

MITIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CCHAB NETWORK

Vendor Policy

The mitigation subcommittee of the CCHAB Network proposes to establish a vendor policy to document how committee members should respond to requests to present to the committee and to determine what to include on the mitigation portion of CCHAB website. The vendor policy applies to any for-profit commercial venture, including but not limited to consultants, applicators, vendors, and inventors.

The mitigation subcommittee strongly promotes the goal of addressing the root causes of CyanoHABs. The mitigation subcommittee recognizes that in many cases addressing the root causes can be very difficult and expensive, and that in some cases it may not be possible. We further recognize that some fixes will take considerable time and effort to implement and therefore require interim measures prior to achieving the desired long-term outcome.

Members are aware that mitigation needs to be based upon sound scientific monitoring and evaluation. Some strategies may be effective in the short term but are detrimental in the long term. The subcommittee should not advocate for approaches that do not provide a long-term, sustainable management strategy.

Vendors presenting NEW approaches for water quality mitigation to the subcommittee should be encouraged. The mitigation subcommittee should be open to updates and educational material regarding new approaches that might prove effective. Emphasis for these presentations should be on approaches that work towards reducing or managing nutrient loading (the primary factor driving blooms) rather than simply killing cells. Presentations should focus on emerging strategies, methodologies, technologies and comprehensive approaches to managing CyanoHABs.

The mitigation subcommittee webpage should NOT directly link to any of the presentations made to the subcommittee for the following reasons:

1. Water management strategies need to be customized for the conditions controlling CyanoHAB growth in each lake in order to maximize the potential for success. A particular method or approach, as presented by a vendor, will generally not be universally effective. Care must be taken to ensure that lake managers are not inadvertently directed towards methods inappropriate for their lakes via sole reliance on a vendor presentation where there is no control of the message. A presentation should clearly describe the process used to arrive at a specific approach with supporting data and justification.
2. More significantly, by linking to these presentations on the webpage, there would be a certain level of 'endorsement' of commercial methods/approaches/products. Such endorsement should be avoided. The subcommittee should be a neutral body. Since we cannot properly vet many/most approaches, and we probably cannot edit vendor presentations adequately to avoid issues or confusion, we should not appear to endorse them by linking them to the Subcommittee webpage.