

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND HOLLY CRUEY, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE MAY 4, 2015 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>**

**Let the record show Informal Regular Session started shortly before 11:15 A.M.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. Issue - "Harmful Algal Blooms" – Paul Braasch, Director, Office of Environmental Quality (15-0518-003)**

**Discussion** – Mr. Braasch provided a brief introduction of the staff who will be presenting information today. He stated that the Commissioners and Administrator have charged him with understanding our watershed better than the EPA does. Mr. Braasch listed the agencies who are a part of the East Fork Watershed Cooperative who have contributed to their research and highlighted the success this committee has had.

Hannah Luebbers, Project Manager, Office of Environmental Quality, began the Power Point presentation. She reviewed the terminology associated with Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and reviewed the toxins that can cause human and animal illnesses. Ms. Luebbers identified the signage used to warn people of HAB's and discussed the widespread impact HAB's can have. Ms. Luebbers identified the direct impact HAB's are having on Harsha Lake. Ohio EPA and ODNR assist in monitoring, however monitoring is expensive. Office of Environmental Quality will be monitoring the conditions as well. She noted there are many events that are planned for this summer at Harsha Lake.

Ms. Leubbers reviewed the history of HBA's as well as the theories and possible causes for the increased activity. She discussed short term and long term treatments options.

Ms. Leubbers reiterated the contributions being made by the East Fork Watershed Cooperative to identify, prevent, and treat the blooms. The pie chart presented identifies the annual nutrient load impacting Harsha Lake.

Ms. Leubbers identified some Best Management Practices (BMP's) and their use in determining locations to reduce nutrient run off. Bloom monitoring will be done in areas using BMP's and areas using conventional farming methods to determine if there is an improvement to the HBA's. Satellite data was used last year to create a remote sensing project. This information can be used to determine when the HBA's are coming, when they are at their greatest strength and what type of toxins will be seen in the water. Commissioner Humphrey asked how the satellite data and UC Aircraft data are used to determine the presence of blooms. Ms. Leubbers indicated they are able to identify concentrations based on color and light reflection.

Mark Day, Assistant Director of Operations, Water Resources Department, reviewed the history of HAB's at the BMW Plant and the best available treatment technologies used; specifically for the removal of extracellular toxins. Mr. Day discussed the technologies currently available at BMW Plant.

Commissioner Uible stated that we have been using traditional technology for water treatment, but asked if we are doing anything extra because of Harsha Lake. Mr. Day indicated that monitoring and testing are the biggest costs.

Mr. Day discussed the oxidant inactivation limitations and other considerations in determining what is effective.

Tim Neyer, WRD Supervisor, Water Resources Department, reviewed the current testing capabilities and the research being conducted. This summer, extensive in-house testing will be done to find out what is going on in our process. Mr. Neyer discussed the collaborative efforts being made.

Commissioner Uible asked when the problems began at the BMW Plant. Mr. Day indicated that HAB's have been a problem from the beginning in 1995; it started as taste and odor events.

Commissioner Uible asked when did we start closing down the beach. Mr. Day stated 2012.

Commissioner Humphrey stated that the taste and odor issues can exist without their being health issues. HAB related health issues didn't occur until 2012 and still has not become an issue for our drinking water. Mr. Neyer stated that we have never had a detectible level in our finished drinking water.

Commissioner Uible stated that the EPA is here to help us but they are also issuing mandates.

Commissioner Proud asked Ms. Leubbres which crop is creating the nutrient problems. Ms. Leubbers replied that it is mostly corn and soy beans. The fertilizer that is most affordable contains phosphorus.

Commissioner Proud asked if the Ohio Department of Agriculture was a part of this collaboration. Ms. Leubbers indicated that the USDA has been involved but not the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Proud asked if there is HAB activity when the turn-over of the lake occurs. Mr. Neyer said that they hypothesize that the blue-green algae death in the fall releases additional toxins coinciding with taste and odor issues.

Mr. Neyer stated that if we have event, proper information needs to be disseminated; communication is important.

Mr. Brausch discussed agricultural runoff, best management practices and edge of field monitoring.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – No follow-up is needed at this time.

**11:52A.M.**

**Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

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**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT**

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**ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT**

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**DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER**

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**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**05/27/2015**  
**DATE APPROVED**