



Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group

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Minutes of the September 20, 2012, Waukegan Harbor 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 September 20, 2012, meeting of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group was called to order at 6:08 pm by the Chair, Susie Schreiber.

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

Attendance at the September 20, 2012 CAG Meeting:

Larry Brewer	LaFarge Corporation
Bob Chmielewski	Midwest Generation
Claudia Freeman	Waukegan Park District
Paul Geiselhart	Lake County Audubon Society
John Ohl	Salmon Unlimited
Mike Prusila	Lake County Stormwater Management
Sharon Sandoval	North Shore Sanitary District
Susie Schreiber	Illinois Audubon Society
Chris Tanner	Tanner Environmental
Diane Tecic	IDNR
Duane Ambroz	IDNR
John Bairstow	Concerned Citizen
Drew Bieber	Geographic Society of Chicago
Natalie Dutack	Waukegan Harbor CAG
Steve Jansen	Geographic Society of Chicago
Paul Kakuris	Concerned Citizen
Philippe Melin	Congressman Robert Dold
Mitch Siegel	Concerned Citizen
Jerry Sullivan	Concerned Citizen
Don Wilson	Concerned Citizen
Jeff Zuercher	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

GUESTS:

Eric Mason	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
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AGENDA

June and July meeting minutes – Will be available at October meeting for approval.

UPDATES

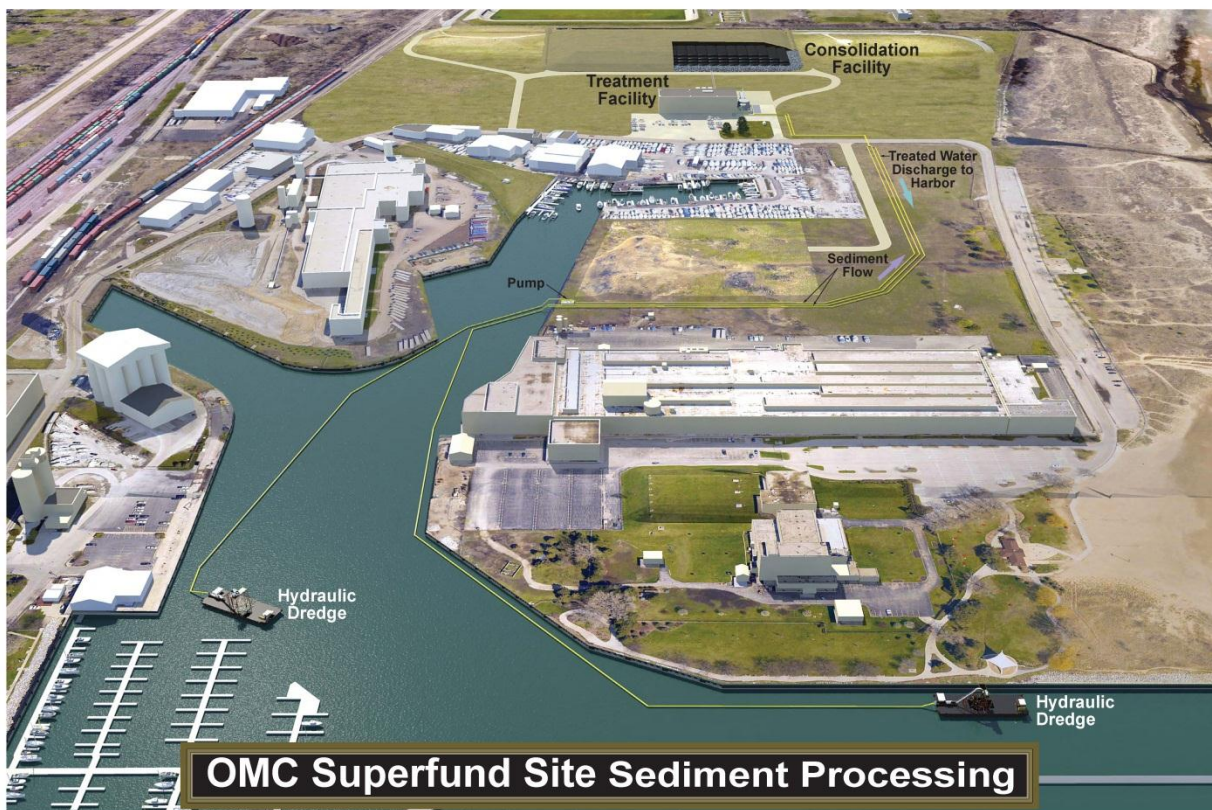
USEPA

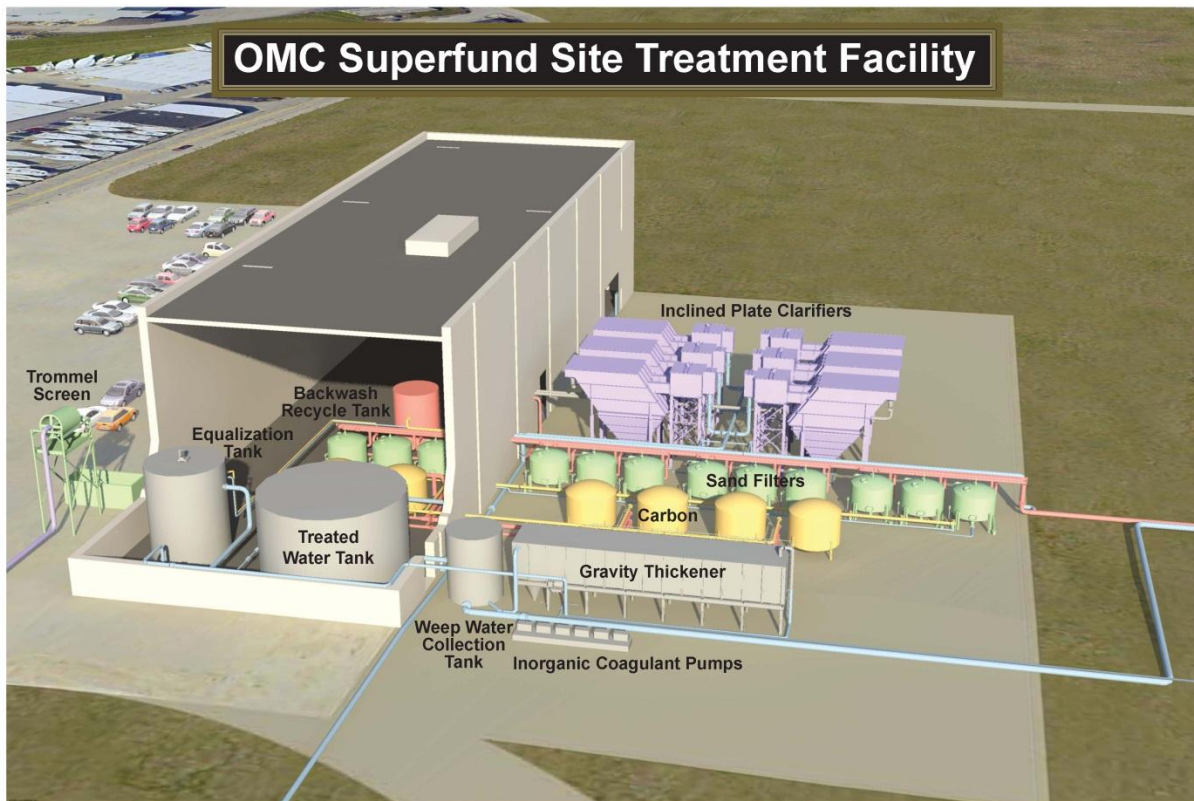
OMC

OMC Superfund Project Manager Tim Drexler reported that the harbor dredging dewatering unit is fully installed and is currently in shakedown – test mode. The contractor is testing out the water treatment system by running clean water through it to test the valves, locate any leaks, and make any necessary adjustments and repairs prior to running the contaminated sediment through the system. The actual dredging start date will occur in the last week of September if all goes well in the system testing period.

The Coke Site seawall repair is completely finished now.

The Waukegan Port District noted in a meeting earlier today that two ball valves need to be set in by 10/12/2012 so the Port District can winterize the North Marina docks. This will be done.





North Shore Gas

South Plant

The next round of sampling is scheduled for later this month. This will include sampling for possible vapor intrusion inside the AKZO Nobel buildings and the Waukegan Port District properties. If vapor intrusion is present, the source would contain polluted groundwater underneath these sites.

North Plant

A work plan for conducting a significant removal action was submitted in August, 2012, by Integrys, the PRP (Potentially Responsible Party). Integrys is the company that now owns North Shore Gas. The USEPA provided comments on the work plan earlier this month and is expecting to discuss the remediation work plan with Integrys and its contractors soon.

Yeoman Creek

The USEPA is working with the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group (the Potentially Responsible Parties) to address the methane gas in the ground water which continues to migrate beyond the landfill boundary. A secondary landfill gas collection system, and a perimeter gas collection system have somewhat reduced the amount of methane being collected overall. However, these systems have not been able to completely stop the off-site gas migration.

Based on the data collected, an increase of methane was noted in one of the key locations near the Terrace Nursing Home. On USEPA's recommendation, the Yeoman Creek Remediation Group installed a temporary vacuum system to combat the problem until a more permanent remedy can be found to address the methane present in the construction-debris layer. Currently, this vacuum system is operating 24/7 and has addressed the USEPA's immediate concerns. However, this is a temporary solution and the PRP group will continue to work closely with USEPA to identify a permanent solution. The PRP Group, Illinois EPA, and USEPA are scheduled to meet on October 2, 2012, to discuss site issues and create a strategy to move forward in order to solve this problem.

CAG BUSINESS

Great Lakes Week

Susie Schreiber attended Great Lakes Week 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio, last week – the week of September 10th. The week's agenda covered the International Joint Commission meetings, the Great Lake's Commission meetings, the Great Lakes Area of Concerns meetings and the Healing Our Waters meetings.

She reported Cleveland has done an excellent job of revitalizing and upgrading their old industrial river waterfront. It is now dynamically serves the local area population, the city's visitors and while continuing to service the industrial sector aggressively and well.

She passed around the documents and meeting books from each of the agencies meetings, and some of the educational materials gathered from sponsor displays to share with the CAG and

our educational outreach partners. The material will be very useful with our 2010 GLRI Grant work. Samples included:

- Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Annual Report 2012.
- USGS Educational Documents on Phragmites Control; Examples of GLRI Protection and Restoration Projects, and Toxicity Projects using barn swallows to measure sediment toxicity on Area of Concern sites. USGS presented a session on their study of Tree Swallows to assess contaminant exposure in harbor sediments – something which they are currently working on in Waukegan Harbor. USGS noted the helpful GPS work this summer of the Cool Learning Experience students from the First Baptist Church of Waukegan and the Waukegan Jr. Fleet in mapping the swallow nests under the North Marina docks prior to demolition. The Geographic Society of Chicago map of the located nests was shown to the session participants by Susie. It was Citizen Science at work locally to assist USGS regionally.
- Great Lakes Fact Sheets from Environment Canada outlining the science and conservation of Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands.
- USFWS Publication, “Restoring the Great Lakes”, with success stories from around the region.
- Publication from USEPA, “Revitalizing Local Waterfront Economies”.

Survey of Remedial Action Plan (RAP) activities

A RAP progress report from each Area of Concern is turned in every year to the Great Lakes Commission. The Waukegan Harbor CAG’s submission on our past year’s activities, actions and progress was passed around at the September CAG meeting and will be posted on the Waukegan Harbor CAG website soon.

Lake Michigan Forum Meeting

The Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP), and Coastal **Zone** Programs in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin were discussed at the August, 2012 Lake Michigan Forum meeting in Traverse City, Michigan meeting attended by Susie Schreiber. The meeting materials had some excellent maps that can be used on the CAG website. The Delta Institute is producing ten more copies of the Lake Michigan Forum meeting notebook for use in The College of Lake County new curriculum courses on Natural Areas Management in ravine and dunal ecosystems.

The Lake Michigan Forum will be focusing on their Green Marina and Green Harbors program. Waukegan Harbor, Ill. and Muskegon Harbor, Michigan were the two harbors used to develop the template for Green Marina and Green Harbors program.

The Michigan and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs will take the lead for implementing the program in their respective states. Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant is just beginning to work out a plan for implantation of the program in Illinois and Indiana.

The Green Marina and Green Harbors has a required certification process. The US Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to see the program implemented in Waukegan Harbor, as would a number of Waukegan Harbor CAG members, and has offered to assist in beginning the process.

Diane Tecic noted that the IDNR is trying to get the template from Wisconsin to start initiative here. She mentioned the possibility of a speaker coming to present on this topic at one of the next meetings.

The Waukegan Dunes Herbaceous and Woody Invasive Species Removal Project

The Davey Resource Group, A Division of the Davey Tree Expert Company, has been selected as the dunal site contractor for invasive species removal. Contracts, Right of Entry documents, insurance and bonding documents are now being processed.

Re-vegetation and Benthic Request for Proposals

The Re-vegetation RFP is nearly complete and only needs clarification of the seed list for the Johns Mansville portion of the site. We have been working with Johns Manville, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the USEPA, the Chicago Botanic Garden, our own floristic monitor – Margo Milde, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District dunal specialists to create a list of suitable native species that will stabilize the soil in areas where Crown Vetch will be removed from the Johns Mansville site. A great deal of care is being taken not to compromise the very high quality natural communities in Illinois Beach State Park to the north of Johns Manville, the wonderful wetlands to the west of Johns Manville and the rich dunal communities to the east of the Johns Manville fence. Duane Ambrose of the IDNR has been very helpful in co-ordinating the efforts of all the concerned parties.

Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern (AOC) Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Delisting Document Review & Management Plan

The IDNR, as the lead state agency for the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern, is required to create a Habitat Management Plan prior to requesting the removal the Habitat BUI in the Waukegan Harbor AOC. Duane Ambroz, of the IDNR, drafted the initial document this past spring and summer. Duane and Diane Tecic, of the IDNR Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program, then put together the DRAFT “Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern Habitat Management Plan”. The Waukegan Harbor CAG has been working very closely with the IDNR to provide edits, corrections and historical site information.

The plan follows USEPA guidelines for what is required in a Habitat Management Plan and notes the deficiencies found in the current habitat in the Waukegan Harbor AOC. This plan is only for the Area of Concern, not the Extended Area of Concern. However, the same habitat deficiencies will need to be corrected in the Extended Area of Concern.

There are three (3) different sections in the plan:

- 1.) Waukegan Harbor Open Water;
- 2.) Waukegan Harbor Developed Area, and
- 3.) Waukegan Harbor Natural Area.

The plan identifies deficiencies for those specific areas. Invasive species are a major issue in all 3 of the areas. For continued maintenance after the GLRI 2010 grant is completed, a long term management and monitoring plan is under development.

The IDNR and the Waukegan Harbor CAG would appreciate review and comments from those interested. *Diane noted that the Habitat BUI can be delisted if the plan is approved. It does not mean the plan has been implemented. The Waukegan Harbor CAG would prefer that the Habitat remediation action items are completed before the approval is given to delist this BUI.* While it is great to have a plan, unless the plan is implemented, the identified problems will remain. The Waukegan Harbor CAG wants to see some percentage of initial work completed before approving the Habitat BUI delisting.

Question: What is Status of the E. coli BUI?

It is removed. Signage is still needed, and the purchase and use of the Big Belly Solar Garbage Compactors to be placed along Sea Horse Dr. by the beach and dunes is still awaiting actual implementation. The good news is that the IDNR has finalized a grant agreement with the City of Waukegan to purchase 5 Big Bellies. The City buys the Big Bellies and the IDNR reimburses the City for them. In addition, an expert from Racine, Wis. will be doing beach health assessments.

Eric Mason US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Eric Mason attended the meeting to share some information on the US Coast Guard Auxiliary education program, with the hope of collaborating with the Waukegan Harbor CAG on their educational outreach programs to the general public.

The **Good Mate** program was started in 1993 by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to help educate and clean harbors in times in of need. Locally they have helped with work at Fort Sheridan, and they are excited to help clean our beach.

Part of the Program involves the use of the “Marine Debris Trash Game”. This game for kids of all ages was created by a mom in Florida to be used specifically by USCG Auxiliary. Eric brought that game back to Great Lakes area and converted it for Great Lakes specific issues. Players see the different kinds of trash that gets dumped our waterways. Then they guess how long it takes the specific pieces of trash to biodegrade (i.e. an aluminum can, plastic, a glass bottle, etc). Eric built the new game himself and plans to build more once funding is found. This project is very exciting. We will be able to utilize the game as part of our Education and Outreach initiatives!

Johns Manville Superfund Site

Preparation for the closing of the Industrial Canal is underway. Discussion of an appropriate floristic cover crop is being reviewed by multiple parties right now. (Please see Re-vegetation

and Benthic Proposal section of these minutes.). An appropriate seed list is being compiled with help from many sectors by Duane Ambrose of the IDNR. Johns Mansville offered a generic list of species prepared by their consultants this fall which included some species not compatible with the peat dune swale system in the Nature Preserve to the north, nor to the high quality dunal system to the east along the lake shore. Duane has now created a list of 12 graminoid (grass) species that will provide a good stabilizing cover on the Industrial Canal and for the small 10.2 acre site where the crown vetch will be removed under the GLRI 2010 grant. The goal is to maintain genetic integrity of species by using seed sources no more than 100-150 miles from Waukegan.

Remaining as a long term major problem on the JM Superfund Site is the management of the Crown Vetch on the surrounding landscape.

Nesting Swallows

The USGS gave a nice report at Great Lakes Week on their studies of nesting swallows to test toxicity in contaminated sediments. They have an ongoing study here in the north portion of Waukegan Harbor on the LaFarge and National Gypsum properties.

The Nest boxes need to be cleaned for the winter. USGS sent the materials needed to do this. After nest boxes are cleaned, any shell remnants inside are collected. They are placed in a multi compartmental container – each compartment is labeled with the nest box numbers. If any dead chicks are found in the boxes this is recorded as well. Once these tasks are completed, we send the box and data back to USGS for testing.

The Geographic Society of Chicago has requested we write up our work on the Swallow project for publication.

Plants of Concern

POC monitoring at Bowen Park and Waukegan Dunal Area is still ongoing. Margo Milde, the interns, and our POC volunteers are doing a fantastic job of finishing up this year's POCs data collection! The Bowen Park list consists of over 400 species and has an FQI of over 70.

Bowen Neighbors and Akzo Nobel floristic inventories

The Bowen Neighbors are on board and working with us toward the completion of Floristic Inventories their properties. They have been wonderfully co-operative. Margo Milde, our floristic monitor, and Bill Lebensorger, a CLC intern, are conducting the Floristic Inventory. Bill has been training under Margo this spring, summer and fall.

In addition, Margo Milde has begun to do a floristic inventory of the Akzo Nobel lake front dunes property by the mouth of the Waukegan River. This is great news, and will fully complete the floristic inventory of the Waukegan nearshore lakefront. Akzo Nobel and the Waukegan Harbor CAG are splitting the cost of this inventory work.

Executive Committee

The CAG met with the auditor on Tuesday. This is our first time doing this, and the process is moving forward carefully.

Old Business

Platinum Bucket Dredge Celebration Day

Concerned citizens, statesmen, scientists, federal –state- regional- and local government officials and numerous partners gathered at the Waukegan Yacht Club on September 6, 2012, to celebrate the start of the final environmental dredge required to delist the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern. Fittingly, the dredging contractors were seen at work in the harbor as the celebration began.

Declared an Area of Concern on the Great Lakes in 1981, Waukegan Harbors’ remediation has been mentored and supported by the dedication of the Waukegan Harbor Citizens’ Advisory Group, formed in August of 1990. This group has doggedly and steadfastly worked together for 23 years towards the goal of a PCB free harbor, and restoration of the natural aquatic and coastal habits within this Area of Concern. Success is clearly in sight!!

Coveted small ‘platinum buckets’ bearing the logo of the Waukegan Harbor CAG, and with a sticker on the bottom indicating “No PCBs”, were given to all in attendance. Flags of the United States and Canada representing the work of the International Joint Commission’s efforts to address the multiple environmental issues of the Great Lakes framed the speaker’s and the table of with the 100 ‘platinum buckets’.

The buckets are representative of a ‘bucket brigade’ of dedicated citizens and agency staff who passed, filled, kicked, and yes, even spilled, the many buckets of issues faced over the years to arrive at this exciting moment of starting the final environmental dredge.

The day went well! Thanks to everyone!

Salmon Unlimited Kids Fishing Day

130 kids came out to the Salmon Unlimited Fishing Day. They caught a lot of small fish. The winning fish was an 8 lb. Chinook salmon caught by a 13 year old. The kids had a good time and it was good day!

New Business

College of Lake County

The new GLRI funded curriculum courses underway – spread the word - they will be offered over the next few semesters. We are all involved – CLC is using Bowen Park and the Waukegan Dunal Area as the model for each class.

Announcements

There are skunks at Bowen Park – be aware!

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 8:10 p.m. was made. 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/umagl/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