

Everyone at Pure Oakland Water:

I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship and assistance of my internship this past summer with the Clinton River Watershed Council. This was a valuable learning opportunity, and I know that it would not have been possible without your support. Being a resident of Oakland County, I have benefitted from the Clinton River Watershed and am so grateful to have been able to work to protect the waters of this area through this internship.

My desire to work in natural resource management and restoration began during my years as an undergraduate student at nearby Oakland University. I received my bachelors of science in biology with a minor in environmental science from Oakland University in 2013. I then decided to enroll in graduate school to advance my knowledge and to make a tangible difference in the quality of our freshwaters. I am currently in my second year of attending the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment in order to obtain a master's degree in Conservation Ecology. With this degree I plan to find a career in natural resource management and restoration, with a focus on freshwater. I know that my work this summer has cemented this desire and helped me gain vital experience in the field.

I worked with the Clinton River Watershed Council from May to September 2014 in a myriad of tasks. These tasks allowed me to gain experience in many different aspects of environmental work, which I feel is a major advantage compared to working only in one area. I performed many ecological inventories such as stream restoration monitoring, macroinvertebrate sampling, stream habitat mapping, ecological surveys, road-stream crossing analysis, and data entry. I love doing this work and my experiences over the summer have made me a much better researcher. I also assisted with education programs for teachers and students, including River Critters, Stream Leaders, and the Clinton River Water Festival. It was enjoyable to be able to go to schools and show students how to conduct stream field work in order to determine the quality of the water. I still remember when the Clinton River Watershed Council came to my school when I was in high school. Being able to experience first-hand how stream monitoring is done was a fun, educational, and eye-opening experience for me, as I'm sure it was for many of the students we interacted with this summer. I was also able to facilitate outreach events in the community, including Adopt-A-Stream, Weekly Clean, and River Day. Through this internship I have come to better understand just how important outreach and education are for the field of conservation, which is why CRWC and POW make it such a major part of their work. These are just a few of the events and projects I was able to work on during my summer internship, but I feel like they highlight the wide array of tasks I was able to gain vital experience in.

Finally, I would like to thank anyone from Pure Oakland Water or the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office that I worked with over the summer. Everyone was helpful and awesome to work with. Whether it be at the Clinton River Water Festival, Pure Oakland Water Golf Outing, or other events, they were always great to work with. In the same light, everyone at the Clinton River Watershed Council was helpful, supportive, and willing to help me learn. The people I worked with throughout the summer played a critical role in helping make my internship a great learning experience. Based on this internship I am prepared and excited to enter the world of natural resource conservation and restoration after graduation. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Nate Jacobson

