

H₂ FOR ME

Volume 1, Issue 2

"WHEN THE WELL RUNS DRY, WE KNOW THE VALUE OF WATER." Ben Franklin


Summer 2004

Have you thought about Maine's Water – How today it's Maine's Oil?

Water is an important and critical natural resource that we all have invested in, publicly and privately, to clean up and preserve. BUT – all this has not been without a price. Businesses and jobs have been lost as a result of this effort. This investment has been necessary and worth the cost and hardship. The results are obvious. Maine has clean water.

What we haven't properly considered is – Whose water have we protected?

For centuries, we have always believed that the water belonged to all of us, to all the citizens of Maine. When we began fighting the clean water battles 30 – 40 years ago, here in Maine and around the country, we were not focused on bulk water extractions, some of which are managed by a large transnational water cartel. They saw something that we took for granted. Our clean water was free and large profits were for the taking as long as the citizens of Maine were asleep. We are no longer asleep and we can protect our water and share in the benefits of our investments.

Over the past few months, a small group of concerned Maine citizens formed a coalition to change the State laws to secure a more prosperous Maine future. H₂  for ME grew from that effort.

H₂  for ME has three major objectives:

- ◆ Ensure Maine's aquifers are monitored for sustainability and protected.
- ◆ Enact a water royalty fee on containerized water sales, to be paid into a dedicated trust fund, Maine's Water Dividend Trust, which will benefit all Maine's citizens
- ◆ Invest the trust fund in Maine's economy. Dividends earned from this trust will be paid to Maine citizens for their years of clean water investment.


In this effort we have garnered support from hundreds of citizens: from Presque Isle to York, from Oxford to Washington Counties. We have support from farmers, small entrepreneurs, veterans, trades people, and business owners. Politicians have also signed on board to help enact this legislation. We have just begun to fight!

Now, we need your support and your contributions. Up until now, we have been funding this effort alone....no complaints..... But now we need YOUR help. If you think this is an idea that needs to be enacted, we need your support. We are up against some of the largest corporations in the world. Maine people will meet this challenge! Your donation would be appreciated and well looked after.... This is your opportunity to step forward, to make a difference, and to be part of the fight to keep the clean water benefits within Maine for now and future generations!

Thank you for your help and your contribution.

Jim Wilfong, Stow Maine

OUR VISION

H₂  for ME, Maine's Water Dividend Trust working to increase protection of our fresh water and OUR investment in Maine's economic future

WHOSE WATER IS IT? ♣

What can you do? ♣

Well. You have already read that you can help H₂♣ for ME, Inc. by donating some money.

How much?

Try donating as little as 20 cents per day or \$6.00 per month or \$72.00 for the year. Sounds like a plan, doesn't it? All you have to do is give up one cup of coffee or one bottle of water per week, donate that amount and you will have helped us help you. You will hardly miss the donation but we will notice it greatly. Any money not used as part of the campaign will go directly into the Water Dividend Trust and will jumpstart that part of our campaign as well.

Please help by sending your donation today to:
H₂♣ for ME, Inc. PO Box 52, Fryeburg ME 04037
Secure on-line donations can be made at
www.h2oforme.com.

Remember, the opposition to H₂♣ for ME, Inc. will be strong and funding will come in millions from the huge multi-nationals just like their profits. These corporations will try to stop our effort. We will count on your help.

Help us answer the question: Whose water is it?

How else can you help?

1. Create a bottle redemption collection point.
The reality is that some people just can't come up with a donation out of pocket -- and that's o.k. But, here's another way to come up with the money. Lots of people hate taking back their bottles for redemption. You could announce that you will collect bottles for people and send the proceeds on their behalf to H₂♣ for ME, Inc. It's that easy.
2. Host a community party.
You can also easily host a neighborhood party. Just lend us your house and we'll do everything else. You will be the person of the neighborhood who helped people understand how to sustain our water for the future.
3. Contact 10 friends to tell them about H₂♣ for ME, Inc.
You can also help by contacting people in your rolodex/address book and telling them about us.
4. Let us know of events that we should attend.
Finally, you probably know of local events that you think we should attend. We have speakers and literature/bumper stickers and we are ready to travel. So, just let us know and we will do our best to get there.
5. Be creative and share your ideas with us.
You are all creative, caring souls and we're sure you have great ideas on how to spread the word and generate the campaign dollars. We want to hear of your ideas and, with your permission, we will share them with others.

Resource Links

H₂♣ for ME web site:

<http://www.h2oforme.com>

<http://www.waterdividendtrust.com>



United States Geologic Survey (USGS)

site for water resources in Maine: <http://me.water.usgs.gov/>

Maine Geologic Survey (MGS) Aquifer fact sheet:

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/pubedinf/factsht/hydro/hydfact.htm>

MGS Aquifer Mapping and Glacial History:

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/pubedinf/factsht/hydro/aquifm.ap.htm>

USGS Groundwater Sustainability circular:

<http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/circ/circ1186/>

USGS Water resources: <http://water.usgs.gov/>

Bottled water: understanding a social phenomenon:

http://www.panda.org/livingwaters/pubs/bottled_water.pdf

FSU- Fight over bottled water extraction

http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/landuse/vol18_2/rooy.pdf

Blue Gold, The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water, by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, published by The New Press, 2002, ISBN 1-56584-731-8

Water Follies, Groundwater Pumping and the fate of America's Fresh Waters by Robert Glennon, published by Island Press, 2002, ISBN 1-55963-223-2

whose water is it?, The Unquenchable Thirst of a Water-Hungry World, edited by Bernadette McDonald and Douglas Jehl, published by National Geographic Society, 2003, ISBN 0-7922-6238-7



How much Profit in a 24 ounce bottle of water??

Cost of one acre foot of water An acre foot of water is 43,560 cubic feet or roughly 326,000 gallons	\$ 1,630.00
Cost of Bottling	\$.10
Selling Price of 1 Bottle (wholesale)	\$.85
GROSS PROFIT for ONE ACRE FOOT SOLD	\$1,300,875.50

For more information, to volunteer, or to contribute, contact us at: info@waterdividendtrust.com, or by snail mail to H₂♣ for ME, Inc., PO Box 52, Fryeburg, ME 04037.