



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the May 17, 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 May 17, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group was called to order at 6:08 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 May 17, 2012 CAG Meeting:

John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Penny Bouchard	Concerned Citizen
Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Tom Chefalo	Lake County Planning, Building & Development
Bob Chmielecki	Midwest Generation
Lisa Draper	Concerned Citizen
Timothy Drexler	USEPA
Natalie Dutack	Concerned Citizen
Larry Falbe	Quarles & Brady
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Steve Jansen	Geographic Society of Chicago
Paul Kukuris	Concerned Citizen
Jeff Nettesheim	Bombardier Recreational Products
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Sheila Sullivan	USEPA
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Amy Strege	City of Waukegan – Finn & Finn
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Tori Trausch	Concerned Citizen
Barbara Waller	First Baptist Church and Concerned Citizen
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen

GUESTS:

Anne Blomquist Malecki	Concerned Citizen
Cathy Stout	Concerned Citizen

AGENDA

Additions:

- Concerned citizens have reported the dumping of cement and garbage in the ravine.
- There will be an update from Natalie Dutack on the IDNR Piping Plover Monitoring.

UPDATES

USEPA

Tim Drexler presented the following information:

Waukegan Harbor

Operable Unit #1: Harbor

It is estimated that dredging work will begin in Mid-September, run through Thanksgiving, and will restart in April, for a total of 118 days. They will dredge five days a week 24 hours a day. Saturdays and Sundays will be used for maintenance. Two dredges will be used to speed the process.

The construction of a consolidation facility (CF) for the harbor sediment is underway on the northern portion of the Plant 2 site between the East and West cells. The CF is designed to hold 180,000 cubic yards of sediment in geo-textile casings. The berm for the facility is now 8 feet tall. This work and the pad are about 70% complete. There will be heavy truck traffic for an additional 5-6 more weeks.

Compaction testing is being conducted on the floor of the CF, and next week installation of a geosynthetic liner will begin. The liner will then be topped with gravel. Dredged sediment from the harbor, after separation from water, will still contain 40-45% water that will continue to drain, called weep water. The weep water will enter a sump at the base of the CF to be pumped to the water treatment system in the Triax building and then discharged to the harbor.

The Triax building is being retrofitted by JJ Henderson from the Coke Plant cleanup (Operable Unit #2) to treat water from sediment dredging and consolidation facility. The USEPA's best estimate is that the unit will be constructed and ready for dredging work in the fall. A slurry will be pumped into the building, and sediment will be removed from the water as it passes through a series of separators and filters. This water, along with the weep water, will then be treated and returned to the Harbor. Half of the plant will be located outside the Triax building. When dredging stops in November the exterior portion of the treatment plant will shut down, and the interior portion will continue to be used for weep water.

In confirmation to a question, the dredging will be hydraulic.

Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

Monitoring wells have been installed at the Coke Plant. The six (6) monitoring wells can intercept flow from all three of the needed directions – east, west and south. The USEPA will be taking quarterly samples starting in late April or May of this year (2012) for the next two (2) years. The purpose of the sampling is to verify that natural attenuation is occurring. After two (2)

years sampling will be conducted semi-annually for five (5) years and eventually will only be conducted once a year.

The seawall that was blown out on the west side of the Coke Site property (east side of the harbor) is being repaired. The new seawall currently replaces 180 feet of damaged seawall, and will total 675 feet of seawall when complete.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2

Additional excavation of contaminated soil is planned for the northeastern portion of the site where there is a concrete obstruction, using remaining American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and other federal funding. Once this work is done, contaminated soil excavation work should be complete for the eastern portion of the former building area. However, there will still be residual soil contamination that the USEPA will have to address through institutional controls.

USEPA is in discussions with USACE to use 100,000 cubic yards of sediment that the USACE will dredge from the Entrance Channel to the harbor in 2013 at OMC Plant 2 to fill holes and ponds. The plan is to get three (3) feet total of clean fill over the site to get it to grade.

During the March CAG meeting Tim Drexler, USEPA OMC Project Manager, discussed high soil contamination levels remaining in a 6-acre area of the former old die cast building on the western side of OU4. The PCB contamination extends 25 feet down in the soil to clay. As Tim explained, to address this area, the USEPA is generating a ROD amendment which will be presented at a public meeting. At the meeting, USEPA will explain the problem and present a series of alternatives, including USEPA's preferred alternative, to complete site clean-up. The public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed alternatives.

Currently the USEPA's preferred alternative would be to make a smaller containment cell, surrounded by a three (3) foot thick clay slurry wall and covered with an engineered cap. A groundwater extraction system would be installed in this cell to extract groundwater to a small treatment plant. The treated groundwater would then be discharged to North Ditch. The pumps would be designed to run in perpetuity as they do in the other containment cells.

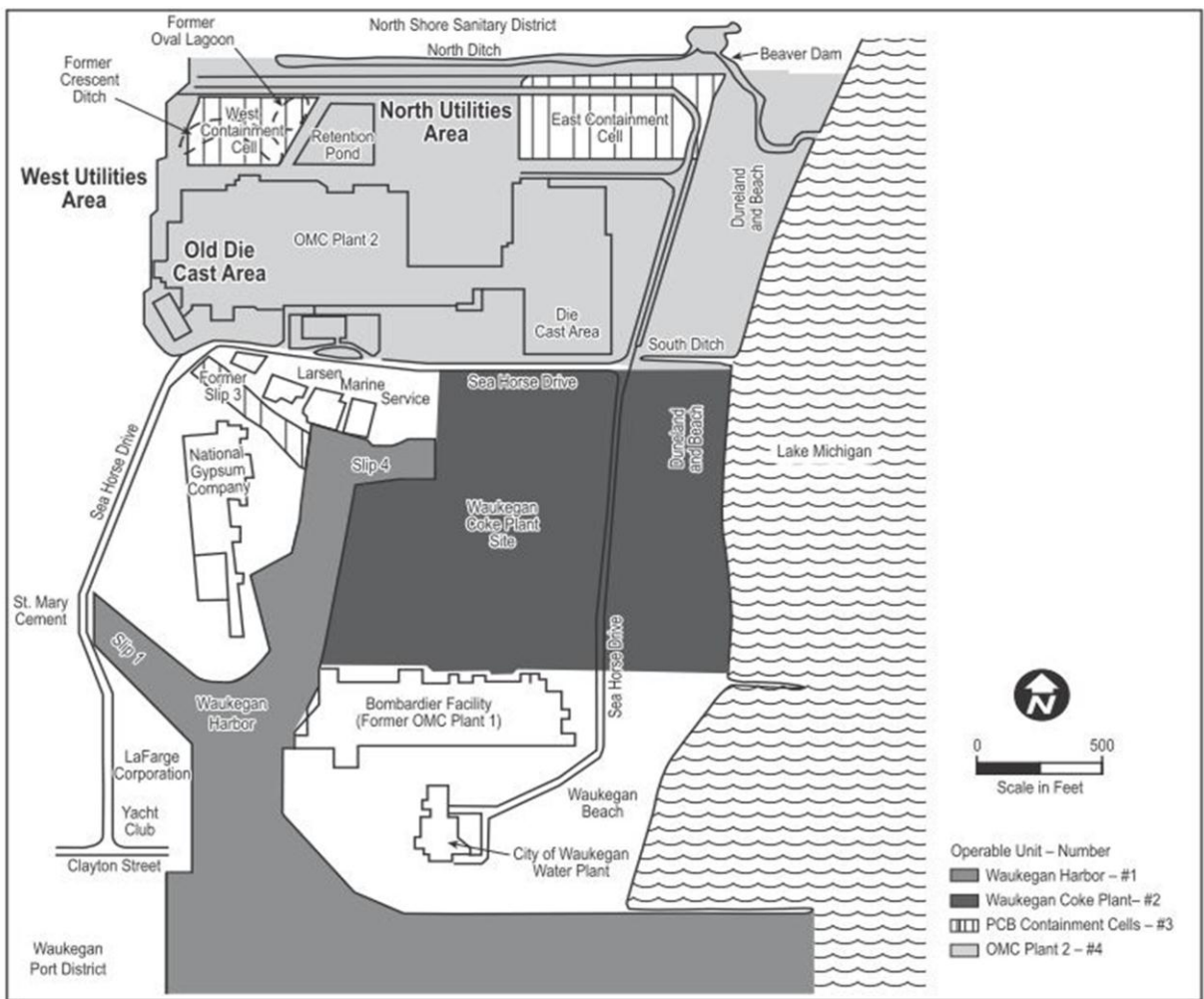
One of the five identified area of trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated groundwater in OU4 is located under a portion of the new CF. This groundwater will be remediated using an oxidizer (sodium permanganate) starting next week. If this works well, EPA will use this method to treat the remaining groundwater plumes instead of sodium lactate.

Tim also provided the USEPA's Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the following problem areas. USEPA is not required to have public meetings or receive formal comments on the following ESD:

- The 2007 ROD Amendment stated that contaminated soil or sediment that exceeds USEPA cleanup goals should be excavated and taken off site. Contaminated soil located on the eastern side of the eastern containment cell located in OU4, cannot be excavated

without potential damage to the cell. For that reason, the remaining contaminated soil will be capped.

- After contaminated sediment was excavated from North Ditch to the designed depth, residual contamination remained above cleanup goals. In order to complete clean-up, a cap was installed over the sediment: geotextile material was put down first, covered with 6 inches of sand and then 6 inches of rock armor. The off-site contaminated portions of North Ditch will be excavated.
- In OMC Plant 2 a concrete pad was found in the new die cast area on the east end of the building. This is going to be removed and filled. The work for this is planned for fall 2012.



USEPA

Johns Manville

No Updates.

North Shore Gas

South and Plant

No Updates.

Yeoman Creek

No Updates.

City of Waukegan & IDNR

The City is working with IDNR on the installation of the Big Belly Garbage Cans. These units should provide better refuse management at the beach front. The IDNR GPS'd the exact location for each unit, of which there are 5 total. They are being placed where they will be most beneficial, primarily in areas that receive the high public traffic.

In response to a question: At this time there will be no recycling unites, just garbage.

CAG BUSINESS

Waukegan Harbor – Approach Channel/Outer Harbor

Status of the Spring Dredging:

- There are 2 Dredging Contracts for the Approach Channel. One is for 260,803 cubic yards will begin immediately (May 26, 2012). The second contract is for 32,000 cubic yards and will begin later in the summer.
- Modeling is still required to help remediate the problem and for preventative maintenance.

Army Corps of Engineers

Report on the Outer Harbor:

- There is a dredging contract for fall of 2013 for the Outer Harbor. The challenge has been in finding an upland disposal site. The USACE have received the go ahead to use the Coke Plant as preferred disposal site for dredged material, but they still have to address the liability matter.

Johns Manville Industrial Canal Closing

The original ROD for site identified that the canal would be left open and be in a 'clean' state. The USEPA has determined that, due to higher contamination levels, the Industrial Canal on the Johns Manville site will be filled. Johns Manville is not pleased with this change.

Water from Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP) runs into the Canal and, in high water events, it can back up into IBSP before returning to the canal. The canal, borrow pit, and open water in Midwest Generation are all popular with Birds. There are also questions of Blandings Turtle use of the site. The main problems are related to the asbestos fibers in sand at the bottom of canal.

USEPA needs to know what the public thinks. There will be a full explanation and opportunity for discussion at the June 2012 CAG meeting.

Chicago Botanic Garden

Thanks to everyone for a successful Plants Of Concern training!

GLRI 2010

1. Bowen Park

Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) signed a contract with the CAG last Saturday. A start-up meeting was held on Monday to go over planning, notification, and communication protocol. This included the following:

- All Contractors are to refrain from making comments to public on the project and are to refer questions to CAG executive committee.
- Neighbors will be notified for both brush pile ***and*** prescribed burning events.

2. Dunal RFP

The Dunal RFP is in the Final Stages is will released soon.

3. Re-vegetation RFP

The Re-vegetation RFP is underway. It is for seeding and plug installation only, as propagation was determined to be too costly.

4. Interns

Both the CLC and Chicago Botanic Garden interns have started with POC monitoring work at Bowen Park.

5. Bowen Park Neighbors

The CAG had nice meeting with the Bowen Park Neighbors. Maps from the Geographic Society of Chicago were used in discussions. Some neighbors are interested in having a floristic survey of their properties. A letter will be going out next week for those interested.

6. Communication Committee

Pictures, including historical images which show the progression of the shoreline, were reviewed for selection and placement on the WIKI page. Maps and diagrams were also selected.

There was also a discussion about Cool Learning Experience participating in the creation of Educational Signs and Monitoring Permits for cars. The permits will have illustrations of Piping Plover on them.

Waukegan Library

John Bairstow is finishing categorizing the repository for the Waukegan Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern at the Library. His work includes:

- Making sure the repository has a full index.
- Putting everything in MS excel tables with descriptions of who the engineer was, and who the work was done for.
- Categorization by superfund sections.
- From there, he will print a little booklet for each superfund section.

In response to a question: There have been issues with control in the past and some documents may have been lost over the years. This is being worked on.

RAMP ACT

The RAMP ACT is attached to the Transportation Bill and it allows money to fund the routine harbor dredge. Currently there is a huge funding balance which could be used to could make some infrastructure improvements. This year it made it out of the House and Senate. It is now in the Joint Conference Committee (JCC). Senator Durbin is chair of the JCC and isn't moving on it. If you want these funds used to fix harbors, as they are supposed to be, then please call the Senator's office and ask that he move on the Bill.

Piping Plover Update

We have seen our first Piping Plover of the year. It was spotted by Danny Diaz on May 8, 2012. It did not return so we are assuming it is a "commuter". Danny contacted the University of Minnesota Center and, based on it's banding, they let him know the Piping Plover could have come from the following areas/broods: 2008 - Manistee, MI; 2010 - Vermillion, MI; or 2011 - Gulliver, MI.

Old Business

No Updates.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

Teachers and students at Greenwood school are writing a book about Fran, the Peregrine Falcon (Midwest generation). This will be a year-long project with pictures of Fran provided by Midwest Generation.

Citizens have reported the dumping of cement in ravines in the Waukegan River and Glen Flora tributary. There has also been yard waste dumping.

The CAG introduced Larry Falbe, with Quarles & Brady, as a legal consultant for the Waukegan Harbor CAG. He is not officially signed, but will be coming on soon.

Starved Rock Action Alert – From Openlands: Please review the proposed Fracking operation under consideration for property on the east side of Starved Rock State Park, and let your officials know your opinion.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 7:58 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)
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
Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study
Lake Michigan Mass Balance
Zebra Mussels in Southwestern Lake Michigan

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/ehs/umaql/mass.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lmmmb>
<http://biology.usgs.gov/S+t/noframe/x186.html>

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