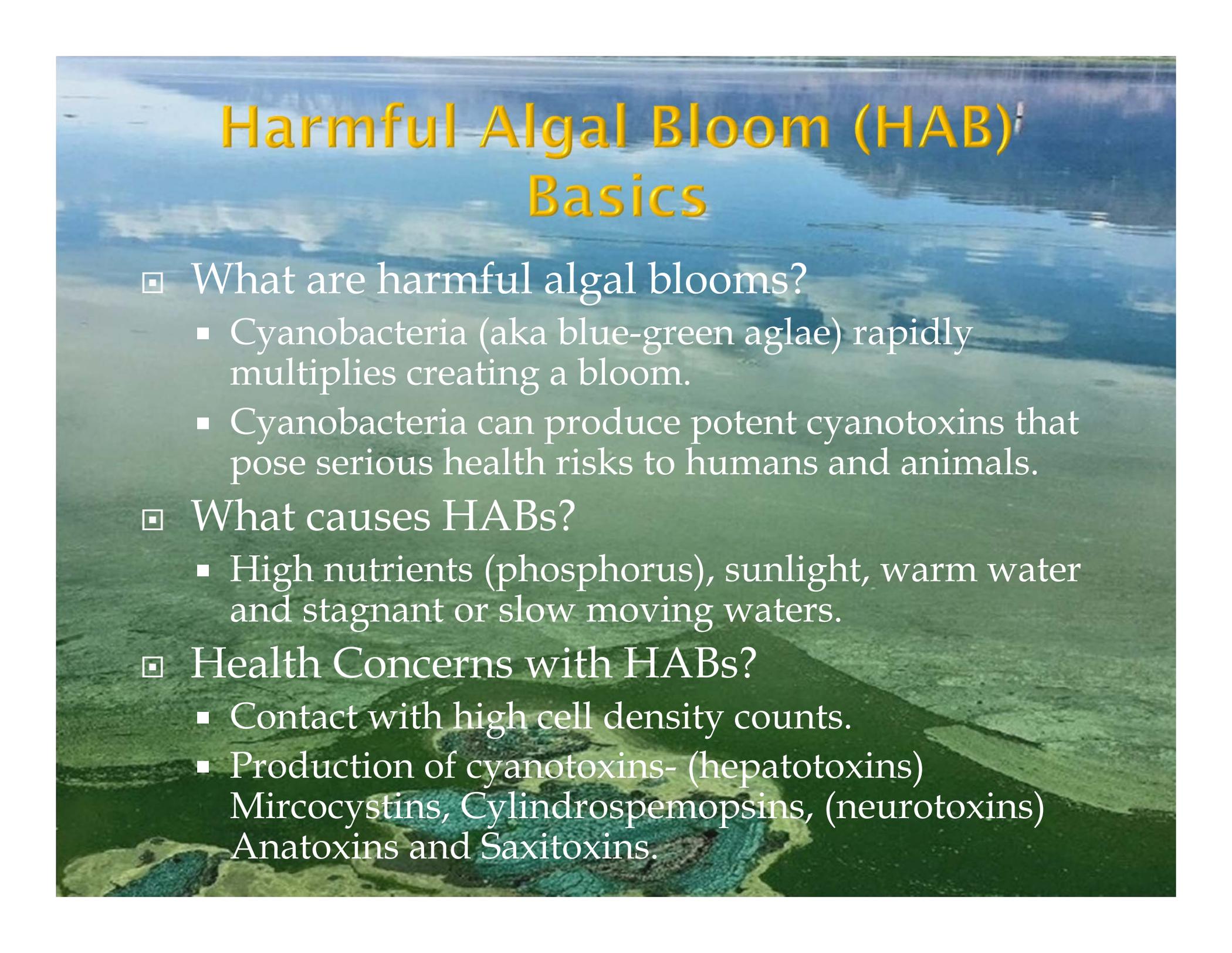


# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM UTAH LAKE 2016

Board of Health August 2016  
By Rachelle Blackham



# Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Basics

- ▣ What are harmful algal blooms?
  - Cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) rapidly multiplies creating a bloom.
  - Cyanobacteria can produce potent cyanotoxins that pose serious health risks to humans and animals.
- ▣ What causes HABs?
  - High nutrients (phosphorus), sunlight, warm water and stagnant or slow moving waters.
- ▣ Health Concerns with HABs?
  - Contact with high cell density counts.
  - Production of cyanotoxins- (hepatotoxins) Microcystins, Cylindrospermopsins, (neurotoxins) Anatoxins and Saxitoxins.



# Algal Bloom of 2014

- ▣ October 2014
  - Report that dog dies
  - Samples were taken
  - Warning Signs were posted
- ▣ Resulted in Utah Guidance for Local Health Departments: Harmful Algal Blooms and Human Health
  - Standards for Blue-Green Algae (Cell Density)
  - When and what signage to post

**Table 3. UDOH/UDEQ Harmful Algal Bloom Decision Guidelines (Based upon WHO, 2003).**

Relative Probability of Acute Health Risk	Blue-Green algae Cell Density (cells/mL)	Health Risks	Action Recommended
Very Low	<20,000	Negligible	None
Low	20,000-100,000	Short-term effects e.g. skin irritation, gastrointestinal illness	Issue caution advisory; Post <b>CAUTION</b> sign; Weekly sampling recommended
Moderate	100,000 – 10,000,000 <b>or</b> reports of animal illnesses or death	As above for low risk, and potential for long-term illness	Issue warning advisory; Post <b>WARNING</b> sign; Weekly sampling recommended
High	>10,000,000 <b>or</b> thick scum mat layer <b>or</b> reports of human illness	As above for moderate risk, and potential for acute poisoning	Issue Danger Advisory; Post <b>DANGER</b> sign; Weekly sampling recommended  Consider <b>Closure</b>

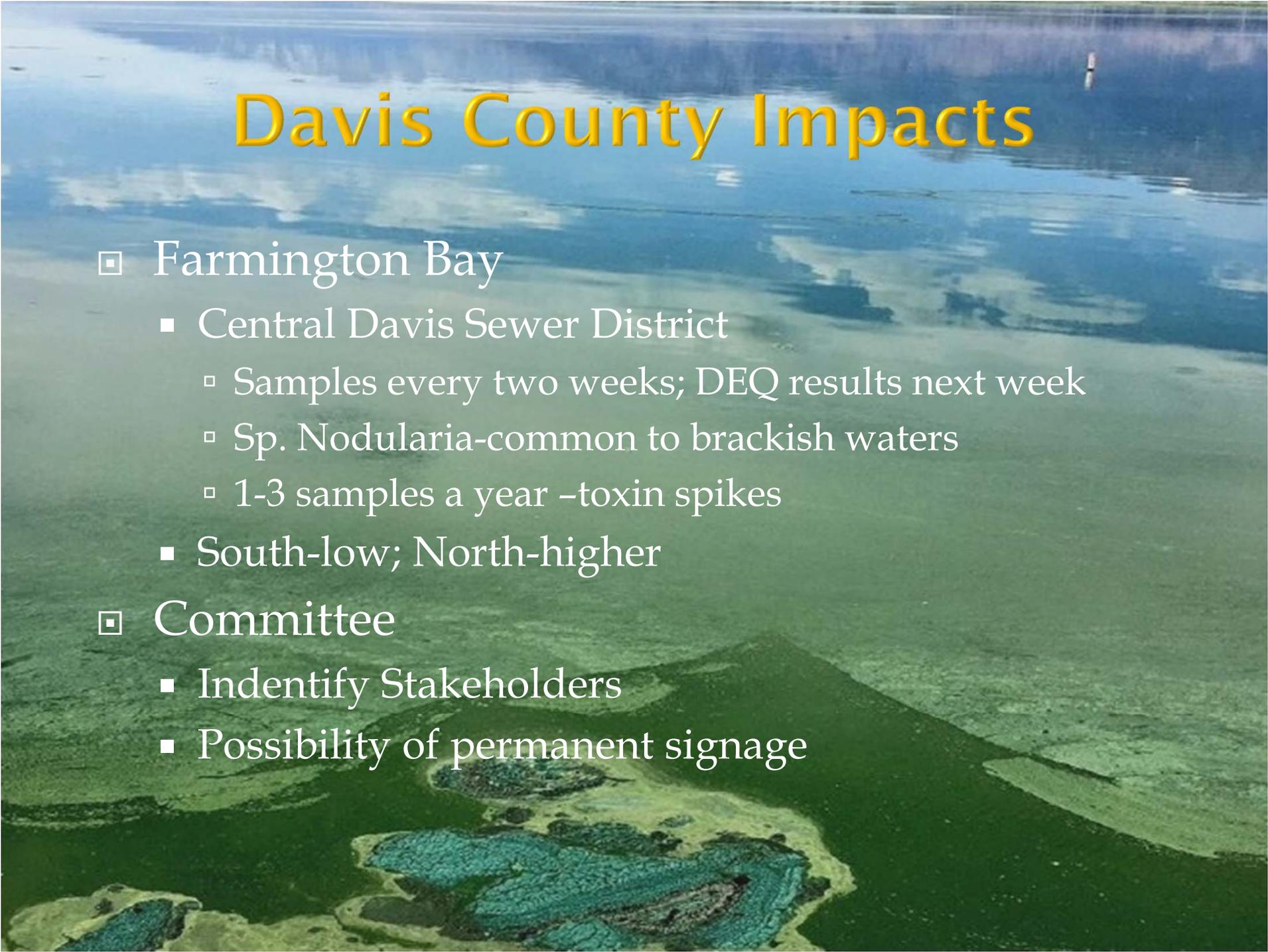
# WHO Recommendations

- ▣ The World Health Organization (WHO) established three types of human health based indicators for HABs: cyanobacteria cell counts, cyanotoxin concentrations and algae growth measured as chlorophyll-a concentrations.

Relative Probability of Acute Health Effects	Cyanobacteria (cells/mL)	Microcystin-LR ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Chlorophyll-a ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
Low	< 20,000	<10	<10
Moderate	20,000-100,000	10-20	10-50
High	100,000-10,000,000	20-2,000	50-5,000
Very High	> 10,000,000	>2,000	>5,000

# 2016 Timeline





# Davis County Impacts

- ▣ Farmington Bay
  - Central Davis Sewer District
    - ▣ Samples every two weeks; DEQ results next week
    - ▣ Sp. Nodularia-common to brackish waters
    - ▣ 1-3 samples a year -toxin spikes
  - South-low; North-higher
- ▣ Committee
  - Indentify Stakeholders
  - Possibility of permanent signage

An aerial photograph of a coastal wetland. The top half of the image shows a body of water with a light blue-green hue, reflecting the sky. The bottom half shows a marshy area with varying shades of green, indicating different vegetation or water levels. The text "Questions ?" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, 3D-style font.

Questions ?