

2024 Year End Summary for MCECC

Quarterly Meeting Presentations were given by:

1. Kim Wood, Waggle Dance Honeybees: delicious honey and interesting bee info!

Bees inspired the new mascot to be called the Baker College Bees! 90% of the hive is worker bees, and they're all females; male drones make up 10%. When bees outgrow their hive, the queen and much of the colony is designated to relocate. The bees create their own new queen with "royal jelly" and usually the ousted colony must be rescued by a beekeeper, like Kim, to find a new hive.

2. Erica Bouldin, Michigan Climate Action Network

They have their hands full trying to promote clean energy initiatives and guard the Great Lakes from the threats of oil spills, among other actions. A long battle ahead is foreseen.

3. Naomi Davis, Blacks for Green

They are helping underserved communities establish a sustainable infrastructure, one neighborhood at a time, with hopes to achieve greater levels of independence in their Sustainable Square Mile Neighborhood Economics plans.

4. Melanie Knapp, the new Executive Director for the Muskegon Conservation District

Continuing the long history (since 1938) to combat poor land management and environmental practices in order to protect West Michigan's precious natural resources. They depend on Grant funding for almost half of their budget; but 52% is hire work, and there are lots of projects ongoing, including fighting invasive species; native restoration; erosion control; shoreline stabilization; habitat management; education and outreach workshops; and more.

MCECC is current on the 2 required nonprofit filings: 990 IRS federal; and Michigan LARA.

There is no outstanding debt. Once again, a donation by SBFoundation was received.

MCECC signed a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with the Chemours Environmental Impact Committee (CEIC) whose mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Chemours industrial sites. Claire Schlaff gave a year end update; their accomplishments are lengthy, but to summarize, the group has joined efforts with (among others) White Lake Township, community members, professional consultants; and EGLE - Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and they now have, after 60 years of efforts, an enforceable document which puts timelines in place for a Corrective Actions Report to be submitted by the Chemours company, followed by an Implementation Plan due by February 2025. CEIC has ongoing public meetings set up for public comment; and they are working to develop relationships with other groups with compatible missions. CEIC fundraising includes donations and grants from the White Lake Community Foundation; the Charles Evenson Foundation; and the community at large.

We look forward to 2025.

Doug Wood, Chair; Jill Koebbe, Vice Chair; Vicki Luthy, Secretary; Chris Qew, Treasurer