



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

55 Harbor Place – P.O. Box 297

Waukegan, Illinois 60079

Phone 847-244-3133 Fax 847-244-1348

<http://waukeganharborcag.com>

Minutes of the January 19, 2012, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan respectfully submitted by Natalie Dutack, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.

The January 19, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Susie Schreiber.

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and everyone to identify themselves and any group that they represent.

Attendance at the January 19, 2012 CAG Meeting:

John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
C. Todd Binning	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Trey Jackson	National Gypsum
Mike Joyce	USEPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Ron Laubach	City of Waukegan
Philippe Melin	Congressman Dold's Office
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Kathy Paap	Lake County Health Department
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Mgt Commision
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Amy Strege	City of Waukegan – Finn & Finn
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental Company
Tori Trauscht	Concerned Citizen
Mary Urban	College of Lake County
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Celeste Fraser	Geographic Society of Chicago
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AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were made.

UPDATES

USEPA

Mike Joyce presented the following information:

Waukegan Harbor/Outboard Marine Superfund Site

Operable Unit #1: The Harbor

Work associated with contaminated sediment dredging of the harbor has been divided into four major tasks: 1) treatment plant/de-watering pad construction, 2) harbor dredging, 3) treatment plant operation, and 4) seawall repair. Subcontractor bids for water treatment construction have been received and are being evaluated by the USEPA. The USEPA hopes to approve the subcontract award by next week. Water treatment plant and dewatering pad construction is then planned to begin February 2012 and will continue into Summer 2012.

The USEPA is currently evaluating subcontractor bids for dredging and dredging operation that were received on January 17, 2012. The USEPA will evaluate bid costs after bids have been assessed for completeness and plans to award the dredging and operation contracts within the next few weeks. Dredging is planned to begin Summer 2012.

The USEPA Region 5 is awaiting word from HQ, expected in February, on the availability of additional funds for dredging operations to continue into next fiscal year.

Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

The USEPA and contractors met with representatives of North Shore Gas and their contractor on December 8, 2011, to review their initial proposal for Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) at the Waukegan Coke Plant. The USEPA provided comments at the meeting and is following up with the Principle Responsible Party (PRPs) to develop an acceptable Monitored Natural Attenuation work plan by Spring 2012. In addition, EPA received a draft of a Remedial Action Report concerning the now completed treatment of ground water that was conducted at the Coke Plant Operating Unit (OU). They are now reviewing this report.

Waukegan Harbor/Outboard Marine Corp. Superfund Site

An OMC Site Five-Year Review is planned for Summer 2012. This will be the fourth Five-Year Review of the entire OMC Site. Inspections are required as a part of the Five-Year Review process. A Five-Year Review inspection is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2012.

Following the conclusion of the Five-Year Review, the results will be presented at a public meeting in Waukegan.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2 – DNAPL

In situ remediation of the groundwater DNAPL plume was completed on December 19, 2011. Next week placement of geomembrane material over the soil mixing area is planned. Soil sampling is scheduled to confirm the effectiveness of the soil mixing in February. Temporary monitoring wells will also be installed for groundwater sampling. Bioremediation of the

remaining groundwater contaminants is planned for Spring/Summer 2012, with completion of the initial round of injection by September 2012.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2 – Soil and Sediment

Subcontractor Terra Contracting began concrete consolidation during the week of January 9, 2012, as a part of the continuing soil and sediment remedial work. The concrete will be placed on a pad for crushing for on-site reuse. Mobilization for sediment excavation and off-site disposal is scheduled to begin next week. Additional cover and capping is also planned for this winter.

CH2MHill, USEPA's contractor, is developing a focused Feasibility Study (FS) to address potential Remedial Action issues related to the presence of a force main sewer line and high pressure gas main in areas of the site where soil contamination still exists. The focused FS will address alternative remedial actions to deal with soil contamination near the pipes. Alternatives include managing the waste in place. At the conclusion of the Focused FS, USEPA will develop a Proposed Plan for modifications to the existing Record of Decision. The Proposed Plan is scheduled to be presented to the public for comment during Spring 2012.

Johns Manville Superfund Site

The fact sheet explaining the cleanup of contaminated material near the main Superfund site should be out in a couple of weeks. The fact sheet will announce the dates of the public comment period and the date of a public availability session.

North Shore Gas

South Plant:

A work plan for vapor-intrusion sampling around various buildings has been approved by USEPA. Validation of sediment and surface water samples collected in November continues and will be made available in February 2012.

North Plant:

The USEPA is reviewing the latest work plan (Revision 2) for conducting the remedial investigation at this facility. Evaluations of sediment and surface water are ongoing. The document should be close to approval. It has gone through 3 versions thus far.

Yeoman Creek Superfund Site

The site's Five-year review is almost complete; it should be issued by the end of February.

City of Waukegan

The three containment cells (OMC Superfund Operating Unit #3) have been winterized and are sitting dormant.

A seawall pre bid site inspection was conducted on the OMC Superfund Operating Unit #2 site. Questions put forth by the contractors during the visit have been compiled and will be answered shortly.

IEPA

No report.

IDNR

No report.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor

From Philippe Melin from Congressman Dold's Office:

The Congressman's Office hosted a large stakeholder meeting today to discuss long term harbor maintenance issues. Annual maintenance dredging has been running at approximately \$900,000 annually. Two major problems have arisen:

1. Dredging has become less effective over time. Sand has built up on the lake side of the northern wing wall (1907) creating more pressure and forcing the sand to repeatedly spill over into the Approach Channel portion of the Federal Harbor.
2. The Army Corps has recently deprioritized smaller harbors so budgeting for the Approach Channel annual dredging is not an option anymore.

A preventive maintenance plan is urgently needed now to make dredging efforts last longer. Before any work is done it is imperative to understand what is going on with the sand (i.e., what are deposition rates and flow paths?). Further bathymetric studies and modeling estimated at \$100,000-300,000 are needed. The breakdown would be as follows: bathymetric \$30,000-40,000 (takes a few days); modeling \$100,000; permitting \$125,000.

We want to keep Waukegan Harbor open for economic, social, and recreational purposes and give supporters (community, businesses, and government) faith in the long term viability of the harbor so we can gain their support. The office would like to get all CAG partners involved in consensus - it will make their presentation more effective for the Army Corps of Engineers. A decision is needed in 3 weeks.

Waukegan Port District

The Port District is interested in attracting new deep draft users to the channel. The former Chair of the Board would like to see cruise ships from Chicago and Milwaukee using the channel and stopping at the harbor, a position other citizens have voiced over the years.

Waukegan Swimming Beach

Funding for three Big Belly Solar Refuse Collectors has been approved for the Waukegan Swimming Beach area. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group are currently working with the City of Waukegan on the placement locations and installation. All three solar refuse collectors will be located at the curbs near 1.) the grass leading to the band shell; 2.) the parking lot; 3.) the path to the dunes by the big fish consumption sign.

The funding for this project is through the IDNR GLRI 2011 Grant for E. coli prevention on the beach. The new refuse collectors will prevent animals and birds from getting into the trash cans, and will also prevent the winds from blowing the trash bins over and spilling the garbage out. There is interest in expanding the Big Belly Solar Compactors for use throughout the city.

GLRI 2010

Bowen Park – The Bowen Park Request for Proposal was issued January 17, 2012. To date 18 contractors have indicated interest. Work in Bowen Park will primarily be storm damage clean up, invasive removal (supplemental to work done under the USFW Project), and selective canopy thinning to lighten the understory and promote establishment of high quality native species.

Waukegan Dunes – Steve Jansen and the Geographic Society of Chicago were thanked for the incredible mapping they have done of the site, including areas of interest and invasive species populations. Drafting of the Waukegan Dunes Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently underway.

Seeding and Propagation – Many high quality species have come up after clearing and burning in Bowen Park, however we don't know the quality of the seed bank on the dunal and JM properties. There are areas where plugs will need to be planted. In other areas seeding will be preferred. It can take years for conservative plant seed banks to reboot. We will need a less conservative native cover to protect the floristic integrity of the sites to prevent invasives and erosion in the meantime. Local seed collection will be required to maintain genotype. This will be a collaborative effort with contractors, and where applicable, volunteers and neighbors.

Benthic Studies – Benthic monitoring will be an important factor in determining water and habitat quality. Inventories of benthic species will help monitor changes to the site throughout the duration of the project. Preliminary work on the Benthic RFP is in progress.

College of Lake County

The CAG has been working with Rory Klick, the Head of CLC's Horticulture Department, on one of our education projects. The curriculum will have for two courses covering: a.) Ravine and Dune Restoration; b.) Lake Michigan issues, c.) a variety of Natural Areas Management topics relevant to our two restoration projects. There will be a strong intern program associated with the curriculum offerings.

Chicago Botanic Garden

The Waukegan Harbor CAG is also working on a separate program with the Chicago Botanic Garden to provide a person to work alongside the CLC interns. The Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern Floristic Monitoring Training is scheduled for April 18th at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park, Waukegan, Illinois.

Amphibian Monitoring

The Academy of Our Lady, a parochial school in Waukegan, Illinois, will be developing a frog monitoring program for their students with the assistance of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group. A date will be set for trainings in early March.

A leopard frog was found on dunes in January and reported to the Waukegan Harbor CAG!

Geographic Society of Chicago

The Geographic Society of Chicago is bringing their GeoSphere (a huge 20 diameter world globe) up to Waukegan in February or early March. We have funding to cover that in our education program. Media coverage will be needed for this event.

Communication Committee

The Communication Committee has convened twice, and has developed a list of goals. The website is the first priority - it needs to be current, educational, and user friendly.

Bowen Park Neighbors

A Bowen Park Neighbors' meeting will be arranged for February to update them on the next phase of the upcoming restoration work to take place in Bowen Park. We will also carefully review with them the results of the mapping completed last fall related to the 2011 storm damage which occurred on their properties.

Chicago Wilderness

At the Chicago Wilderness Ex. Council meeting on January 18, 2012 in Chicago Barbara Waller presented The First Baptist Church of Waukegan's overview of their grant proposal to create a sensory/educational garden to replace the pine tree the church lost in the storms of summer 2011. The church recently received a \$50,000 grant for the design phase. Parkland College in Wisconsin will create the design and plans for the garden. Congratulations were given to the First Baptist Church of Waukegan.

Old Business

None

New Business

Great Lakes Days

Great Lakes Days will take place in Washington D.C. February 27-29, 2012.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Conference – Urban Wetlands

Lake Geneva Wisconsin, February 22-23, 2012.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Web Sites

http://nsn.nslsilus.org/wkkhome.iepa	http://www.waukeganharborcag.org	The Waukegan CAG website.
http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice	http://www.ilenviro.org	Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website. Good listing of all environmental bills in the ILL House & Senate.
http://www.glc.org	http://www.binational.net	Great Lakes Commission. Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – 2002 Annual Progress Report
http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/	http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich	The Lake Michigan Forum Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)
http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html	http://www.epa.gov/lakemich	Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas
http://www.cciw.solec	http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec	State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.
http://www.gvsu.edu/wri		Annis Water Resources Institute
http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html		A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs).
http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html		Great Lakes Water Levels
http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html		Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb		Lake Michigan Mass Balance
http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html		Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan

CAG Members

*Abbott Laboratories
Akzo Nobel
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Bombardier Recreational Products
Carol Dorge, Attorney
City of North Chicago
City of Waukegan
College of Lake County
Commonwealth Edison
EJ & E Railway
Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
Illinois Audubon Society
Johns Manville
LaFarge Corporation
Lake County Audubon
Lake County Chamber of Commerce
Lake County Department of Planning
Lake County Health Department
Lake County Stormwater Management Agency
Larsen Marine, Inc.
LFR Levine • Fricke
Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Midwest Generation
National Gypsum
North Shore Gas
North Shore Sanitary District
Outboard Marine Corporation
Salmon Unlimited*

CAG Members (continued)

*Waukegan Charter Boat Association
Waukegan Main Street
Waukegan Lakefront Development Corporation
Waukegan Park District
Waukegan Port District
Waukegan Yacht Club
Concerned Citizens*

CAG Associates

*Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Delta Institute
Illinois Citizen Action
Illinois Depart. of Natural Resources
Illinois Environ. Protection Agency
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Illinois Lake Management Association
Illinois Pollution Control Board
International Joint Commission
Maritime Administration
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environ. Protection Agency
U. S. Fish and Wildlife
University of Illinois- Marine Extension
Waukegan Public Library
Concerned Citizens*