



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the February 16, 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 February 16, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair, Susie Schreiber.

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and asked everyone to identify themselves, and any group they were representing.

Attendance at the February 16, 2012 CAG Meeting:

C. Todd Binning	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Bob Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Timothy Drexler	USEPA
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Duncan Henderson	Waukegan Port District
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Cherylyn McHugh	Akzo Nobel Aerospace Coatings
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Rory Klick	College of Lake County
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Jerry Sullivan	Concerned Citizen
Amy Strege	City of Waukegan – Finn & Finn
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Rick Bentley	Concerned Citizen
Amy Hanrahan	Concerned Citizen
Steve Jansen	Geographic Society of Chicago
Tim O'Leary	Concerned Citizen
Jodi McCarthy	ECT

Minutes

The attendance portion of the January 2012 meeting minutes needs to be edited. More time to read the minutes was requested.- Motion moved and passed to table acceptance of the January meeting minutes until this is corrected and the minutes can be read.

UPDATES

USEPA

Tim Drexler - USEPA

Waukegan Harbor

Operable Unit #1

Later this month equipment & material needed for use in the dewatering of the harbor sediment during the dredging process will be brought in. Once the sediment is dewatered it will become a 4th cell. The cleaned water will be returned to the harbor. The USEPA is now ready to subcontract with a dredger. The subcontractor they are looking at is proposing an alternative measure (two dredge heads instead of one head) that could do work in ½ the time, thus saving the project money.

Portions of the North Marina will need to be demolished and removed with as little impact as possible. The severely failing sea wall on the west side of the Coke Plant site needs to be repaired. Bids were received from subcontractors this week for that repair.

Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

The work is done and came in ahead of schedule. USEPA will the monitor the natural clean-up of the residual groundwater. They are anticipating a draft plan for this process in early spring. The USEPA also has a full floristic inventory of Coke Site done by Integrated Lakes Management.

Operable Unit #3: Containment Cells

No news.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2

Groundwater and soil/sediment remediation/clean-up work is currently being conducted. There are two types of contamination: TSCA (Toxic Substance Control Act) and NON- TSCA. Non-TSCA can be moved to a less restricted landfill as it less concentrated. The TSCA waste has been removed to a restricted landfill.

USEPA will be sampling sub-surface areas to determine the residual contamination concentration levels. The Waukegan Harbor CAG would like to see the replacement sand used is local lacustrine sands of Lake Michigan as it the best way protect local ecotype.

The contaminated groundwater DNAPL plume was remediated in December, 2011. Source areas #1- #5 will be treated using bioremediation (sodium lactate).

The following questions were asked in the meeting – answers were provided by Tim Drexler via email:

Q: Are there any human health or ecological risks to using sodium permanganate as an oxidizer for the TCE-contaminated groundwater in Source Area 1 of Operable Unit 4?

A: Sodium permanganate, proposed for use at the OMC site, is a dark purple liquid most frequently used as an oxidizing agent for drinking water treatment in residential and municipal water treatment systems. Permanganate, when handled properly poses little to no risk to human health or the environment. Due to the 40% concentration in its raw form it does require standard precautions during handling such as gloves and goggles to protect the eyes and skin from splashes. When onsite, the 40% solution will be contained in drums or appropriate chemical resistant containers. The 40% solution will then be diluted with potable water prior to injection and further diluted by groundwater during injection.

Only staff with proper training will be allowed to handle the permanganate solution. Permanganate naturally degrades in the subsurface to innocuous by products in less than 1 year. The low velocity of the groundwater at the OMC site means the permanganate will likely degrade completely before reaching any of the site boundaries. Additionally, as a part of the site groundwater remedy, a series of wells will be installed down gradient of the site to monitor groundwater flowing offsite for contaminant concentrations that would be above acceptable limits.

Q: What ecological habitat precautions are being taken with regard to the excavation of contaminated dune sand and ditch sediment and its replacement with clean sand?

A: On November 4, 2011, SulTRAC, USEPA's contractor for the work, performed a threatened and endangered species survey within the excavation areas. In addition, a vegetation density survey was performed in the excavation area by them. The survey found no state-listed threatened or endangered species within the excavation areas. Based on further discussions with the CAG, clean washed replacement quarry sand will only be used to replace excavated sand where excavations are below the water table. Existing dune sand will then be re-contoured using hand methods, to the extent possible. The vegetation density survey will be used to restore the dune flora to an initial density of 125% of what existed before excavation. EPA will, however, share information with the CAG on the planned flora mix for use in the excavations and the source of those seeds for CAG review and comment prior to application.

Q: Where is the replacement sand coming from to fill in the excavations?

A: The sand is from a quarry located in Antioch, Illinois, 19 miles from the site.

Q: Where is the contaminated soil/sediment going for disposal?

A: The lesser contaminated material (Sub-Title D) is being disposed in the Veolia Landfill in Zion, Illinois. The higher TSCA contaminated material is going to the EQ Disposal Facility in Romulus, Michigan.

USEPA
Mike Joyce

Johns Manville

The fact sheet explaining the cleanup of contaminated material near the main Superfund site is out and available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/jmanville/index.html#factsheets>, and a hard copy is available at the Waukegan Public Library.

The *Johns Manville - USEPA Open House* is on Feb 22, 2012. It is an informal meeting and all can attend, or one may participate by submitting questions online. They will be discussing the clean-up of 4 site perimeter areas contaminated with asbestos.

The Waukegan Harbor CAG would like insure that appropriate re-vegetation species be used after the asbestos removal, and that care be taken to disturb as little as possible the nearby sand prairies and peat dune swales. It is important to use native plants as crop cover. Everyone is aware of the need to use plant material with shorter root systems that will not break the Superfund caps.

Currently, invasive crown vetch, introduced as a cap cover, is aggressively taking over, and is a major concern on the Johns Manville (JM) site. It was noted that there is not adequate ground cover on the caps now. An appropriate sandy soil mix designed for native species needs to be put in as a cover. Rory Klick, College of Lake County biologist, would like to make suggestions for a seed list.

Those on the Waukegan Harbor CAG email list would like a copy of the Waukegan Harbor CAG comment letter to USEPA addressing the above concerns.

North Shore Gas

Ross Delrosario – USEPA - Project Manager North Plant:

Ross reports that, if all goes well, the remedial investigation of the North Plant site (just west of NSSD on Pershing Road); where the tar pit is; could begin this summer. There is nothing new to report on the South Plant site. He hopes to have some sampling results available next month.

Yeoman Creek

Syed Quadri - USEPA - Remedial Project Manager

USEPA is preparing the Yeoman Creek site's five-year review document. This will be available by the end of February.

Also, USEPA is working with the group of potentially responsible parties-(PRPs), to address the low levels of methane gas which continue to migrate beyond the landfill boundary. The secondary landfill gas collection system, installed in the northern portion of the site has helped. However, the system has not been able to address the low levels of gas migrating off site.

Contractors for the PRPs have performed an investigation to determine the source of the gas. It was determined that, most likely, the gas is present in fill material in the land of the adjacent property to the north. Currently, the PRP group's contractor is designing a system to collect gas from this fill material. Additional remedial action will be necessary to ensure the long-term protectiveness at the Yeoman Creek Landfill site.

USEPA is also negotiating the details regarding an investigation to determine the best approach to remove methane from a portion of the Terrace Nursing Home parcel, located next to the landfill on the north side.

City of Waukegan

The USEPA has provided the City of Waukegan an environmental consultant. He is the former mayor of Kenosha, Wisconsin and has experience in remediating and revitalizing a harbor and a lakefront on Lake Michigan.

The City and the USEPA consultant have met with Diane Tecic, IDNR, and the Waukegan Port Authority on dredging issues. Money has been given by the USACE to address the Harbor's dredging issues after many months of collaboration and hard work.

IDNR

Diane Tecic - Coastal Management Program

The Illinois Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program is now official. It was approved by the Federal Government on January 31, 2012. Illinois is now officially getting money from NOAA.

The IDNR has 3 new employees working in their Coastal Management Program. They will be helping to delist Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern.

Delisting activities:

- Delisted BUs for E. coli and beach health. The Waukegan Harbor CAG and the City of Waukegan are working with the IDNR to acquire and install several Big Belly solar trash compactors to be located on the roadway near the swimming beach, and to remove the staves in the near-shore waters of the swimming beach.
- IDNR and Waukegan Harbor CAG partners are working on delisting the BUIs for phytoplankton, benthos and fish and wildlife habitat. The benthic monitoring will be funded from the IDNR Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant. The Waukegan Harbor CAG GLRI 2010 grant is addressing the natural habitat BUI issues in close consultation with the IDNR and the USEPA.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hosted an important meeting/webinar on Great Lakes small and medium harbor infrastructure and dredging conditions on Thursday, February 9, 2012. Representatives from the Waukegan Harbor CAG were present in the Chicago District office of the USACE for the meeting/webinar.

The USACE is working on several projects within the Federal Channel of Waukegan Harbor, and in the Waukegan River Watershed:

1. Harbor Blockage

An additional \$788,000 of federal money has been given to the USACE Chicago District to address the *severe issues* of sand blockage in the Approach Channel of Waukegan Harbor. Severe summer and fall storms have greatly increased the flow of littoral sand southward. Neither lake carriers nor larger draft recreational boats are able to navigate in and out of the Federal Channel in Waukegan now. This has a tremendously negative impact on both local recreational business's serving the marine industry and on the cost of bulk shipments of transported on large cargo vessels, not to mention the charter and recreational boaters unable to get out into, or off of, the lake safely.

Long term preventive maintenance is also being worked on so the USACE won't have to spend this kind of money in the future to remove the sand plugs through the strong efforts of Congressman Robert Dold (Illinois 10th).

2. Waukegan Harbor - Federal Entrance Channel. For the harbor dredging and cleanup, the USACE is responsible for the sediment within the Federal Entrance Channel. This topic will be addressed at the March Waukegan Harbor CAG meeting.
3. The USACE is working on wetland remediation and storm drainage issues for the Waukegan River Watershed. They are currently working with the Waukegan Park District on one project within Bonnie Brook Golf Course, and on another related to Yeoman Park. A study (not to exceed \$100,000) shall be made to address hydrology issues in Bonnie Brook Golf Course. A proposed study of the hydrology issues affecting the in creek bed in Yeoman Park is working its way through the grant proposal process. Each study will be fully paid for by USACE (\$100,000 for each study). Should one go over \$100,000, the Waukegan Park District will pay the remainder costs.

GLRI 2010

The Bowen Park Proposals are due tomorrow (February 17, 2012). The mail will be checked tomorrow and Tuesday for hard copies. All emailed Proposals must be received from Contractors on February 17, 2012, by 5:00 p.m.

Of concern for the project is that there has been NO hard ground freeze this winter. This could be a potential issue for tree removal work.

College of Lake County

Classes (*BIO 299: Foundations of Restoration Ecology* and *HRT 299: Practices of Restoration Ecology*) are ready to launch this coming fall. They will take place at the College of Lake County's (CLC) Lakeshore Campus in downtown Waukegan. Field work for practical applications will occur at Bowen Park and on the Waukegan dunal areas. Curriculum focus is on ravine and dunal restoration.

Bowen Park Neighbors

The Bowen Park Neighbors meeting has been rescheduled for March, 2012.

Burns and McDonald & North Shore Gas

Burns and McDonald & North Shore Gas have received the 2012 Engineering Special Achievement Award. Their work saved \$6 Million in the remediation of the Coke Site.

Waukegan Welcomes the World

“Waukegan Welcomes the World”, presented by the Geographical Society of Chicago, will be held at Hinkston Park February 17, 2012. Invitations were issued to the Chicago Wilderness Formal and Informal Educators Committee based in Waukegan. Greenwood School, the Academy of Our Lady, the Waukegan Public Library, the Waukegan Park District, Waukegan Township Seniors, Cool Summer Learning Experience families, and drop in visitors are all participating. This is a test run for the Waukegan community. Community leaders are invited any time after 8:30 a.m.

Waukegan Harbor & USEPA Wiki

Jody MacCarthy, ETC, Inc.

The USEPA has been working with IDNR on a Wiki for the Illinois Lake Michigan Implementation Plan which can be seen here:

https://wiki.epa.gov/watershed2/index.php/Illinois_Lake_Michigan_Implementation_Plan

A brief history of the project:

The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is an office through USEPA. They created Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) in 2000 for each of the five Great Lakes. A LaMP is plan of action to assess, restore, protect and monitor the ecosystem health of a Great Lake. LaMPs have been updated every 2 years. The fact sheets, plans, tools, resources all comprised a massive document of 800 pages, plus 100 more pages for each update. The updates quickly became outdated.

This problem is now remediated by the creation of a Wiki through the USEPA. This is an on online website whose users can add, modify, or delete contents. This can include project histories, mapping, data, linking to related projects, problems encountered, communications, and much more.

The use of the Wiki has the following benefits:

- Removes the need for a hard copy version.
- It is a live resource, the stakeholder can directly input information, and update project status instantly.
- It is a way of organizing data which allows us to interlink related material, projects, and resources.
- Allows not only the project managers, but qualified members of the public (with a password), to amend and add to the Wiki.
- The Wiki will help identify problems, set priorities, and make plans. There is no reason to make a plan from scratch with resources provided online.
- We can share project success stories and ideas; we will learn from each other.

Primary goals for the Wiki are to aid in implementing the Lake Michigan LaMP, help identify funding opportunities, and provide educational tool for stakeholders and members of the public.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Offshore Wind Workshop

The Offshore Wind Workshop will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago Monday March 5, 2012.

Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern Training

The Plants of Concern Floristic Monitoring Training is scheduled for April 18th at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park, Waukegan, Illinois.

Disturbed Land on the Dunes

The disturbed area found on the dunes two weeks ago is dredging work done by the USEPA as part of the clean-up of Operable Unit #2 of the OMC the Superfund Site. They have removed contaminated sand and will be putting new sand (from McHenry County, Illinois) and seed in place. The Waukegan Harbor CAG has asked to have input on the sources for both of these items, as well as the type and variety of seed used based on our extensive mapping and inventorying of the Waukegan dunal areas.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Web Sites

<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>
<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>
<http://www.cciw.solec>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>
<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>

The Lake Michigan Forum
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)
Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.
Annis Water Resources Institute

<http://www.epa.gov/OST/GLI/glimixqa.html>
<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pubs/brochures/wlevels/wlevels.html>

A document on Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern (BCCs).

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html>

Great Lakes Water Levels
Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study

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