

Respondent:

**Lake Improvement Association
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Question From Summit Or From Audience Cards	Response
<p>Are you familiar with the ODNR study "The Restoration of a Canal Lake" and the 1999 Hupman Report entitled "Grand Lake St Mary's Watershed Protection Project" and if so what are your comments??</p>	<p>The LIA is very familiar with these studies and many others concerning the condition of the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed. Beginning in September, 2003 the LIA began to use these reports to initiate public education through the formation of the Lake Restoration Committee. For three years this committee has held monthly public forums with charts, power point presentations and various experts in the field to hundreds of citizens and members of service organizations. Debate has always been welcomed on this issue. Contrary to popular belief, the LIA has been careful not to present an opinion on the degradation of the watershed, rather to consistently present the facts as they are represented in the various documents published by technical, scientific or government reports. These two studies contain recommendations and solutions to halt the continued decline in the health of the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed and the greater Wabash watershed. The LIA remains concerned by the lack of action by government officials and agencies on the recommendations contained in these reports.</p>
<p>What's the definition of clean water IE: Clean Up the Lake</p>	<p>Ohio administrative code 3745-1-04 best describes a clean water criteria briefly stated: Free from suspended solids as a result of human activity and that will settle to form putrescent or sludge deposits; free from floating debris in amounts to be unsightly; free from materials entering the waters as a result of human activity producing color, odor, or other conditions to cause a nuisance; free from substances entering the water as a result of human activity in concentrations that are toxic or harmful to human, animal, or aquatic life and/or rapidly toxic in the mixing zone; free from nutrients entering the waters as a result of human activity in concentrations that create nuisance growths of aquatic weeds and algae; and free from public health nuisances associated with raw or poorly treated</p>

	<p>sewage.</p> <p>In 1999 the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency evaluated the biological health and water quality of the Wabash watershed which contains the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed. Their conclusion after these studies was that this watershed is the most degraded in Ohio.</p> <p>Starting as agricultural drainage ditches, most small streams were hurt by polluted farm runoff. Without buffer strips and wooded areas to trap soil eroded from fields, rocks and other stream bottom substrates were smothered with silt. Excessive nutrient and high bacteria levels were also commonly faulted for poor water quality conditions.</p>
<p>What can everyday citizens do to help improve water quality in the watershed and lake?</p>	<p>A healthy lawn is a first line of defense. Don't over fertilize, use soil sampling to determine nutrient needs rather than putting store bought fertilizers on your lawn. Our local co-ops will be glad to help you formulate the correct fertilizer ratios based on your lawns need. Maintain your septic system. Ohio state university studies have determined that many septic systems in the GLSM w/s cease to properly function after (2) years of use. Wash your car on your lawn. Properly dispose of materials, oils or other toxic waste being careful not to put anything into the storm sewers, streams or the lake. There are many other best management practices that can be incorporated by landowners: protect the road rights of ways, don't pollute the road side ditches as they are our first line of defense and can greatly affect wildlife habitat. Plant trees where you can to eliminate erosion and to cool stream waters.</p> <p>The Mercer and Auglaize SWCD office can provide many other useful methods to contribute to the health of the w/s.</p>
<p>Historical rainfall data shows a clear aberration in 2003 – 60.33 inches when the norm is near 36+-. Should we make public policy based on one year out of 47?</p>	<p>There currently exist laws, rules and regulations pertaining to public policy based on many years records of yearly rainfall events. As an example flood zones are established using this data. Engineers utilize this policy during design, citing and construction phases of projects. Insurance companies also determine policies based on this data.</p> <p>At times disputes arise and eventually are brought before the court for adjudication.</p> <p>The LIA by charter supports whatever those laws, rules and regulations are. These laws, rules and regulations are not based on just one years data.</p>
<p>What is the LIAs policy when it comes to lake level?</p>	<p>The LIA has no policy on the lake level. The Lake Improvement Association members are united by the bonds of friendship and strive for mutual</p>

	<p>understanding of all the problems of the lake and endeavor at all times to solve problems to the satisfaction of the state of Ohio which owns the lake and the public using the lake. The state of Ohio has determined GLSM is not a flood control structure. As such the reservoir is self regulating and at the mercy of the amount and speed of water draining from the w/s .This issue is currently in the court system and the LIA will abide by whatever decision is rendered.</p>
<p>The Hupman report states that it would take approx 80K acres to spread all the manure in the 59K acre watershed. It also states that 69% of the phosphorus and 61% of the nitrogen and 50% of the potassium comes from poultry manure. What would be different if all the poultry manure was trucked out of the watershed?</p>	<p>Our understanding is that chicken manure is currently being brokered from the watershed in some quantity. In some cases other forms of manure also are brokered out of the watershed. If properly managed chicken manure is a very good fertilizer. All the manure generated in the w/s is considered a valuable resource and should be properly managed. According to credible studies the over application, lack of storage facilities and land for application are the major contributors of nutrient overload in the w/s. Following best management practices on the land has been cited as one of the most significant contribution to protecting the w/s. A logical conclusion would be that proper handling of manure would certainly be helpful in eliminating nutrients from escaping into the environment. Watersheds have recovered from these problems. Indian Lake and the Hoover Reservoir here in Ohio are examples. The city of New York demonstrated that conservation easements, proper handling of manure and other land practices in their w/s had significant impact on improving their drinking water supply and allowed them to avoid significant increases in capital spending for facilities and chemicals needed for drinking water.</p>
<p>In the past 20 years, have wetlands been displaced to build homes on the south side of the lake?</p>	<p>In the United States more than half of the original wetlands have been drained and we continue to lose over 100,000 acres per year. Currently there are laws, rules and regulations on the development of wetlands. Any development outside those would seem questionable or even illegal. The LIA was instrumental in the seeing that the laws were upheld in a recent hearing for a development of a wetland in the w/s. the LIA is not against proper development in the w/s concerning wetlands. However, we will be vigilante on the appropriate protection of them.</p>