



## 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 June 21, 2012, CAG meeting held at Lilac Cottage, Bowen Park, Waukegan, Illinois respectfully submitted by Natalie Dutack, acting as Recording Secretary of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group.**

The June 21, 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 requested everyone introduce themselves and the group, if any, they represent.

### **Attendance at the June 21, 2012 CAG Meeting:**

<b>C. Todd Binning</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>John Bairstow</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Penny Bouchard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Larry Brewer</b>	LaFarge Corporation
<b>Bob Chmielecki</b>	Midwest Generation
<b>Timothy Drexler</b>	USEPA
<b>Natalie Dutack</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Paul Geiselhart</b>	Lake County Audubon
<b>Steve Jansen</b>	Geographic Society of Chicago
<b>Paul Kakuris</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>John Ohl</b>	Salmon Unlimited
<b>Matt Ohl</b>	USEPA
<b>Sharon Sandoval</b>	North Shore Sanitary District
<b>Wayne Schimpff</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Susie Schreiber</b>	Illinois Audubon Society
<b>Mitch Siegel</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Amy Strege</b>	City of Waukegan – Finn & Finn
<b>Tori Trauscht</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Don Wilson</b>	Concerned Citizen

### **GUESTS:**

<b>Josh Arrigoni</b>	Conservation Land Stewardship
<b>Mark Dalgaard</b>	Concerned Citizen
<b>Katherine Johnson</b>	GLRI Intern
<b>Bill Lebensorger</b>	GLRI CLC Intern

## **AGENDA**

**Additions** - Susie Schreiber noted that topics related to ongoing Waukegan Harbor CAG projects, legal contracts, and the audit would be added to the meeting's agenda.

**March Meeting Minutes** - The March minutes were sent out noting the following corrections:

1. From Tim Drexler, USEPA Outboard Marine Superfund Project Manager: The second paragraph of Operating Unit 4 was edited and further defined the Record of Decision (ROD) amendment.
2. An additional amendment to the March Minutes was made under the Johns Manville section: the phrase "**is actually an order**" will be deleted.

A motion to accept the March minutes was carried.

**April Meeting Minutes** - The April minutes did not require changes. A motion to accept April Minutes was carried.

## **UPDATES**

### **USEPA**

Tim Drexler presented the following information:

#### ***Waukegan Harbor***

##### **Operable Unit #1: Harbor**

The northern most point of the OMC Plant 2 Site, between the east and west containment cells is under construction to become a consolidation facility (CF) for the dredged contaminated sediment coming in from harbor planned for this fall. A berm surrounds the CF and 3 layers consisting of an impermeable plastic liner and two non-woven material layers are now in place at the base of the CF. The liners were finished today, except for two truck exits, which will be closed once work inside the CF is complete. Gravel and stone are now being placed over the liners to help drain weep water from the sediment to a sump pump which will bring the water to the treatment plant.

There are about 4 more weeks of hauling rock, so there will still be truck traffic. They are using water trucks and street sweepers to minimize dust disturbance on Sea Horse Drive. The CF will be 30 feet high when all of the sediment is in place, and will have a footprint about the size of 3 football fields.

Dredging is scheduled from September to November, with a break during the winter, and then start-up again in April 2013 and continue through July 2013. Dredging will be 24 hours/day five days each week followed by two days of maintenance. Two dredge heads will be used in the harbor.

The dredged materials will be pumped to the water treatment plant constructed within and behind the Triax Building; the only remaining structure from OMC's Plant 2. At the treatment plant, a trommel screen will first separate larger debris from the sediment stream and then a series of steps will then separate harbor water from the sediment which will be pumped into 350 foot-long tubes in the CF. The water will go through a series of filters to remove PCBs and other organic contaminants before discharge back into the harbor. The portion of water treatment plant inside the Triax Building will continue to operate all year long as water continues to weep from the sediment within the CF.

Two plastic pipelines are currently under construction that will be crossing Sea Horse Drive to bring the sediment slurry from the harbor and return clean water to the harbor. This means Sea Horse Dr. will have to be closed for a time on the night on June 27, 2012 (at the location of pipeline pump to plant).

In order to satisfy the requirements of Storm Water regulations contractors will mulch open soil areas to prevent soil runoff from site. The area to east of the Triax building still has some soil contamination. A contractor is being sought for this work.

There are areas of contamination along the sea wall that are too close to the existing seawalls to safely dredge. The original plan was to install a geo-membrane, and armor it with 3 feet of riprap to protect it from boats. The Port Authority expressed concerns that we would be making the harbor too shallow near the sea wall. USEPA now has an alternative – Apply a concrete mattress, a series of 6 inch thick concrete “pavers” linked with stainless steel cable, to act as the armor for the sediment cap. The Port Authority and other stake holders were pleased with this as an alternative. This alternative adds \$850,000 to the cost. but this plan allows us to keep large, deeper draft vessels coming into the harbor next to the seawall. The geo-membrane will still be under a water permeable mattress. This water blanket extends to about 35 feet for added safety.

We discussed giving a site tour of the retrofitted Triax building before the August CAG Picnic. These plans are still being firmed up.

#### Operable Unit #2: Waukegan Coke Plant

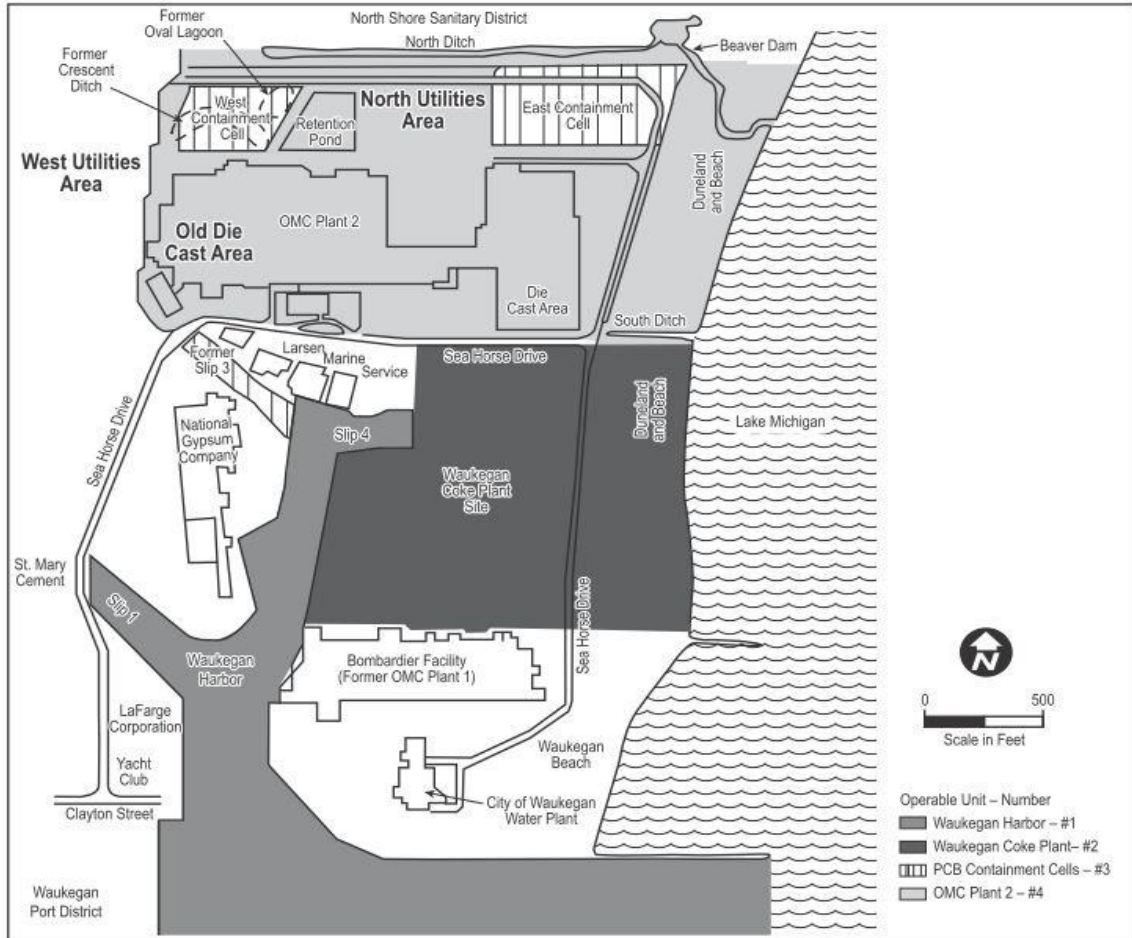
Repair of the seawall in the dredging staging area continues. About 325 feet of old sea wall has been removed, the total length of seawall footage to be repaired is approximately 580 feet.

Operable Unit #3: Containment Cells

No news.

Operable Unit #4: OMC Plant 2

No news.



**Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)** – We have to make Modifications to the planned remedy for the Plant 2 (OU4) area were needed to accommodate some issues related to areas where soil and dune sand excavation could not be performed due to proximity to utilities and the existing containment cells.. USEPA expects to be finished with the plan this month. A record of decision amendment is also being developed for the area of heavy contamination (southwest portion) associated with the Old Die Cast Area and western and northern utilities areas. USEPA’s preferred remediation is to create a slurry wall, cap it, and have negative water flow through the use of extraction wells. This approach mimics the approach used in constructing the east and west containment cells, in an approximately 6 acre portion of the site. There is a meeting July 9, 2012, at the Jack Benny Center to discuss the plan.

## USEPA

### ***Johns Manville***

A progress overview and update was given by Matt Ohl from the USEPA.

A clarification was made regarding a statement made by the CAG at the previous month's meeting about a modification being made to the record of decision – there are **no plans to do so**. The USEPA plans to do work under the 1<sup>st</sup> amended Consent Decree.

The Johns Manville (JM) pumping lagoon, industrial canal, and collection basin are being closed. Sludges are not being removed from the basins. JM is looking at capping the areas using a vegetative cover. The USEPA is working with IDNR, IEPA and Illinois Nature Preserve Commission to select plants that grow in the adjacent Illinois Beach State Park. A native seed mix, mostly Little Bluestem, has been suggested. NO INVASIVES will be used. One of the goals in selecting a seed mix is to protect the Nature Preserve. In addition, the settling basin still needs a storm water outfall, otherwise it is complete. JM plans to use the stockpiles of soil visible around the site as needed to construct covers at the site.

*Questions: Will the ground be level when it's filled and capped?*

They want the top cover to be dry, and above the water level, so the ground level could be a little higher than it is currently.

*Can you explain the hydrology? If you close canal where will water go?*

The water will continue to go to the lake, where it always has gone. The borrow pit will continue to reserve water the way it has and drain through the stormwater diversion system to the lake. It won't back flow into park or Johns Manville. This also depends on the rate of filling. It will be filled relatively slowly to allow the water to dissipate. There are no plans to change or remove stormwater diversion system at this point.

*How thick is the fill? And what is it?*

The thickness will vary with an average of about 10 feet. The fill is expected to be sand from the area. Midwest Generation and others have sources of sand.

*What will happen to material beneath?*

The material will stay in place. Design plans are being made but they are not complete. These designs will not go out for formal review, but the CAG will be able to review them as they are completed after they are approved by USEPA. This design is tentatively slated to be submitted in October. The design should be 30% complete at the end of the year and that work would start in 6 months to a year after completing final (100%) design.

*What is the advantage to capping?*

The sludges will be covered and this prevents them from being released or people from being exposed.

*Are there any plans to test the sludge?*

Not at this time.

*What is the science behind covering the sludge?*

What remains in the sludge are asbestos particles. There is only concern if they are released, especially if they are airborne, hence the cover. Without a cover, sludges may be re-suspended if there is heavy rainfall or other disturbance.

*What else remains to be done to close the Superfund site?*

This is the last phase of design and construction work. At the end of the year the 30% design should be done. In about 6 months to a year after the final (100%) design is complete the work should start.

***North Shore Gas***

South Plant

No Updates.

North Plant

No Updates.

***Yeoman Creek***

No Updates.

**City of Waukegan & IDNR**

No updates.

## **CAG BUSINESS**

### ***Executive Committee***

We have retained Quarles and Brady as legal counsel for the Waukegan Harbor CAG. Our fiscal year is July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. This year's audit is more complicated due to the two grants we have received. We are now working in higher funding levels than previous years. A full audit will be completed, and a summary of the audit information and updates will be forthcoming.

### ***Waukegan Library Repository***

A major phase of documenting the Repository for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern and Extended Area of Concern is now complete. John Bairstow has organized the entire USEPA Document Repository. It is located in the Waukegan Library computer Learning Lab along the entire south wall. The binders are color coded for each project site. John also created a full digitalized inventory of the entire collection, complete with color coding in the inventory binder. It is an amazingly well done job, and the citizens of Illinois owe a deep debt of gratitude to John for the skill, time and dedication he put forth in completing the work.

### ***Questions: Is it all there?***

We just catalogued what was *there*. Before the documents were categorized, there was no way of knowing what was or has gone missing. If there is something missing, we are not yet aware of it.

### ***Is there security?***

Yes and No. Yes, the computer room is secure and one needs to have it unlocked and opened by a Reference Desk librarian. Upon leaving the room, one has to inform the Reference Desk so the room may be locked again. No, there are no magnetic strips on the material. This is something we need to inquire about.

### ***Geographic Society of Chicago – Cool Learning Experience***

The Geographic Society of Chicago met with Cool Summer Learning Experience students at Bowen Park for a GPS project. 24 students set out in groups of 3 on different routes from the picnic pavilion. The group's mission was to find out where they would find the most garbage in the Park. They carried a GPS Unit and recorded each waypoint where they found garbage (and picked it up!). Other groups went out and located all the garbage cans with GPS units. This data will be put into a GIS Trash Map for Bowen Park, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will report on the information obtained. The students will make test hypothesis of the Bowen Park trash situation based on the GPS data collected and mapped.

### **Communication Committee**

The Communication Committee has been working on several projects:

1. CAG Website - The monthly meeting minutes and USEPA Repository Data will be posted on the website soon. Minutes from the last year will also be put up. When asked if they wanted older minutes on the Website and the Wiki, the minutes from the last two years were preferred.

*Question: Will copies of regular minutes be at library?*

Yes.

2. Wiki Training -. At the end of May a Wiki training session was held by IDNR. Steve Jansen, Tom Chefalo and John Bairstow from the Waukegan Harbor CAG participated. There were a few issues uploading pictures, but it is being worked out with USEPA and the IDNR.
3. USEPA, IDNR and a USEPA contractor have developed some Wiki trial pages for the Waukegan Harbor CAG
4. Pictures, Maps, and Diagrams -The selection of these items for the website will come next.
5. Current News Page - Brief overviews of work currently occurring at Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area are being developed for the Current News Page.

### **GLRI 2010**

1. **Bowen Park** – Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) is the awarded contractor conducting restoration work in Bowen Park. Josh Arrigoni was introduced as CLS' Project Manager for the site. He discussed their submission of a 2-year work plan which will likely be amended through the project as conditions warrant. They completed their first set of site visits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. Garlic mustard is a major problem, and we are playing a bit of catch up due to the early spring this year, but CLS thinks they have it managed. They will return next week to continue work.

Josh will be working on monthly reports for the CAG which will advise us on other site issues outside of the scope of the GLRI contracted project. The Waukegan Harbor CAG and the Waukegan Park District will work cooperatively to address the additional site issues.



*Question: Will we be able to burn the downed trees?*

Yes, most of our GLRI work will be on clean-up of storm damage. We will selectively remove or move downed/storm damaged trees. Some of the larger downed trees will stay.

*How will we measure day-lighting?*

CLS has a light meter they will carry throughout the site. The general goal is 25-45% depending on the area.

*Where is CLS located?*

Elmhurst

- 2. *Waukegan Dunal Area*** - The Waukegan Dunes Herbaceous and Woody Invasive Species Removal Proposals are due tomorrow (June 18, 2012). We will be checking the post office box Friday, Saturday, Monday, & Tuesday. We are looking for approximately 8 proposals.

- 3. *College of Lake County – Intern Introduction***

Currently we have two long term (450 hours each) interns from CLC. The interns work under CLC Professor and Horticultural Department Chair Rory Klick. Bill Lebensorger is a Natural Areas Management (NAM) program with 2 classes to finish. He is working with Margo Milde on floristic transects for a major portion of his internship training. Kate Johnson is enrolled in the Natural Areas Management program at CLC, and already has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Geography. She is working with Rachel Goad, Plants of Concern Research Assistant at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

The GLRI budget has a funding line to give to provide local libraries with Great Lakes, Lake Michigan Area of Concern current books and material. Tonight we are contributing a copy of the Great Lakes Environmental Atlas to the CLC library. Our two interns are getting a first look at it, and then will place it in the CLC library.

- 4. *Re-vegetation RFP*** - The RFP is close to being done and will be going out shortly.

***Waukegan Harbor Dredging – Approach Channel/Outer Harbor Status***

The crane broke last week, but was fixed at National Gypsum (NG). National Gypsum allowed the contractors to tip crane down on their property to complete repairs. Dredging was also halted due to high winds but is back on today. The second phase of the dredging has been awarded and hopefully work will be done in August. The first ship might be able to come into the harbor in the latter part of July.

The North Marina demolition is expected to start July 16. Brennan is the USEPA subcontractor.

### **Old Business**

There was an recent article in the Daily Herald regarding the banding of Midwest Generation's Peregrine Falcons chicks.

The City of Waukegan installed some new *No Dogs Allowed* signs on the lakefront. Someone has moved a few of them.

### **New Business**

Great Lakes Week is September 10-13, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio. It is a very interactive meeting, with a whole lot going on. It is a good conference for anyone interested.

### **Announcements**

A press announcement and event will be made for the beginning of dredging on September 6, 2012. This is our Platinum Bucket Moment which we have been working towards since August of 1990. This will be a BIG Press release and will be really nice event!

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn 7:59 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>

Illinois EPA – Environmental Justice website.

<http://www.ilenviro.org>

Good listing of all environmental bills in the ILL House & Senate.

<http://www.glc.org>

Great Lakes Commission.

<http://www.binational.net>

Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy – 2002 Annual Progress Report

<http://www.lkmichiganforum.org/>

The Lake Michigan Forum

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

Lake Michigan Lake Wide Management Plan (LaMP 2000)

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

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council

<http://www.epa.gov/lakemich>

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*