

And that begged the question: Doesn't the state legislature need to see Allan's power point presentation?

Lorenz urged Allan to tell Snyder he has to veto that bill.

Murray Borrello, another Alma College professor and geologist, said that he and his students have been monitoring the river, something the state should have been doing.

Despite requests, no help has been forthcoming from the state.

Again, Allan said he has no magic wand to solve complex problems, but urged the community to join with others to get their voices heard.

"Frustration can drive change," he said.

Chairman of the Pine River Superfund Task Force in St. Louis Jim Hall asked for help in locating some of the agencies and communities and Allan said he would get back with him.

Allan told the members of the audience to report problems to the appropriate agency, usually the state Department of Environmental Quality or perhaps the health department or other agencies in the state.

If all else fails, he said, they could call him and he provided his number.

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Is the Pine River clean up a do-it-yourself project?

By Linda Gittleman, *The Morning Sun*

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If Alma, St. Louis and the surrounding communities want to see the Pine River cleaned up they're going have to do it themselves.

Or, join with other communities and organizations to see that it gets done.

Jon Allan, director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes told the nearly packed house at Alma College Thursday that he has no magic solutions.

"I can't change the legislative mind," he said to members of the Healthy Pine River group and others. "There's no magical money."

To repair and upgrade the state's water related infrastructure will cost "billions of dollars."

The problems of E-coli, nutrients and drug resistant bacteria found in the Pine River is happening throughout the state.

Allan gave a presentation on his strategy for the Great Lakes, a project begun about three years ago at Gov. Snyder's request.

His report will be released in sections in the next months and, among a large number of problems, it outlines how all the water is connected in Michigan and to other states - and countries - as well.

He asked how many members of the audience, when taking a shower in the morning, understood that their shower water "ends up in Quebec."

The state needs new infrastructure, clean up of legacy contaminations, more monitoring systems - it has some real time monitoring systems on beaches now - along with new ways to keep invasive species out of Michigan's lakes, Allan said.

He also pointed out that the state didn't design sewer systems to deal with drugs now found in the state's waterways.

"The system is out of whack," he said.

Michigan needs new technologies and new companies to help solve the problems, he said.

While understanding that the Pine is but a small piece in the state's overall water problems, frustration among members of the audience showed.

Alma College Professor Ed Lorenz pointed to a new state House bill that would limit regulatory environmental standards to that of the federal government's standards and not a bit more.