**Meeting on Injection Wells**

**September 14, 2021, 6 p.m.**

**Farmers Daughters & Sons, Marietta**

Green Sanctuary Members Present: Adeline & Mike Bailey, George Banziger, Dawn Hewitt, Jim Grecni & Debra Miller, Rebecca Phillips

Other attendees: Several independent oil/gas producers in Washington County, several public officials including two county commissioners (Kevin Ritter & Charlie Schilling) and 94th Ohio District Representative Jay Edwards, representatives from Bordas & Bordas law firm

Moderator: Bob Lane (owner of Bob Lane Welding and independent oil/gas producer)

Speakers:

*Attorney Zach Zatezalo –* Representing Bordas and Bordas law firm from St. Clairsville & Pittsburgh, he described how his firm is involved in investigating the impact of injection wells on fresh water and on property rights. He made reference to collaboration with Cooper Law firm of Louisiana which has been involved in cases like this one and one of whose members has published a book, *Crude Justice.* The firm is looking at injection wells as well as the petroleum spill at Veto Lake. *.*

*Marco Kutofen –* (from Bordas & Bordas, joined via Zoom) A civil engineer, he described the questions that Bordas & Bordas will be looking at in this case including: how far the petroleum product has migrated, what were the land and water like before critical incidents, clean-up plans, how much petroleum product was involved, and who is responsible. Investigators include geologists, real estate experts and chemists. He mentioned that brine waste from injection wells is migrating.

*Bobby Anderson -*As owner of Anderson Drilling Inc. he described how oil wells have traditionally been capped and distributed a booklet. His booklet included information on how old wells were drilled prior to 1902, well logs, and some maps of his property. He described the oil/gas maps created by Professor Pepper of OSU. He also expressed his long-standing concern for clean drinking water in the context of successful oil/gas drilling.

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_??-* He described the danger of abandoned oil wells and how the migration of brine results in outflow to other production wells.

*Mark Fulton –* Owner of RAMMP Co, which first alerted Bob Lane to the infusion of brine waste at his production wells.

*Bob Wilson –* He is an independent oil/gas producer who has partnered with Bob Lane on these efforts to limit the spread of injection wells and on the legal case. He reported that 30 of his wells have been contaminated by brine waste and that he is losing about $500/day because of this contamination. He owns a total of 170 wells in southeast Ohio.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*McMaster –* A geologist and as a former ODNR employee, he defended the work of ODNR’s Division of Oil & Gas Resource Management as highly regulated and effective. He was questioned on these assumptions be several in the audience.

*George Banziger* – I described myself as concerned about safety and health of citizens of Washington County and about clean water in the county. My remarks were excerpts from the piece I had written that was published in *Marietta Patch* on August 23, “Injection Wells: Too Much Fracking Waste & Too Many Unanswered Questions.” I mentioned the review of ODNR reports on Class II injection wells that I made 9-10 months ago and all the questions I raised, which have not been fully answered by ODNR including information about the Redbird #4 spill and the spill that took place just outside Marietta on a pipeline owned by Deep Rock Disposal. It is my opinion, as stated in the article, that ODNR should halt all injection well activity or, at the very least, not issue any more permits for injection wells.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Farmer from western Washington County whose land was impacted by brine waste from Redbird # (I could not catch his name or most of his remarks because of audience noise).

At the end of the meeting Bob Lane asked for a show of hands on how many of those present would like another meeting. The majority responded affirmatively.

After the meeting Debra, Jim, and I spoke with a gentleman, whose name we do not know, who said that he manages the oil/gas wells for Bob Lane. He had photos of the petroleum spill at Veto Lake. In a phone call on September 15 from someone in the Buckeye Environmental Network I learned that the injection wells are the origin of this problem. There is simply so much brine waste being injected into the ground under so much pressure that it is disturbing old wells and causing them to spew oil & gas. Such is the gas with Veto Lake; there used to be an oil/gas well under what is now Veto Lake that was abandoned—or maybe even plugged—and that was fractured by the shear quantity of brine waste in the ground. There are injection wells within a short distance of Veto Lake.

George Banziger