



Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group

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

The April 19, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:05 pm by acting Chair Penny Bouchard.

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

Attendance at the April 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
Robert Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Ross del Rosario	USEPA
Carol Dorge	Carol Dorge
Tim Drexler	USEPA
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon
Duncan C. Henderson	Executive Director, Waukegan Port District
Steve Hungess	US Army Corps of Engineers
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Philippe Melin	Congressman Dold's Office
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Mgt Comm
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental Company
Tori Trauscht	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Diane Tecic	IDNR - Illinois Coastal Program Manager

GUESTS:

Erica Angelos	Concerned Citizen
Lisa May	Alderman, Waukegan 7 th Ward
Tim O'Leary	Concerned Citizen
Ania Ruseaj	IDNR

AGENDA

Attendees were asked if any changes were needed to be made to the agenda. Tom Chefalo requested a short presentation on the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council meeting he attended on April 18th be added to the agenda.

MINUTES

The March 2012, minutes were not addressed at this meeting.

UPDATES

USEPA

Former Coal Gasification Sites – Ross del Rosario

Dahringer Road Plant Site

Ross reported that the USEPA approved the work plan, submitted by Integrys Energy, to begin the investigation of the site for the purpose of determining the extent of environmental remediation work that will needed to be conducted there. The site includes the Waukegan “tar pit” site. The investigation will include both soil and groundwater sampling. A draft report of the findings should be available in 2014.

South Plant Site

This site is located west of the Akzo Nobel and the Port Authority properties. Quarterly groundwater testing has been conducted on the property since 2009. Vapor intrusion testing of the Akzo Nobel plant will begin next month. It is hoped that the investigation will be done by the end of the year.

Waukegan Harbor – Tim Drexler

Operable Unit #1: Waukegan Harbor

There has been no change in the proposed schedule for dredging. The dredging is scheduled to begin on September 24th. The \$1.8 million contract to fix the failed seawall near the coke plant site has been awarded. The City of Waukegan is using money from the coke plant trust fund to pay the required 10% match required by Superfund.

Work has begun on the base of the new confined disposal facility (CDF) that will be located between the 2 existing CDFs (Operable Unit #3) located on the north side of former OMC plant site. Sediments dredged from the harbor will be placed in geotubes on the CDF site. It is estimated that 180,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the harbor. The CDF will

be approximately 3 stories tall. It will be capped, covered with some sort of native vegetation, monitored and maintained by the City of Waukegan once it is completed.

Water that weeps from the geotubes will be treated in the water treatment facility that is currently being constructed in the former Triax Building. This facility will be used to treat water that is also produced during the actual dredging process.

Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

The remaining residual ground water contamination is undergoing natural attenuation. Integrys Energy is installing monitor wells on the site and the groundwater will be monitored to assure that the natural attenuation continues.

Operable Unit #3: PCB Containment Cells

No updates were presented at this meeting.

Operable Unit #4: Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) Plant 2

Soil and groundwater contamination continues to be remediated on the site. There are some areas near the east side of the Triax building that will be tested for soil contamination. If soil contamination is found, it will be removed. There are five isolated locations on the site that have TCE groundwater contamination. Four of the sites will be treated with a 4 year regime of sodium lactate applications. One location, which is under the area where the dredging sediment CDF is to be constructed, will be more aggressively treated with sodium permanganate. This should shorten the time it would take to lower the concentration of TCE to an acceptable level. If this treatment proves successful, it may be applied to the other locations as well. The injection to this site will be made in May.

In general, the air sparge curtain is functioning as designed, however there are some locations beyond the barrier that may contain contaminated groundwater. It is unknown if they represent a breach of the barrier. USEPA is performing a vapor intrusion study in 6 buildings at Larsen Marine to determine if the plume has spread. After the results of the testing are known, further actions will need to be taken in order to resolve this issue.

The dunal area east of the former OMC plant site that had been disturbed earlier this year to remove some PCB hot spots has been restored. Non-native sand was used as a base cover but this material was covered by sand from the Waukegan lake front. In addition, the area has been seeded by a seed mix that was approved by the CAG. The USEPA has also created a winter forbs seed mix that will be applied to the site in late winter of next year.

There will be a change in the Record of Decision (ROD) because of soil contamination including DNAPL and PCBs, that was found under the site of TSCA building and the around the NSSD sewer line that crosses the west side of the site. Because removal of the contamination would

prove extremely difficult, it may be necessary to construct an additional containment cell at this site.

Yeoman Creek – Ross del Rosario

The 2nd 5 year review for the site is now available at the Waukegan Public Library or at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/yeoman/index.html>.

In summary, the “USEPA’s review found that the cleanup does not fully protect human health and the environment because the gas collection system is not operating as designed. Some gas continues to be detected beyond the landfill’s northern boundary. Also contamination above acceptable levels has been found in wetland soil and in sediments (mud) of Yeoman Creek.”

IDNR

In order to remove beach closures as one of the beneficial use impairments of the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern, trash on the public swimming beach has to be addressed. The IDNR and the CAG, with GRLI funds, will be purchasing 5 “Big Belly” solar trash compactors. They should be installed at various sites around the public beach by the summer.

IEPA

No update was presented at this meeting.

City of Waukegan

No update was presented at this meeting.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor Approach Channel/ Outer Harbor

Status update of spring dredging – Larry Brewer and Steve Hungess from the USACE

Approach Channel

Sampling indicates that the sand is clean and soundings indicate that the channel is shallower than it was last fall. A contract has been awarded for the dredging but the contractor is waiting for the weather to “break”. Because of weather conditions, it is very challenging to dredge in Waukegan during the spring therefore dredging will begin at the end of May 2012. The dredging may take up to 2 months though it may be possible to open a portion of the channel to shipping during the dredging process. Some of the dredge material will be transported north to replenish the beaches of Illinois Beach State Park while the majority will be disposed of about a mile south of the harbor in Lake Michigan. About 80,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed.

The sand is being deposited in the approach channel at higher volumes than in the past because there is no area for sand storage left behind the north pier. There is no simple solution to correcting this problem. Burns Harbor, Indiana is facing a similar problem.

Outer Harbor

In the past, there has been a significant enough concentration of ammonia in the Outer Harbor sediments to require that it be disposed of as an upland area and not in the lake. However, it didn't need to be in a confined site. New sampling of the sediment will be conducted this year. The last samples were taken in 2006. The dredge is scheduled for 2013.

The majority of the sand enters the Outer harbor from the east as sand moving south in the littoral drift passes the north pier and swirls in eddies back north into the harbor. Additionally a small amount of sand blows off the public beach into the harbor. Though there is no federal directive or mandate to keep small Great Lakes harbors open, money for the dredging will be coming from the ACE's budget as directed by the work plan developed by its Congressional oversight committee. There is currently no federal budget for fiscal year 2012.

RAMP Act – Philippe Melin, Congressman Dold's office

Realize America's Maritime Promise, or RAMP Act, was passed by the US House as an amendment to the Transportation Bill. The bill states that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) should be utilized for the intended purpose of dredging and maintaining coastal ports. The transportation bill now awaits US Senate action.

If the Act were to be adopted by Congress, it still would not guarantee that a consistent source of funds to dredge Waukegan harbor would be guaranteed. There are many claims on the funds. However, in general, it does increase the likelihood that money will be available for maintenance dredging.

Waukegan Harbor Seawall – Duncan Henderson, Executive Director, Waukegan Port District

There are “hot spots” of contamination near the foot of the sea wall pilings that line the harbor. There is a concern that if these areas are dredged the sea walls may fail. Therefore it has been proposed that there will be no dredging within 20 feet of the walls. Instead, these areas will be covered with 1 foot diameter rip rap. This 20 foot toe will be 3 feet shallower than the rest of the harbor.

The Port Authority is concerned about the impact of large stones and the shallow depth on their lease holds in the harbor. The “commercial dock” leasehold would be made unusable. The USEPA is aware of their concern and they and the Port Authority are looking into other options to address the problem. A status report will be presented at the next meeting.

Waukegan Harbor Benthic and Plankton Project – Diane Tecic, Coastal Program Manager

Diane provided a quick summary of other activities that are occurring along the Waukegan lake front. Removal of the stave and old piling removal from the Waukegan swimming beach has received approval and will be completed before the beginning of the swimming season.

Wind scouring causes a low spot on the swimming beach which attracts waterfowl to standing water in the depression. This water is a source of bacterial contamination. A solution would be diligent grooming of the beach to prevent the depression from forming.

New signage which will emphasize the proper disposal of trash will be placed at the Waukegan swimming beach. The signs will be paid for by the IDNR and installed the City of Waukegan. They will be designed by students from Waukegan through an art contest.

Degradation of benthic and plankton communities are Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the Waukegan Area of Concern. USEPA-GLNPO (Great Lakes National Program Office) and the IDNR have coordinated to develop a sampling plan for both the benthic and plankton communities at Waukegan Harbor and Burns Harbor, Indiana in late spring and summer 2012. Note that these are two separate surveys.

Penny Bouchard sent CAG members a draft of the Statement of Work (SOW) issued by USEPA. The SOW includes the following criteria:

- Burns Harbor is proposed as an initial reference site for comparison to Waukegan Harbor, based on some physical similarities (e.g., man-made harbor, predominately fine-sand sediment types, no natural water flow except exchange with the lake, regular disruption of sediments by large freighter traffic that disrupts the benthic community, etc.
- The schedule and technical approach will also match up with a USGS study in State of Wisconsin waterways, to allow for comparison to those study sites, as applicable.

Please provide comments on the SOW to Scott Cieniawski at cieniawski.scott@epa.gov. We expect a draft sampling plan from the contractor by May 18th and will circulate to the CAG, state and federal agencies. At most you will have a short turnaround time – about one week for review and comment. The pre dredging samples should be conducted the first, full week of June which is June 4th.

Fish Consumption Advisory testing and delisting

A handout outlining the draft fish consumption advisory testing and delisting plan for Waukegan harbor was distributed during the meeting. It is planned to monitor before and after dredging. A finalized plan will be forwarded to the CAG. The Quality Assurance plan is being fast tracked because dredging is scheduled to begin in the summer. Pre-dredging sampling should begin in May and last through June, with an initial report of results in April 2013. Post-dredging sampling will be conducted in May-June 2014, with a 2nd sampling taken during April –June 2016. The final report is expected to be available in June 2017.

Coastal Zone

The Illinois Coastal Zone Program becomes official as of May 9th. In addition to Ms. Tecic, the coastal zone manager, several new people have been hired to staff the program including Anna Ruseaj who was introduced at the meeting. An implementation plan will set the priorities of the program. Important priorities include the Waukegan AOC, fish consumption limitation in Lake Michigan and habitat management. The goal is to create a 10 year plan. Public meetings to discuss the plan are scheduled to begin in a couple months.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant Update – Tori Trauscht

Internships

Two interns from the College of Lake County have been hired through the grant. They will be assisting Margo Milde and the Chicago Botanic Garden in inventorying plants of concern in the project area.

Bowen Park

Conservation Land Stewardship of Elmhurst, IL has been selected to conduct the environmental restoration work in Bowen Park. Other projects the firm has worked on include restoration of the Bartlett Ravine at Fort Sheridan and Bull Creek stream bank restoration in Beach Park.

Dunal Area

The RFP for the dunal restoration is under review by the CAG Technical Committee and should be out shortly.

Seeding and Propagation RFP

It is hoped the Seeding and Propagation RFP will be issued in May.

Bowen Park Neighbors Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Bowen Park Neighbors at the Jack Benny Center on April 26th at 7 pm. Lisa May, Waukegan Alderman for the 7th Ward which includes Bowen Park plans to attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant for property adjacent to Bowen Park

The CAG in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, Illinois Audubon Conserve Lake County (formerly Liberty Prairie Conservancy) have applied for a grant from the Lake County Community Foundation to purchase a 1 acre parcel located at the north end of Bowen Park. It contains a section of the Glen Flora Ravine that is located east of Sheridan Rd.

NEW BUSINESS

Chicago Wilderness Executive Council

The Chicago Wilderness Executive Council met in Chicago on April 18th. A vote was taken to accept Waukegan Park District's application to become a member of the organization. The results will be reported at a later date.

The Council also introduced their candidate for Chair of the Council. He is Mr. Arnold Randall, Superintendent of the Cook County Forest Preserve. If elected he will replace Laurel Ross of the Field Museum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Claudia Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Larry Brewer. 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)
Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council
Lake Michigan Sensitive Areas

<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>

State of the Great Lakes – SOLEC 2002 full report.
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>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmmb>
<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
Conserve Lake County
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
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