

**From:** Whyte, Kyle

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 1:42 PM

**To:** Benjamin Pauli <bpauli@kettering.edu>

**Cc:** Gasteyer, Stephen [REDACTED]; Michael Mascarenhas

[REDACTED]; Carrera, Jennifer [REDACTED]; Yanna Lambrinidou

**Subject:** Re: FYI: Marc's latest attack

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On Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 7:57 AM, Benjamin Pauli <bpauli@kettering.ed11> wrote:

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to update you briefly on another attack Marc has launched, this time directly against Melissa Mays. A couple days ago, a photograph started making the rounds over social media of a fire hydrant spewing brown water. Melissa shared the photo along with lots of oth-r  
Melissa was apparently given the photo by a resident named  
**XXXXXXXXXX** said her friend took it on Wednesday. Many people who shared the photo uncritically reported this, including one of the members of **Marc's so-called "team":**

**Keri Webber**

This week! 2018!

**Terrnce Fatboistvle Sales is with Dooby Dubuisson and 6 others.**

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THIS HOW THE WATER LOOK ON THE NORTH SIDE OF FLINT MICHIGAN  
lllll THE WATER FIXELf:JorFO SMDH THE CITY AND STAIE OFFICIALS .  
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It turns out that the photo is an old photo. This kind of thing happens all the time on social media: old pictures and articles are reposted as if they are new. Sometimes the reposters know they're old, sometimes they don't. Sometimes the people seeing them realize they're old, sometimes they don't. Anyway, Marc chose to single out Melissa's repost, among all the others, as representing an attempt to fool people:

<http://tlintwaterstudy.org/2018/06/is-this-flint-photo-from-2015/>

What differentiated Melissa's post from all the others, aside from how much it was shared? It called out the "experts" who said the water was **"restored"**

Note how Marc and Sid take the opportunity in their hit piece to reference their conspiracy theory about Donna Riley (i.e. the reference to "citizen engineers"), mock residents' calls for the water crisis to be declared a federal "disaster" (a central demand of the water movement here since 2015), and imply that anyone who thinks ongoing problems with water quality aren't getting enough attention are mistaken:

<image.png>

The problem is that this post has had more legs on social media than any Marc has posted for some time. **Unfortunately, the people who don't like**

Melissa take these sort of things and run with them, without realizing that they are being used. Of course, it is perfectly legitimate for residents to have criticisms of Melissa. I myself have criticisms of her. I wish she wouldn't be so reckless about posting things (although, again, the phenomenon is widespread), and I wish that she would admit a mistake once in a while rather than giving her critics even more ammunition by aggressively defending everything she does. But the bigger issue here is that Marc and Sid are using this faux pas (and dislike of Melissa more generally) as a wedge to pry their way back into the community's good graces--by getting residents to share their posts and encouraging residents to feel grateful that Flint Water Study is there to call out "bad actors." For what it's worth, Melissa's updated post is included below.

Best,

Ben

<image.pug>

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