



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the March 15, 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 March 15, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chair Susie Schreiber.

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

Attendance at the March 15, 2012 CAG Meeting:

Kevin Adler	USEPA
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
C. Todd Binning	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Bob Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Timothy Drexler	USEPA
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Mike Joyce	USEPA
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Ron Laubach	City of Waukegan
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Tim O'Leary	Concerned Citizen
Wayne Schimpff	Concerned Citizen
Mary Urban	College of Lake County
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

John Antaramian

ADDITIONS to the AGENDA

- 1.)Lake Baikal – Waukegan Harbor CAG Partnership
- 2.)Lake Michigan Forum

Minutes

January Minutes. No additions or corrections. Motion to accept passed.
February Minutes. No additions or corrections. Motion to accept passed.

UPDATES

USEPA

Tim Drexler presented the following information:

Waukegan Harbor

Operable Unit #1: Harbor

Subcontractor JJ Henderson will be building the water treatment plant.

USEPA schedule:

The water treatment plant will be constructed first in the Triax building by JJ Henderson. JJ Henderson was awarded a \$14,000,000 contract that includes the Triax treatment system conversion, dewatering pad and restoration. The water treatment plant was originally used for the coke plant water cleanup (Op Unit 2), and is being converted for use as the water treatment facility for the harbor sediment dredging project. It is estimated to be constructed and ready for use in mid-September, 2012. Hydraulic dredging will take approximately 180 days after that. The actual dredging will be conducted from mid-September through Thanksgiving, and will start up again in April 2013. They will dredge five days a week 24 hours a day using two dredge heads. Saturdays and Sundays will be used for maintenance. USEPA is finalizing the details with the dredging subcontractor now.

Utility work and the pad will be started this week. There will be 4 weeks of truck traffic while the side walls of the new containment cell for the harbor sediment are being constructed.

The Coke Site Seawall repair is scheduled for this summer, and is to be completed by August. Portions of North Marina will have to be demolished. The USEPA is working with the Waukegan Port District on those details.

Cover sand will be placed over the dredged areas after the dredging is completed. There will be a cap placed within 20 feet of the seawalls which will consist of a mat with rip rap materials.

Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

Contaminated soil was removed (2005). The underground contaminated water has been substantially removed (completed in 2011). A plan, approved by the USEPA, to put in monitoring wells on the site to continue monitoring the natural attenuation of the underground water will be implemented this spring. The information will be available online and at the library.

Operable Unit #3: Containment Cells

Slip # 3 and the east and west containment cells that were on the north side of the Plant 2 building are being operated by City of Waukegan. There is not much news on those sites. A new containment cell, located between the existing two cells on the north side will be created for the sediment from the harbor dredging.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2

Sediment, soil, and groundwater clean-up work has been conducted. Sediment excavation is by and large complete by the North Ditch. Soil excavation is almost complete. Soil or sediments that contain PCBs at or above fifty (50) ppm are defined as TSCA (Toxic Substance Control Act) soils. TSCA soil was sent off site to an approved disposal site. Lower concentration contamination will be worked on with the next few weeks. One more area remains to be started. Further investigation is needed, and additional soil removal may be required.

The contaminated ground water, DNAPL plume, was essentially a TCE pool of product and was remediated in December of 2011 (99% removal). The DNAPL pool was aggressively treated through the mixing of soil with zero valent iron and bentonite. There are five (5) other TCE plumes that are less concentrated than the pool and they are being treated in a different way. One of the TCE plumes is currently being treated with injections of an oxidizer (sodium permanganate) to degrade the contaminant. Depending on the success and cost of treating the first TCE plume, the remaining plumes will either be treated with a product to enhance natural biodegradation (sodium lactate) or an oxidizer again. Note that one of these plume areas is where the 3rd containment cell will be placed on the north side of the Plant 2 property.

There is an underground air-sparge curtain to remove dissolved solvents from the water as it flows off-site on the north side of Sea Horse Drive. A set of groundwater samples taken at Larsen Marine was just taken, and plans are to address this issue about the 2nd week of April when analyses are received.

Some areas will still have trouble meeting the Record of Decision (ROD) goals. This will require either:

- a) an explanation of significant differences, or
- b) a basis for change will need to be provided, and an explanation of what should be done differently provided.

In addition:

EPA is developing a ROD Amendment for the Old Die Cast Area of the building which has a fairly high soil contamination level from DNAPL and PCBs. A barrier may be constructed around that area to contain the contamination and prevent it from migrating out. One option is to use a slurry wall around the site which would extend into natural clay layer, forming a tub. Then an extraction well would be set up so water goes in, not out. This would be followed by placing a cap on the top. This option will require a ROD amendment. It must be brought to the public, i.e. in a public meeting and at the regular

CAG meeting, to explain the problem, what will be done, and what the alternatives are. This gives everyone an opportunity to provide comments.

In answer to some questions:

They are NOT changing flow of water.

USEPA Superfund is not working on the entrance channel which is the portion the US Army Corps of Engineers is working on. They are considering sending 60,000 cubic yards of sand to the Coke site plant.

USEPA

Johns Manville

The open house session concerning Remedial Project Manager Matt Ohl's plan to clean up the Southwestern Areas was held at the Lilac Cottage on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd. Our thanks go to Claudia Freeman and the Waukegan Park District for their hospitality. The 30-day comment period on Matt's proposed plan closed this past Monday, March 12th. Thank you to all of you who made comments. A written response to those comments will be issued in a document and attached to another document called an Action Memo, which is actually an order that formally announces and authorizes the cleanup.

North Shore Gas

South Plant

Vapor intrusion sampling at this site started about a week ago. Air and soil-gas samples will be collected inside and outside of buildings and structures such as the Akzo Nobel plant. This work will continue through the end of March. In addition, USEPA will be conducting semi-annual sampling of the ground water at South Plant during the week of March 26th.

North Plant

Progress continues on the start of the field investigation for the North Plant site. USEPA is reviewing North Shore Gas's latest (March 12, 2012) response to USEPA comments. Based on the number of comments remaining to be addressed, the Remedial Investigation work plan should be approved within the next month or two, at the latest. This would allow North Shore Gas to start field work on the Remedial Investigation later this summer. They are talking about doing a non-time critical removal of tar.

Yeoman Creek

The site's five-year review was completed at the end of February, and a copy of the report is now available in the Waukegan Library.

City of Waukegan

There is nothing to report. The containment cell treatment facilities haven't operated yet this year.

IDNR

No report.

CAG BUSINESS

RAMP ACT - Harbor Maintenance Funding for US harbors

Harbor Maintenance Act. Currently the funding passed the Senate attached to the transportation bill and now it is going to the House for consideration.

US Coast Guard

Congressman Robert Dold held a press conference at the Shedd Aquarium March 14, 2012 about the US Government seeking to move the Waukegan US Coast Guard Air Rescue support to Traverse City, MI. This means all emergency help would come all the way from Michigan. Those interested or concerned should contact their Congressman and Senators.

Cool Learning Experience

Congratulations to Barbara Waller and the Cool Learning Experience program! They received Great Lakes Award for their Cool Summer Learning program from Freshwater Futures, a Great Lakes non-profit organization working throughout the Great Lakes Watershed to assist communities and organizations with watershed remediation projects and local empowerment to achieve the desired corrections.

CAG Financials & Policy and Procedure Process

This subject was discussed at the September 2011 Executive Committee Meeting and was passed October 2011. Items over \$20,000 shall be made by competitive bids. Those between \$10,000 and \$20,000 will require at least 2 written quotations. Those between \$2,500 and \$10,000 shall require at least one written quote. All of the above items require Ex. Comm. approval.

The CAG has a draft working budget spreadsheet with six sections:

1. Administrative: \$334,000
2. Education/Communication: \$140,500 (Education) + \$121,000 (Communication)
CLC is included in education portion at a sub-total of \$64,500.
3. Monitoring: \$160,029
Floristic, Mapping, Benthic, Amphibian, Avian, & Piping Plover
4. A1/B1 Dunal: \$244,135
5. Johns Manville: \$109,501 – due to construction changes at JM have arisen so we won't be able to do as much work on this site. We have permission to move \$60,000 from JM to the Bowen Park Project.
6. Bowen A2/B2: \$302,435

There will be audit at the end of June after which time an annual financial report will be released.

GLRI 2010

1. Bowen Park – RFP Proposals in full review

RFPs went out and we received eight. Those proposals are now under review by the several members of the Technical Committee. All proposals will be assessed using a review matrix, and then will be carefully discussed by the Technical Committee review team. The Bowen RFP took longer as it was our first, and a big learning experience. The process for the remaining RFPs should be faster.

2. Avian Monitoring for Bowen and the Lakefront

The cost of Avian Monitoring only requires asking for two quotes. The CAG requested quotes, selected one last Friday, and is working with the low quote. The secondary quote is being looked at for wetland monitoring in the B2 wetlands.

3. Floristic Transects for Bowen and the Lakefront

A transect is 1 meter square placed in selected habitat to monitor flora over a period of time - 7 transects will be used in our project area. Two transects in Bowen and five in the Dunes. All will fit in the budget. They will be monitored each year and will be more detailed than the plant surveys conducted thus far.

4. Chicago Botanic Garden – POC Training – April 18, 2012 at Jack Benny Center

Plants of Concern training for monitoring of threatened, endangered, and rare flora species will be held for all interested persons in the Jack Benny Center on April 18, 2012. If interested, please contact the Waukegan Harbor CAG or sign up through the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern website. We could use more participants.

5. Geographic Society of Chicago – GPS Units

The Waukegan Harbor CAG now has a contract with the Geographic Society of Chicago to rent 2 of their GPS units. These will be used to conduct independent mapping throughout the project. The cost is \$120 for 2 units over a 6 month period.

Waukegan Library

The Waukegan Library sent letter and gift (book) of thanks to the CAG for all their help. We will donate the book to a local school or environmental youth group program.

College of Lake County

The Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group has now signed the contract with the College of Lake County. They will be introducing two new courses in their restoration curriculum which will directly relate to ravine and dunal restoration.

The Certification classes are officially open and enrollment for Fall Classes at CLC's Lakeshore Campus is in place.

1. Class Curriculum: Ravine and Lakeshore communities, natural areas management, and topics in ecology and conservation.

2. Internships – There are 2 long-term intern positions for each year, and 6 short term intern positions (stipends). Three of the short-term positions will take place in the summer semester, and the other three will take place in fall. The internships are tied in with the classes. IDNR and USEPA very excited to see how this will turn out.

Communication Committee

USEPA – Wiki for Waukegan Harbor CAG

We have just been sent our Codes so we can upload trial pages. A Communication Committee meeting will be scheduled to select website items we would like to put on the Wiki. We will still have the CAG website.

“Waukegan Welcomes the World”

The event was a great success. – As it was very popular, the Globe will be back at the Hinkston Rec Center on August 10, 2012. This time they will teach 1 hour geography course related to the Olympics.

Lake Baikal (Addition)

Email today: Our Lake Baikal partners want to hold a test science Olympiad with Waukegan schools. This will be conducted via Skype.

Johns Manville

The Waukegan Harbor CAG made verbal comments, and will also draft a comment letter regarding:

1. Proposed asbestos removals on property west and south edges;
2. Invasive Crown Vetch currently being used as a cover crop; and
3. Industrial Canal Closing. A full discussion is being requested to discuss / explain why it is now going to be filled and capped instead of cleaning and leaving it open.

Waukegan Harbor – Approach Channel/Outer Harbor status update

The plug to the outer harbor will be dredged by June 2012. We need to make sure we get a good Bathymetric survey this spring. It will give us a basis from which to do some modeling. People will be looking at what we might be able to do here, especially as it relates to communities to the south of us.

Bird Collision window Tape

Now available. It is a more attractive and a successful alternative to bird silhouette decals. You may obtain the tape by calling 888-247-3624 or by ordering on-line at abcbirdtape.org

Great Lakes Days – Washington D.C. February 27-29th report

Sessions with the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Commission, and Healing Our Waters were attended. Personal visits to each of our Congressional Representatives were made to discuss our local issues of sand plugging the Approach

Channel, the need to pass Ramp Act, and on our progress and goals with our GLRI grants provided by Congress.

It is clear we need to begin to gently address our phosphorus loading issue in Lake Michigan to our local residents. It was one of the major points of discussion during the week.

Lake Michigan Forum (addition)

The Lake Michigan Forum had their conference call to discuss climate change, offshore fisheries in coastal zone, and impervious surface issues. Also discussed was the problem of bringing aquatic invasive species from one site to another via various vectors. This is something that needs to be addressed with boating and fishing community.

Old Business

U.S. Offshore Wind Market and Supply Chain Workshop

Wind power issues were briefly discussed. We need to make sure we look at areas and countries currently using in lake wind. We can learn from their experiences.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 7:57 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by 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
The Lake Michigan Forum
Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)

<http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakemich>

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/lmmcc/index.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>

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

<http://www.cciw.solec>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec>
<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri>

<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>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmb>
<http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html>

Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
Lake Michigan Mass Balance
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