do our part to ensure that our Great Lakes are protected and preserved for generations to come. This legislation fulfills that promise."



While Michigan LCV is celebrating this victory as a first step, we know our work is not done. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the Compact before August recess, but it still needs to be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives who are expected to take action in September. We applaud Senators Levin and Stabenow for voting in favor of the Compact and urge our U.S. House members to follow suit.

Michigan LCV will also be working at the state level next year to ensure that all of Michigan's water (surface and groundwater) are held in the public's trust.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed Michigan's multi-bill water protection package into law at a ceremony on the beach in Saugatuck. Pictured from left directly behind Granholm are State Sen. Patty Birkholz, State Rep. Rebekah Warren, and Cyndi Roper of Clean Water Action. From left, in back, are **Bill Kirk of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters**, James Clift of the Michigan Environmental Council, Andy Buchsbaum of the National Wildlife Federation, and Bryan Burroughs of Trout Unlimited.

Michigan STILL Lacking in Clean Energy

Unlike five other states in the Midwest and twenty-seven states nationwide, Michigan is still woefully behind when it comes to real, clean energy solutions. After almost two years of workgroups and hearings, the state House of Representatives passed an acceptable clean energy package – one that requires that 10% of our energy come from renewable sources by 2015 and that we make mandatory investments in energy efficiency. Though certainly not the perfect package, the work of the state House did, at least, propose to put Michigan on the road towards a new energy future.

Weeks later under the cover of night, however, the state Senate took matters into their own hands. They ignored the House recommendations, as well as the voices of thousands of citizens across the state, and passed a completely unacceptable energy package. The Senate package (SB 213) requires a mere 7% renewable investment by 2015, has little regard for cost-saving energy efficient programs, and is riddled with loopholes big enough to drive a Hummer through.

As a state, we have learned the hard way what happens when you don't diversify your economy. Michigan LCV worked hard to prevent the state from learning that same lesson as it pertains to our energy use. Please contact your state Senator and state Representative today and ask them to make Michigan a leader in clean energy by passing REAL energy reform! Adoption of the House energy package is the least we can do to put Michigan on the right path.

To take action online, we invite you visit the Michigan Action Project at: www.map.e-actionmax.com!



The “Heat is On” in Michigan



On July 8, Michigan LCV Education Fund’s newest staff member arrived in Ann Arbor. Mark Neisler came onboard as the Global Climate Change Specialist through funding provided by the national LCV Education Fund to implement the “Heat Is On” campaign in Michigan. The Campaign’s goal is to build support for strong action on climate change at the federal level.

Global warming is the biggest issue looming in our future and is already impacting Michigan in a multitude of ways. The key to meeting this challenge is strong national leadership. The 2008 presidential election, and the Congressional session to follow, is an opportunity to cultivate that leadership.

To accomplish this goal, national LCV Education Fund has partnered with Mark and Michigan LCV Education Fund to educate and challenge the media to make global warming a top political issue, and ensure climate change becomes a central part of candidate stories, debates and interviews. Working with concerned citizens throughout the states, Mark and the Michigan LCV Ed Fund team will coordinate a network of hundreds of Michigan citizens who believe global warming is a top priority.

One important strategic objective of this campaign is to engage in the current public debate over gas prices and energy policy. This is an opportunity to build support for the environmental community’s vision for a new energy future that will both solve global climate change while freeing Americans from our dependence on oil. Congress must act now to give Americans real energy choices that will bring down our energy costs, fight global warming, ensure the economic future of our families, and the security of our country.

The people of Michigan deserve energy choices. There are real solutions. It’s time for Congress to embrace them. We are delighted to have Mark on board to help us with this critical work.

Save the Date - Earth Tones 2008!

Come celebrate a night of
outstanding Michigan music and
action to benefit Michigan LCV!

Tuesday
October 14, 2008

The Ark
316 S. Main Street
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Tickets: \$35.00 general; \$15.00 students

***Musical acts include: Bates & Foote; Glean Infusion;
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Suchyta; Chris Buhalis; and Joe Reilly***



For more info: Contact Debra at
debra@michiganlcv.org or
by phone at 734.222.9650

Michigan LCV Welcomes Congressman Joe Schwarz to the Board of Directors

We are extraordinarily honored to welcome former Congressman Joe Schwarz to our Board of Directors. Congressman Schwarz is a life-long Michigander having been born and raised in Battle Creek. As a dedicated physician, Dr. Schwarz has been practicing medicine in Battle Creek since 1974, and served in the Michigan Legislature for 15 years before becoming a Congressman.

Dr. Schwarz is a member of the Republican Leadership Council and the Republican Main Street Partnership. He is also a member of the Republican Majority For Choice, Republicans for Choice and Republicans for Environmental Protection.

